

Lauper the alluring eighties girl still Just Wants To Have Fun

MUSIC

CYNDI LAUPER

DID you grow up in the 1980s? Were you a pop fanatic who, thanks to *Smash Hits* magazine, knew all the lyrics to the latest hits? Did you have big hair and loved ra-ra skirts?

If you answer 'yes' to any or all of the above questions, then you really should be heading out to catch Cyndi Lauper during her latest tour.

If you take a look at photos of her from her heyday in the mid-1980s, her look seemed to epitomise the age – her hair was backcombed to within an inch of its life, not to mentioned dyed all colours of the rainbow and more.

She loved denim, short skirts, colourful tights and lashings and lashings of eye-shadow, not to mention heaps of beads and the kind of earrings that would make Pat Butcher green with envy.

These days, at the age of 63, she's a little more sombre-looking, but not too much – in fact, she looks fabulous.

She's still quirky, the old sparkle in the eye is still there, and you sense that she isn't taking life too seriously.

As her most famous song states, girls just to have fun, and Lauper appear to embrace that adage wholeheartedly.

Born Cynthia Ann Stephanie Lauper in Astoria, New York, she began writing songs at the age of 12 after being given a guitar by her elder sister. Thanks to her penchant for changing her hair colour and her eccentric dress sense, she always stood out in a crowd and by the early 1970s was performing with various cover bands.

Never content with singing other people's songs, she hoped to hit the big time as a member of the band Blue Angel, but when their debut album bombed, she headed out alone and got her big break in



So Unusual: Cyndi Lauper is currently on tour promoting her new album *Detour*

1983 with the album *She's So Unusual*, which spawned the hits *Time After Time*, *She Bop*, *All Through The Night* and, of course, the aforementioned *Girls Just Want To Have Fun*. Lauper later released *True Colors*, *I Drove All Night* and a reworked version of her most famous hit, titled *Hey Now* (*Girls Just Want To Have Fun*).

She's also branched out into acting, has done extensive charity work, campaigns tirelessly for LGBT rights and wrote the Tony Award-winning script for the hit

Broadway musical *Kinky Boots*. But it's as a performer that she continues to make her biggest impact. In May, she released a new country album, entitled *Detour*, and is now touring Europe to promote it. After all this time, she's still having fun, and long may that continue. In fact, we can't wait to find out what she does next. Sarah Morgan

Tonight, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.
www.glasgowconcert halls.com

MUSIC

MAMMAL HANDS

Mammal Hands are a like-minded trio of young musicians from Norwich consisting of brothers Nick Smart (piano) and Jordan Smart (sax), and drummer and percussionist Jesse Barratt.

They first got together as buskers on the streets of Norwich in 2012, and the label 'jazz trio' severely understates the scope of the band.

Tapping into the traditions of Indian and African percussion, while also taking cues from minimalist and electronic music, their end product is a distinctive, accessible take on jazz.

The Smarts were already working as an electronic duo before encountering Barratt, at which point their music went in a more jazz orientated direction.

The lack of a double bass – often a staple of live jazz – might suggest some kind of chamber jazz, but instead their music is rhythmic, dynamic and exciting, and also reflects the trio's varied interests in electronic, contemporary classical and world music.

Mammal Hands released their second album, *Floa*, on *Gondwana Records* last month. It picks up on the themes of its predecessor *Animalia* with nine instrumentals that vary from the looped piano/sax of *Quiet Fire* to Dave Brubeck-esque *Think Anything*. Richard Jones

Saturday, Hug & Pint, Glasgow.
www.thehugandpint.com



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