

Rupa & the April Fishes

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010
GUALALA ARTS CENTER
6:30 P.M. DOORS OPEN
7:30 P.M. PERFORMANCE

With their enchanting mix of chic French nouvelle vague, rousing Latin alternative grooves, energetic Gypsy swing and dreamy Indian ragas, this trend-setting band is spearheading a multicultural movement that is redefining the sound of contemporary music.

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Rupa & the April Fishes create music that defies easy categorization. Their debut album, **eXtraOrdinary rendition**, echoes with influences of French chanson, Argentinean tango, Gypsy swing, American folk, Latin cumbias, and even Indian ragas. Their raucous and inviting performances have earned them a wide following in San Francisco, and they are poised for international renown with the worldwide release of their album in April, 2008.

Rupa & the April Fishes is led by a young woman of Indian heritage whose nomadic upbringing and dual life as a musician and doctor has led her to explore issues of identity, borders, and the vagaries of life, love and death. Rupa was born in California and grew up in India, Aix-En-Provence and California. Now a physician and teacher of medicine working in a hospital in San Francisco, Rupa has worked out a unique arrangement that allows her to divide her time between her passion for music and the creative arts with being a doctor.

Rupa began playing solo in cafes until she joined up with cellist Ed Baskerville to form a duet. They played on the streets, in streetcars, art galleries, and other informal settings. Eventually, the band grew to include a rotating roster of some of the Bay Area's most talented young musicians.

The name the April Fishes was inspired by the French term les poissons d'avril, which is related to

the English term April Fools. In France on the first of April, people stick little paper fishes on unsuspecting people's backs. "The origin of that is disputed, Rupa explains, "but one of the stories is that when a French king changed to the Roman calendar from the pagan calendar that was in wide use at the time some people still wanted to celebrate the New Year in April. So these are the people who would give the fishes, the April fish, to celebrate the beginning of the New Year. We were feeling like April fishes - people who don't believe the reality that's handed to them by some higher order, people who continue to insist on their own reality. It's a political and social commentary."



With its polyglot influences, the music of Rupa & the April Fishes reflects Rupa's interest in the arbitrary nature of borders and how they artificially create differences and divisions between people who are at core the same.

For more info, visit their website:
<http://www.myspace.com/aprilfishes>

Tickets are \$28 in advance, \$5 more on the day of the performance. Youth 7 to 17 are admitted free. Includes free international appetizer buffet.

For advance ticket purchase, go to **GualalaArts.org**. To purchase in person, visit the Gualala Arts Center or Dolphin Gallery in Gualala.

**Presented in association with
Fred Adler, KTDE 100.5 FM, as part of**

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