



CALIFORNIAN: Peach brings talents, band to Old Town Theater

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HOLLY HERNDON and ERIKA SOROCO - For The Californian

Peach brings her award-winning sound on Friday to Old Town Temecula Community Theater, in a live show that is part of the Temecula Presents series.

The multitalented, singer-songwriter-guitarist-vocalist was recently nominated in Best Blues or Artist and Best Female Vocalist categories for the fifth annual Los Angeles South Bay Music Awards.

When asked about her upcoming Temecula performance she stated that she was most looking forward to debuting some new songs which she has never performed.

"I wrote a few with blues artist Keb Mo, and I am looking forward to playing with my band and seeing Temecula," she said. "I grew up in a small town in Indiana, and I love coming to communities like Temecula."

Born into a family where music was often heard pouring from the windows, Peach knew that creating music for others was what she wanted to do with her life. The influence of her mother only made that stronger while growing up.

"My mother played piano when I was a child," Peach said. "She played on an old pink piano that was out in our garage-converted-to-recreation-room. She played old time songs and blues ---- and was playing stride. But she called it chordin' because the chord was being played in the left hand. Mom never played professionally but she is immensely talented."

Her talent grew from those sessions with her mom, into a full-blown career that has spanned a couple of genres.

"For a long time I was a jazz musician ---- which is an extension of the blues," she said. "Shortly after I had my daughter I wanted to play a more romp-and-stomp style, so I began filling in on guitar in blues clubs. I would find that after I had played a four-hour set that I could keep playing the blues for four more hours. I was surprised that I had such an affinity for the blues. But many of the people who knew me said that my jazz style was always rooted in the blues.

"In retrospect I realize my mother always played the blues on the piano. I was meant to play this style of music."

Her Temecula performance will feature four band members whom often accompany Peach during her live shows ---- Ben Mauro on guitar, Ken Stange on keyboard, Tom Walsh on drums and Del Atkins on bass. Strange and Walsh also perform with Dennis Quaid and the Sharks. Peach admits that the five play together when they have the time ---- something that she prefers much more than solo performances.

"I have not performed solo in recent years," Peach said. "I did a lot of that as a young girl. I could perform solo as I am a strong guitarist. But the music is more rockin' ---- solo always ends up sounding kind of folkie ---- and I like it rockin.' When the band kicks in and we all play together and it feels so good and we smile at one another, I prefer that."

Peach is also the co-founder of "Rock 'n Cure," an annual event she produces and performs in to benefit Cedar-Sinai Medical Center's breast cancer and stem cell transplant research. "Rock 'n Cure" at the House of Blues Los Angeles ---- co-headlined by Peach and The Delgado Brothers ---- has raised over \$200,000 to date.

"I co-founded it when a close friend of mine had a stem cell transplant following the discovery of breast cancer," she said.

"I am inspired by love and injustice," Peach said. "I am inspired to get that info my music and sink into that feeling. This weekend I am going to do a song about what happened in New Orleans. This is a song about the feeling and the injustice. It's a pretty powerful song."

Touching the audience with her lyrics is something that is most important to Peach.

"I hope people enjoy themselves and that they might relate to some of the lyrics," she said. "For example, once I sang a song I wrote with this lyric: 'I'm tired of waitin' for my life to turn around/I've got to bust a move, even if it's/from the ground.' At the end of the set, a woman came up to me and said she really related to that song of mine, and to that lyric in particular. That was my paycheck, that made my night."

Peach

When: 8 p.m. Friday

Where: Old Town Temecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St., Temecula

Tickets: \$20

Info: (866) 653-8696