

Carolyn Wonderland

Featuring:

Carolyn Wonderland: guitars, vocals, coronet

Scott Daniels: guitars, vocals

Cole El-Saleh: keyboards

Bob Perkins: bass

Michael "Lefty" Lefkowitz: drums



Releases:

Bloodless Revolution indie 2003, Producer: Stephen Doster

Alcohol & Salvation indie 2001

Bursting With Flavor Justice Records 1997

Play With Matches Big Mo 1995

Truckstop Favorites Vol.2 Pulse 1994

Groove Milk Pulse/Montrose 1993

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www.carolynwonderland.com

Carolyn Wonderland

Bio

Carolyn Wonderland has the goods. A triple threat with her diverse songwriting, soulful vocals, and guitar goddess status- all featured on over twenty CDs, six of which are her releases – she has a pedigree in this business that’s hard to match. A bit of a renegade, she likes to incorporate elements of Blues, Country, Swing, Zydeco, Surf, Gospel, Soul, and on some nights maybe even a Cumbia into the musical mix. Carolyn has had songs of hers featured on NBC’s “Homicide” and Fox’s “Time of Your Life,” she has toured with acts like Buddy Guy and Johnny Winter, she’s sat in with Robert Earl Keen and Los Lobos, she sang the National Anthem at Sturgis Bike Week 2003 (her 10th anniversary playing Stugis) before Robbie Kneivel’s record-breaking jump over one hundred Harleys. Even Bob Dylan asked her to come jam in Houston where he became the first person to hear the pre-release “*Bloodless Revolution*” CD and picked “Annie’s Scarlet Letter” as a favorite song. So, “How come I haven’t heard of her?” you ask. Not to worry, you will. Some in the industry have tried to pigeon-hole her talents and she said “no.” History and talent have outlasted the nay-sayers and Carolyn Wonderland’s independent efforts to bring her audience sincere artistry in music is succeeding. Radio has been very receptive to the “*Bloodless Revolution*” CD with regular rotation in Texas spilling out nationally all along her perpetual tour route.

Originally from Houston, a city where she and her band have won awards in the Houston Press for everything from Best Vocalist, Songwriter, Blues, Release of the Year, to Musician of the Year – from the time she was a teenager, to the time where she had so many awards she had to move – Ms. Wonderland now spends her time between tours in Austin, Texas. In addition to leading her band, Carolyn is also in a few other notable groups. She’s in Jerry Lightfoot’s Band of Wonder singing all over the “*Texistentialism*” CD with Jerry and Vince Welnick (Grateful Dead, Tubes.) She, along with fellow band mate Scott Daniels, are founding members of the Loose Affiliation of Saints and Sinners (an all-star band of Austin’s songwriting luminaries), and some of her songs are featured on their “*Sessions from the Hotel San Jose, Rm.50*” CD. Carolyn is also the guitarist in the all girl Southern Rock band Sis DeVille *and* when she’s in Texas, you can catch her doing the Gospel Brunch with the Golden Crown Imperial Harmonizers. Her first love is her band, with good reason. Scott Daniels (Horseshoe, Greg Wood) has been playing with Carolyn since 1998 and sometimes when they play together it’s like on big psychic guitar. Cole El-Saleh (Rusty Weir, Flounders w/o Eyes, Greezy Wheels...and tons more bands) is very much in demand and chooses to spend his time and talents with her. Bobby Perkins (Larry) and Michael “Lefty” Lefkowitz (Junior Medlow, Michael Williams) are solid together and they both bring a hefty amount of talent into the mix. Carolyn loves to play music with her band and it shows. It only makes sense that she would attract such a stellar line up and that they would meld together so well. Years of touring are evident in both the maturity of the songs and the tightness of the band on the new CD, “*Bloodless Revolution.*”

CD Releases/ Reviews

Bloodless Revolution

indie release 2003

Produced by: Stephen Doster

Musicians: Carolyn Wonderland-guitar/vocals/coronet, Scott Daniels-guitar/vocals, Cole El-Saleh-keyboards, Bob Perkins- bass, JJ Johnson- drums

