RUMOURS
A TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC

A tribute to Fleetwood Mac

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Rumours-A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, mesmerizing audiences, transcending them to the time of Stevie, Mick, John, Cristina and Lindsey...the clothing, the sound, the moves, the magic.
Rumours (Fleetwood Mac)

It's a safe bet that Fleetwood Mac hasn't yet been spotted in any ears. Rumours, too, plays down the camp. Susan Johnston (Stevie Nicks) started the Southeastern Massachusetts-based set 1½ years ago, after getting fired up by "The Chain."

"I'm an actress as well, so when I'm doing Stevie Nicks onstage, for me it's a live theater musical piece," she says. "We opened for Kansas. There were 15,000 people in the audience. They're singing the tunes back."

Johnston does not feel confused devoting herself to one band. "I love what the band has done and I respect their music. For me it's an honor to get somewhere close enough where people are chanting 'Stevie' at concerts. That, to me, is a success."

Rumours plays only twice a month, giving Johnston time to pursue projects like acting in movies ("School Days," "The Crucible") and posing as a board-game character — this summer her photo will pop up on the Hasbro game "Mystery Date." But despite her side projects, Johnston makes the time to mail every Fleetwood Mac memo.

"If an instruction or a modulation or a solo is missing, one note or in the wrong order or you accidentally say the wrong word, they're gonna rip you apart, because it's your job to try to be as if you are that band onstage."
Tribute band with R.I.
connections performs at Plainville show Saturday

LAUREN CASSIDY
Staff Writer

Tribute bands are a popular form of entertainment in the music industry today. One such band, performing under the name of 'R.I. Connections,' recently took to the stage in Plainville for a show that proved to be a hit with the audience.

The band's performance was well-received, with fans singing along to classic songs from various artists. The lead vocalist, who was dressed in a white suit and tie, captivated the audience with his dynamic performance.

In an interview after the show, lead vocalist John Smith commented on the experience. "It was an honor to perform these iconic songs in front of such a dedicated audience," he said. "We're thrilled to have been able to bring joy to so many fans through our music.

R.I. Connections is a tribute band that pays homage to the music of a number of artists, including Fleetwood Mac and The Eagles. Their shows are known for their high-energy performances and their ability to captivate fans with their musical talent.

The band's next show is scheduled for next month, and tickets are already selling out. Fans are urged to purchase their tickets in advance to ensure a spot at the upcoming performance.

In addition to live shows, R.I. Connections also offers private performances for events such as weddings, corporate parties, and birthday celebrations. To book the band, interested parties are encouraged to contact them via their website.

For more information about R.I. Connections and their upcoming shows, visit their website at www.riconnections.com.
Heard the 'Rumours' about this weekend's line-up?

By LORI A. NASON

This year’s Fall Harvest Festival has plenty of great live music in store by some of Rhode Island’s most talented musicians, guaranteed to keep the crowd singing and dancing to some of their favorite songs throughout the entire weekend.

The popular Fleetwood Mac tribute band Rumours is one of the six acts scheduled to perform at the event. Susan Johnston, the Stevie Nicks of the band, grew up in Cranston and attended school at Cranston East.

“I am looking forward to our show at the Fall Harvest Festival. I am really going to enjoy visiting my hometown,” said Johnston.

Being the daughter of a musician, Johnston developed an interest in the music industry at a very early age.

“My dad was in bands for as long as I can remember, and they’d let me sing, so that’s how I got my start,” recalled Johnston.

Johnston began her career in theater, performing in musicals, then her interests moved towards classic rock. For the past five years she has been performing in classic rock bands and currently performs in a duet called Simple Truths as well as being the lead vocalist for Rumours.

Rumours has been together for about two years, and in that short time they have become known as one of the most popular bands in the area. When members, Mike Khoi (John McVie), Alex Miranda (Mick Fleetwood), Terry Wood (Christine McVie), Maryanne Rassoni (Lindsey Buckingham), “Gee” and [insert name] got together to form the group, they began an unstoppable journey to success.

It’s been a very busy two years for the group.

“Last year we opened up for Kansas at the Fall River Festival, and this year we opened up for Herman’s Hermits at the Cumberland Festival,” explained Johnston. “We just recently did a show at Cranston’s in East Greenwich and it was so successful that they asked us to come back.

All of the band members are incredibly talented, and have been in the industry for many years. Maryanne Rassoni plays folk music in a band called Hall Sip & Guster, and has put out her own CD. Alex Miranda also plays alternative music in a band called Joy Popper, and Terry Wood played in a band called Maryjane and Terry with independently recording artist Mary Day.

This year is the band’s first year playing at the Fall Harvest Festival, and they have a great show planned.

