

# Michaels Mellows Out, Kicks It Up On Self-Titled CD

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**MOUNTAINSIDE** - The girl is all heart.

Kassy Michaels of MountainSide can cook up a self-titled CD while raising funds for the Valerie Fund, a non-profit group providing treatment services for children with cancer and blood disorders.

On her 11-track CD, the recording star with API Records presents ballads about building self-esteem, unrequited love and some edgier pop songs with



Kassy Michaels

"Have You Ever Been Mellow?" A similar message is found in the fourth track, "Real People," but with an infectious pop sound. "Real people don't judge, real people can love, real people don't care about what you wear, real people can see what's beneath, and I'm proud to say I'm real," sings Michaels in this esteem-building selection.

"Baby, I'm Lonely," the third track, shows the Governor Livingston High School graduate working her way into a gutsy vocal range. However, she still holds onto the polished, refined sound of her voice and needs to grab on a bit harder to the grit of the lyrics.

The most gorgeous lyrics are found on "I Will Be Waiting (track five)" and "If You Really Wanted Me (track 11)." Michaels sends these sentiments to the listener with sincerity and a pureness of voice that speaks volumes.

Michaels effectively experiments with harmonizing in "The Power (track seven)," a song of self-empowerment. "I can do it on my own, I have the strength inside," she sings with soul.

The later tracks are exceptional and demonstrate that while Michaels starts out her self-titled CD singing like a lark with modesty, she does let herself strut like a peacock toward the end.

This is a CD that belongs in every young woman's album collection because the artist has reached for a lifelong dream and encourages self-confidence. And, while Michaels has the ideal vocals for ballads, the same was said for Celine Dion. And, look at her now. The more Michaels spreads her vocal wings, the further she is destined to fly.

Copies of Michaels' CD are available for \$15 and \$2 shipping and handling at API Records, P.O. Box 7041, Watchung, 07069.

some righteous hooks. Beginning with "When Will I See You?" Michaels' level of professional vocal training becomes clear. While I'd like to hear a bit more edge to her voice for such a catchy pop song, she follows through.

From start to finish, the second track, "Faith" is an anthem of hope. Michaels' voice mirrors that of Australian songbird Olivia Newton-John and almost resembles the theme and tone of Newton-John's 1975 hit,



# Jammin' In Jersey

All photographs by Cheri Rogowsky for The Westfield Leader and The Times



**TWO WILSONS AND A SIMON**...Former Supreme Mary Wilson kept New Jersey audiences entertained this summer, along with the legendary Paul Simon and Beach Boy founder Brian Wilson at PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel.



# Pen & Ink

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Good television hinges on whether or not the audience can appreciate a character, fragments of a scene or setting, long after the credits have rolled. If the show is still "with you" in the days to come, the writers, producers and actors have done their job. These are the folks that deserve to saunter up to the stage on Emmy Night and receive the coveted statue.

One such nominee is "Life With Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows (ABC)." Never have I encountered such a phenomenal mini-series from start to finish with drop-dead likeness of a celebrity. Once that eerie sense subsides, the viewer is willingly whisked away by the art direction, casting, directing and writing.

Actress Judy Davis is Judy Garland re-incarnated and Tammy Blanchard, who plays a younger Garland, steals the show with her depiction of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. Polished beyond a fault, the Emmy must go to these actresses. The mini-series rivaled most movies I have seen in theaters, and I didn't have to pay \$10 to see it.

Our friends at Viacom Productions, who often visit Westfield to capture its charm for NBC's "Ed," fared well in the casting, directing and writing categories as nominees. However, I was disappointed to find lead actor Tom Cavanaugh omitted from the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series category. Instead, the board stuck with the same old nominees, Ray Romano ("Everybody Loves Raymond"), Kelsey Grammer ("Frasier"), Eric McCormack ("Will & Grace"), John Lithgow ("3rd Rock"), and Frankie Muniz ("Malcolm in the Middle").

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# Four Westfielders Showcase Model Behavior Local Models Blaze Catwalk At PNC Bank Arts Center

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**HOLMDEL** - Tara Lee Amelia, Alison Hunter, Alex Schmidt and Nicholas Newman of Westfield spent Sunday evening firing up the catwalk at PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel as part of "Timeless: An International Industry Showcase," marking the 10th anniversary of Model Team Model Management in Ocean Grove.

While the program, which included over 60 Model Team models, began slowly with a slide show, the crux of the showcase was infectious with pulsing strobe lights and hypnotizing music infused with essences of hip-hop and opera.