Special Guests: Guy Forsyth-harmonica, Ron Dyer-percussion, Brian Sandefer-cello, Tommy Elskes-vocals



the austin
CHRONICLE
July 11, 2003

“Wonderland’s voice is as muscular as her name is evocative...*Bloodless Revolution* strives to demonstrate Wonderland’s stylistic and songwriting diversity and succeeds without question. Wonderland does rock (“Driving Into the Sun”), ballads (“Unbroken”), jazz (“Homelessness in Austin”), country (“This Land”), and gawd, can she sing gut-wrenching blues (“Judgement Day Blues”)...Her compositions a likewise run the gamut and are musically and lyrically solid.”

~Margaret Moser

Bursting With Flavor

Justice Records 1997

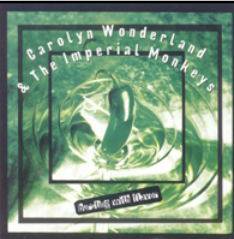
Produced by: Randall H. Jamail

Musicians:

Carolyn Wonderland- guitar/vocals, Chris King- bass, Eric Dane- guitar/vocals, Leesa Harrington- drums/vocals

Special Guests:

Ian McLagan- piano and B3, Cary Winscott- vocals, Little Screamin’ Kenny- guitar



Alcohol & Salvation

indie release 2001

Produced by: Eldridge Goins

Musicians:

Carolyn Wonderland- guitar/vocals/piano, Scott Daniels- guitar/vocals/mandolin, Calvin Hall-bass, Eldridge Goins- drums

Special Guests:

Earl Pool Ball- piano, Brian Scardino- drums, Steve Mitchell-percussion, Zac Colwell- sax



November 1, 2001

“With all that has happened to her, you would think that just being able to release another album would be a coup, but Wonderland’s self-produced *Alcohol and Salvation* is even better than that. Released in late September, her first CD in four years reflects the steady refinement of her songwriting, her growing confidence as a guitarist and vocalist, and her willingness to push herself up to and perhaps beyond her limits.

All of this is evident on...“Feed Me to the Lions,” in which Wonderland plays piano and sings...It’s powerful stuff...”

~Greg Barr



March 1, 1997

“Texas singer/songwriter Carolyn Wonderland and her Imperial Monkeys have built a strong regional following the old-fashioned way: by crisscrossing the state in a van, playing gig after gig wherever someone would have them. The road-worthiness of the band’s sound is evident...a collection of hard-rockin’, no-frills originals that ranges from the Joplin-esque “Last Living Stranger” and “Jim & Jack” to the stompin’ boogie of “Harmonicar,” from the irresistible shuffle of “Lowdown” to the drivin’ groove of “Silver Tongue.”...the album is a prime contender for blues, mainstream rock, triple-A, college, and adventurous country outlets. A band that’s ready to build on an already impressive base.”

~Paul Verna

CD Releases/ Reviews



Play With Matches

Big Mo 1995

Produced by: Ed Eastridge

Musicians:

Carolyn Wonderland- guitar/vocals/accordion, Chris King- bass/vocals, Eric Dane- guitar/vocals, Leesa Harrington- drums

Special Guests: Mark Wenner- harmonica, Citizen Doug- percussion



November 10, 1995

“If you put Melissa Etheridge, Chrissie Hynde, and Dick Dale in a blender and hit puree, you’d get a pretty potent mixture called Carolyn Wonderland and the Imperial Monkeys...”

~ Progressive Adult Radio Picks



Truck Stop Favorites, Vol.2

Pulse 1994

Produced by: Richard Cagle

Musicians:

Carolyn Wonderland- guitar/vocals, Chris King- bass, Eric Dane- guitar/vocals, Erik Kolflat- drums



August 1994

“Wonderland’s songs are...contemporary, using shifting tempos, acoustic guitars and tight interplay from the Imperial Monkeys to highlight her distinctive vocals. The country-tinged ballad “All That I Wanted,” the slinky R&B of “She Wants to Know” and the Texas boogie “Time Will Tell” are just a few reasons to seek this one out.”