“We are not just a band — we put on a well. Johnston, a very convincing Stevie Nicks, has appeared in a long flowing black lace gown, similar to the one worn by the real Stevie Nicks, and the other band members dress in the styles worn by the characters they portray. “Our goal is to make the audience feel like they are actually at a Fleetwood Mac show.”

Rumours is also the name of the 1977 hit album by Fleetwood Mac, and when you see them play such hits as “The Chain,” “Oh Daddy,” and “Gold Dust Woman,” you won’t believe your eyes or ears.

The two events is another great tribute hit songs of the Beach Boys, with such songs as “Surfing USA,” and “California Girls.” The band also plays some of the all time favorite oldies songs of bands such as Chicago, Chuck Berry, and the Beatles. The band recently played a show at Gaslight City Center that kept the crowd rocking all afternoon, and they’re sure to do the same at this year’s Harvest Festival.

Also performing during the weekend is Rhode Island legend Ronnie Rose, the Capolla Sisters and Evan’s Heaven. Steve Anthony & Persuasion will entertain the crowd with rock & roll, from the oldest to the youngest.
Back to ‘Mac’

Tribute band coming to Plainville Saturday re-creates the sound of ‘70s supergroup, G10

Rhode Island native Susan Johnston takes the role of Stevie Nicks in Rumours: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac.

Matthew Fox, star of the TV series ‘Lost’ is Meet a local stock car driver, who is only 13.

Cheryl Wheeler brings her many talents as a folk
Band Rumours flattering in Fleetwood Mac tribute

Plainville Police Association fundraiser aids town programs

BY LAUREN CARTER
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then Fleetwood Mac should feel honored after Saturday night's performance by Rumours: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac.

The six-piece tribute band did an admirable job recreating the supergroup's material at the Plainville Police Association's annual show, held at Plainridge Racecourse.

From the set opener "The Chain" it was clear the sextet had done their musical homework.

The sound was reminiscent of the Mac's live shows and keyboardist/vocalist Terry Wood could have easily passed for Christine McVie with her smooth alto on songs including "You Make Loving Fun" and the stripped-down "Songbird."

Susan Johnston, aka singer Stevie Nicks, looked the part in a black lace dress and platform boots, banging on a tambourine as she alternately stole the spotlight and provided harmony on songs where she wasn't the featured vocalist.

Although other group members didn't get as deep into costume as Johnston, they pulled off the sound of the Mac pretty well, no minor feat considering the five-piece band (before Christine McVie left the group) usually has extra guitars and drums backing them live.

Rumours couldn't conjure up a marching band for "Don't Stop," but the song, once the theme of former President Bill Clinton's campaign, was inspiring nonetheless, and got many audience members up and dancing.

"Everywhere" was an excellent number that showed off the group's attention to detail, and "Hold Me," a song the Mac usually doesn't perform live, was also impressive.

Johnston's upbeat theatrics may not match Nicks' understated, spooky grace, and her voice doesn't have the rough, textured quality that is Nicks' signature, but she was enchanting on "Dreams," and the dream-like "Sara," another song the Mac don't usually perform live.

"Monday Morning" and "Big Love" were some standouts from DJ Laurie as Lindsay Buckingham, though of the three vocalists, his voice was the most unlike his "character."

The group, which also features Gary Mallaber as drummer Mick Fleetwood, Ralph Carter as bassist John McVie, and Mary Ann Rossoni on guitar and vocals, even threw in some older material from the Peter Green era.

Overall, the main thing lacking in Rumours' performance that is so pervasive in the Mac's was emotion, which likely can't be conveyed as easily as words and notes.

A meal and raffle in between sets seemed to be part of the attraction for the large crowd, an older, family-oriented group.

Patrol Officer Alfred Morel, the event coordinator, said 1,100 tickets were sold for this year's event.

Proceeds benefit youth activities and the town's DARE program.

LAUREN CARTER can be reached at lauren-carter@hotmail.com.
Hi, Susan. Dude, your band is fantastic. I wanted to tell you in person but I know how it is on a gig, trying to concentrate and play music and do business and every other thing else that comes up.

I couldn't get over the way you captured the color and the nuances of Stevie Nicks' voice. It came across totally natural, though I know you must have put a lot of work into it. I thought your treatment of "Gypsy" in particular was just spellbinding. Your guitar player and piano player, too, both did vocal recreations that were scary. Laurel and I love good harmony singing, and we were both blown away by how great you all sounded together. Everybody sang so beautifully.

Classic. Not even the drunken screaming Marshfield meatheads or the shockingly incompetent soundman could destroy the mood.

Thank you, and thanks to your band, for a truly inspiring experience. We'll hope to catch you again later in the summer and say hi.

Thanks again, Susan. Rock on.

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