Tara, Alison and Nicholas radiated confidence and poise, just some of the elements sought after by Model Team's VIPs. Alex, who was lauded by commentators nearby, bewitched the audience, owned the catwalk and captured some "oohs" and "ahs" with his brawn and genuine demeanor.

However, Kevin Garron of Linden, who modestly commanded the show with his chiseled Adonis features and Herculean stature, is guaranteed to be the next "It" male model in the industry. Several critics among the audience agreed heartily, eagerly snapping shots of Garron. One would have to be blind not to notice the talent of this up and comer, who is much more than tall, dark and handsome.

"I'm just looking to see where this goes," Garron told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains and Fanwood* in an exclu-

sive post-show interview. "This is uncharted territory, but I'm looking forward to seeing where it leads."

Model Team, which has the backing of such heavy hitters as Armani, Ralph Lauren, *Glamour*, Tommy Hilfiger and *Vogue*, certainly defies

Olympus, Garron and Schmidt were noticeably featured as gods in what was a sensual, highly-dramatic skit, complete with togas and tridents.

Child models followed in a "Hawaii Five-0" setting, featuring in-your-face flowered shirts and leis.

Slides of the adult female models preceded a resplendent, yet lengthy presentation of "Diamonds Are Forever."

While it was unclear as to why Model Team chose to juxtapose skits paying tribute to Lucille Ball and Anne Frank, both were surprisingly impressive. A catchy spin on the "I Love Lucy" theme song was mixed with a perpetually-smiling model portraying Desi Arnaz and a lip-synching red-haired model doing the "Vitameatavegamin" bit. A somber homage to Anne Frank followed, with the haunting red diary used cleverly as the central prop passed from model to model.

Preceding the evening's portions of the evening, which re-introduced each model, was the evening's most memorable skit: "Just In Time: Inside the Mechanisms of a Clock." A presentation à la Salvador Dalí, turned neon, black-clothed male models donned glow-in-the-dark gloves and neon necklaces, while mimicking the motions of a clock.

Evidenced by Sunday's show, there are certain components of modern fashion that seem basic, yet crucial in illustrating today's trends. Hair is traditionally long

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**THE CAMERA LOVES HIM...**Linden resident Kevin Garron joined Westfielders Tara Lee Amelia, Alison Hunter, Alex Schmidt and Nicholas Newman in burning up the catwalk at PNC Bank Arts Center on Sunday evening. Approximately 66 models helped their agency, Model Team Management of Ocean Grove, in celebrating its 10th anniversary.

the misconception that only credible agencies can be found in New York City. Future supermodels are sprouting out of Model Team, the brainchild of former models John Merriman and Bill Tack. Opening with a scene atop Mount

Beijing, China. The author's wife, Jennifer, is a member of the United States Foreign Service, a job that has afforded the couple and their two children the opportunity to live and work over-

# Fritz Galt's Third Spy Thriller, 'Thunder in Formosa' Booms

By MARYLOU MORANO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**WESTFIELD** - Most Americans who live abroad commemorate their experiences with photos or videotapes. Fritz Galt writes international spy thrillers.

He drew upon his experiences living in Yugoslavia to write "The Karta Conspiracy," a book depicting an invasion of neighboring Macedonia by disenfranchised elements within Serbia.

Living in India inspired him to write "The Hanuman Type," a biological war thriller set in that country.

And now, Mr. Galt, whose parents Stewart and Liliane Galt reside in Westfield, has published his third novel, "Thunder in Formosa." For the last five years, he has lived in

Beijing, China. The author's wife, Jennifer, is a member of the United States Foreign Service, a job that has afforded the couple and their two children the opportunity to live and work over-



Fritz Galt

seas for the last 12 years.

Yet for all the exciting countries he's lived in, Mr. Galt still considers Westfield his "adopted" home. His favorite haunts are the Westfield Memorial Library, the parks and the downtown shopping district.

"I even proposed to my wife in Westfield and it must have worked its magic on her, because she accepted" he said recently in an on-line interview with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*.

Mr. Galt, 43, has been writing since his elementary school days. "I wrote to give myself something to read, something that was more interesting than the stories I was finding in the library," he continued.

The author knew writing was his life's passion when, in high school, he wrote a novel about two boys and their grandfather and their travels around the world.

