

Rock sisters are doing it for themselves

by **Aidan Radnedge**

THE Godfather of Soul James Brown famously sang It's A Man's Man's Man's World but from Blondie to Skunk Anansie, The Pretenders to Garbage, female-fronted bands have long been fighting for recognition in the male-dominated rock 'n' roll industry.

Now promoters and three of Brighton up-and-coming bands have united to organise what they hope will be a regular showcase, throwing the spotlight on women rockers, as opposed to manufactured pop acts such as The Spice Girls and Girls Aloud.

The Girlie Show takes its name from the short-lived Channel 4 Show presented by so-called 'ladettes' such as Sara Cox and organisers admit a certain element of titillation is involved.

Headlining will be Anemo, fronted by Hazelle Woodhurst, who appeared in the films Shakespeare In Love and Eyes Wide Shut before turning to music.

Silvermaker, meanwhile, are fronted by 21-year-old Brighton University student Annalies Van De Velde.

"It's fair to say I'm the real poser of the band," she admits. "It used to be only Skin from Skunk Anansie that I looked to as a real rock chick but things seem to getting better

rock & pop

The Girlie Show:
featuring Anemo,
Silvermaker and
The Trick

Tonight, Concorde 2, Madeira Drive,
Brighton, 8pm, £4/£3.50,
01273 772770

now with bands like Evanescence and The Distillers being taken more seriously."

Promoter Andy Warner says: "There are a hell of a lot of talented girl-fronted bands around Brighton so it made sense to tailor-make a special night for them.

"There's a strong element of rock music being controlled by male egos so it's nice to promote the flipside. We're not patronising or pigeon-holing them. They were fine with doing and FHM shoot and all recognise that you have to tackle things head-on without worrying about being too PC."

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A chick's guide to rock

THE Pretender' Chrissie Hynde has drawn up her own list of rules for lady rockers

"Don't moan about being a chick, refer to feminism or complain about sexist discrimination. We've all been thrown down stairs and f***** about but no one wants to hear a whining female. Write a loosely disguised song about it instead and clean up."

"Do not insist on working

with females - get the best man for the job. If it happens to be a woman, great, you';; have someone to go to department stores with on tour instead of making one of the road crew go with you."

"Try not to have a sexual relationship within the band. It always ends in tears."

"Don't think that sticking your boobs out will help. Remember, you're in a rock 'n' roll bank. It's not 'f*** me'. it's 'f*** you.'"