~Triple AAA recommendations



Groove Milk

Montrose/Pulse 1993

Produced by: Richard Cagle

Musicians:

Carolyn Wonderland- guitar/vocals, Chris King- bass, Eric Dane- guitar, Erik Kolflat- drums

(This CD was originally available only as a cassette demo, until it was re-released on Montrose in 1999)

Other Recordings of Note



Jerry Lightfoot's Band of Wonder

Texistentialism

2001 release

Musicians: Jerry Lightfoot- guitar,/vocals, Vince Welnick- piano/organs/vocals, Carolyn Wonderland-vocals
John X. Reed- guitar, Charlie Prichard- guitar, Larry Fulcher- bass, Barry "Frosty" Smith- drums

HoustonPress
houstonpress.com

Jan 10, 2002

"Jerry Lightfoot, his latest CD delivers...Vince Welnick, who played with such rock heavyweights as the Grateful Dead, Todd Rundgren and the Tubes. The inventive way in which Welnick incorporates keyboards into these songs is simply wonderful. Moreover, Lightfoot wisely utilizes the considerable vocal skills of Carolyn Wonderland as lead singer on six of the ten tracks. It's a decision that gives this new chapter of Lightfoot's work a potent and entirely new sound. It also enables him to use his own lead vocalizing (on three tracks) for contrastive emphasis."

~Roger Wood



A Loose Affiliation of Saints and Sinners Sessions From the Hotel San Jose, Rm. 50

2002 release

Musicians: Carolyn Wonderland, Eldridge Goins, Malcolm "Papa Mali" Welbourne, Scott Daniels, Guy Forsyth,
Chris McCarty, Gurf Morlix, Sarah Brown, "Scrappy" Jud Newcomb, Neal Pedersen, Rob Jewet

Austin American Statesman

"Some friends dropped by Chris McCarty's room at Austin's boutique hotel one night and passed around guitars and wine. It was magic, so over the next few days recording gear was snuck past the cordial San Jose staff and Room 50 was transformed into a recording studio...Among the standouts are Wonderland's gospel growler "Jesus, It's Gonna Be You"...this is really an album to put on from beginning to end and daydream that room service is on the way."

~Michael Corcoran

Carolyn has also sang, played guitar, and or arranged vocals on CDs for everyone from Don Sanders' *Promising Boy* to Moses Guest's *Geniality of Morality*, Miss Molly, Hadden Sayers, Crash Comfort, Zsu Zsu's *Petals* to Neil Kassanoff's *These Parts*, Rebecca Cole's *Taste the Rain*, "(... plus great guitar work and backing vocals from special guest artist and local legend Carolyn Wonderland."

- Steve Uhler, Barnes and Noble CD review, *The Austin-American Statesman* contributor, January 2002), Jason Eklund's *Come 'n' Gone*, Mike Haaga's (Dead Horse) solo album, Infernal Bridegroom's *Meat Bar* soundtrack, Miss Lavelle White's *Into the Mystic*, and a bunch of other projects.

Scott Daniels' guitar and/or voice can also be heard on Greg Wood's *Ash Wednesday*, Horseshoe's *King Of the World*, and *Moving the Goods*, Infernal Bridegroom's *Meat Bar* soundtrack, in addition to the previously mentioned LASAS release.

Cole El- Saleh's amazing piano and arranging skills are featured on his solo album and on over 60 others including Rusty Weir's *I Stood Up*.

Bob Perkins can be found all over on live Larry shows traded throughout the country.

They've been on compilations for Antone's (Young Guitar Slinger compilation- Carolyn's track was "Ain't Nobody's Business" cut with Derek O'Brien, Sarah Brown, Ian McLagan, and George Raines.) She and the band have been on compilations by the Buffalo Chip and Musician magazine, among others. They also released a Christmas single with Justice Records...