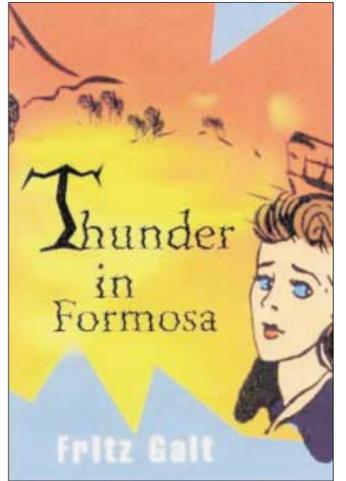
After graduating with a Master of Fine Arts Degree from San Francisco State University, Mr. Galt wrote educational and technical books.

"Moving abroad gave me a wealth of new material. In the field of international thrillers, there is a dearth of understanding and depiction of foreign lands among American writers. I figured it was time to infuse a bit of reality into the genre and show people and events as they really are," said Mr. Galt.

Currently, the author is at work on another spythriller, "Bazaar of the Dead" which will be published this fall. The settings for this book take place in the United States, Switzerland, France and Morocco.

The central character in "Thunder in Formosa," as in Mr. Galt's other

books, is undercover CIA agent, Mick Pierce. Mick must stop renegade Chi-



nese military personnel from causing a war between the United States and China.

Mick's wife, Natalie, is also a main character in the book.

"Mick and Natalie are purely fictitious amalgamations of traits I've seen in various members of their respective walks of life," explained Mr. Galt.

The action in "Thunder in Formosa" takes place against a backdrop of the Far East: from Taipei to Hong Kong to Shanghai. Is the deadly earthquake an act of God or a terrorist? Can Mick's agents expose the renegades before America and China go to war?

"Thunder in Formosa," published in paperback, is available online and in bookstores. For more information on the author, his other books or ordering "Thunder in Formosa," please visit [www.spythrillers.com](http://www.spythrillers.com).

## Coming Next Week:

- Prepare to savor all the produce the Westfield and Scotch Plains Farmers Markets have to offer. Recipes included.
- Kerriane Spellman Cort will give her "Take on It."
- A&E Cub Reporter Ian Federgreen will ask Westfielders their intimate feelings about a store opening in town.

# Man on the Street

By IAN FEDERGREEN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**WESTFIELD** - Here is Victoria's Secret...she has come to downtown Westfield. But, will Westfielders warmly welcome a world of wondrous lingerie into their lives? Expensive lingerie onto their wives? Will this be a business that thrives? Just what will the reaction be when Victoria's Secret finally arrives?

"Oh my God, I'm so excited. I can't wait!" gushed Lindsay Guerriero, who will be heading to Kean University in the fall. "It's a lot closer and more convenient (than the mall). It adds flavor to the town, a little more variety. It's definitely going to get a lot of business because it's a very popular place for teenage girls and older women. I'm wearing Victoria's Secret right now!"

Not everyone shares Lindsay's

people who live in the area."

Of course, the most important three aspects of any lingerie store are location, location, location. And, so toy store employee Mike Neshimka was skeptical upon hearing about his new neighbor.

"I just thought it was a joke. Why would they put it (Victoria's Secret) next to K&B Toys?" he asked. "It doesn't bother me," he was quick to add, "it just shocked me."

On the contrary, Mr. Neshimka is hopeful. "I think it's going to attract more beautiful women to K&B Toys," he laughed.

While the boutique might be great for beautiful women, Mr. Neshimka has first-hand experience with rambunctious kids at K&B, and predicts the same trouble for Victoria's Secret.

"There will probably be a problem with little guys going in on a



Ingrid McKinley for The Westfield Leader and The Times

IT'S NOT A SECRET ANYMORE...How do Westfielders and shoppers really feel about Victoria's Secret coming to downtown Westfield? Throughout most of Monday, mannequins faced oncoming traffic down Central Avenue without a stitch of clothing.

excitement, however. I met Barbara Anderson, a legal secretary, as she was returning from The Dress Barn nearby.

"I can't come into town and find something that suits my needs," she said. "We don't have something that's your middle-aged business woman's clothing." Ms. Anderson called Victoria's Secret "wasted space." She said, "I think they could find something to put I there that would better serve the needs of the

dare, asking for lingerie, or touching a mannequin's breast," he said. "I bet you in a week they'll put a sign: 'No one under 18.'"

Adam Rogoff, who was shopping with his six-year-old daughter disagreed. "I'd be surprised if most kids pay any attention to it being here," he said. "It's just another retailer."

Mike Losole, father of three, seconded that notion. "I don't think it

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