HoustonChronicle

December 11, 1997

"So when Wonderland and Justice Records decided to release her version of Little Screamin' Kenny's soulful holiday lament *Blue Lights* as a CD single, she immediately thought of MD Anderson. 'Carolyn has a big heart, and she chose our Christmas Art Project at M.D. Anderson as the beneficiary,' project director Shannan Murray said.

More Review Snippets



Going Against Typesetting

“Pretty and undeniably female, she eschews the skintight crutches that many female singers rely on to win over a crowd...one of the most impressively powerful voices recently heard anywhere, regardless of sex. Able to boom, cajole, promise, growl, and wheedle with equal power, she plays guitar with much the same forcefulness...”

~Matt Weitz Dallas Observer



Winner Wonderland

”As usual, Carolyn Wonderland and the Imperial Monkeys were the big winners ...voted best rock/pop band and also had the album of the year in *Bursting with Flavor*. Wonderland was tabbed local musician of the year and best female vocalist... How much longer before this band busts out nationally?”

~John Morthland Texas Monthly



“The rest of the country is finally catching on to what lovers of creative, heartfelt bluesy rock in the Houston area have known ...for years: Carolyn Wonderland...has what is called ‘the goods’...intelligent songwriting, intricately crafted grooves and a voice (Carolyn’s) that has to be heard to be believed.”

~Colorado Springs Independent



“...pulls the listener along an emotionally charged journey whose heart and soul is Wonderland’s stunning voice. I haven’t been this impressed by a female vocalist since Bonnie Raitt. Wonderland’s pipes are rich, moody, and hard- hitting. The songwriting is solid, hooky and ringing with foot-stomping rhythms that will have even the most sedate listener up and dancing.”

~New Times San Luis Obispo, CA



“...Wonderland is one of a handful of better known female guitarists...a woman capable of filling the shoes of the older, more established artists like Raitt & Joplin...”

~The Reader Omaha, NE



“Whoopin’ ya ass... that’s Carolyn and company- small, sweet, and seemingly shy at first, she’ll unleash sounds that blow your mind...any chance to see this band is an opportunity that must be taken...the truth of the matter is Carolyn’s her own gal and she does her own thing. Some calls ‘em blues, rock, Texas music, country flavored blues -boogie rock...flat out good time music. That’s what I call it. Every side of the stone is touched with tender ballads, comedic romps and hard-driving rock and roll. This is a band that’s already made it and they’re just waiting for the rest of the world to catch up.”

~Joe Swank Nightlife Carbondale, IL

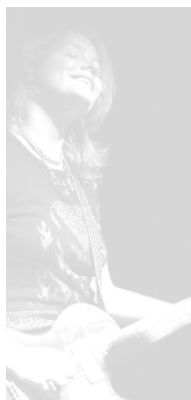
Awards



Female Vocals- Austin Chronicle- Carolyn placed 13th 2002

Blues- Austin Chronicle – the band placed 6th 2002

Keyboards- Cole El-Saleh placed 10th 2002



Songwriter of the Year- 1999, 98, 96, 95

Song of the Year- “Blue Lights”- 1998, “No Really, I Can Drive” -1996

Album of the Year- “Bursting with Flavor”- 1997, “Play with Matches”- 1996

Musician of the Year-1998, 97, 96, 95

Female Vocalist- Houston Press winner 2000, 98, 97,

Blues- Houston Press winner 1999, 98, 96, 95, 94

Rock/Pop- Houston Press winner 1997

Funk/ R&B- Houston Press winner 1994

“Okay, we give up. What say next year we combine all these separate categories into a single one: Best Carolyn. Then Carolyn can walk away with all the goodies, and people will be less inclined to ask, ‘How does she *do* it?’ It’ll be obvious how she does it. She’s Carolyn. Who could be better at it?”

~Brad Tyer Houston Press Music Awards issue 1996



“Texas Uprising” *aka* “Party on Houston,” a TV special by Alan Ames & Associates featuring Carolyn Wonderland, Ian Moore, Junior Brown, and Reverend Horton Heat, won the Gold Award for Music Video at the 1999 Flagstaff International Film Festival