

# ENTERTAINMENT

THE MIRACOSTA CHARLOT SEPTEMBER 18, 2006



**SYNDEE WOOD**  
*Managing Editor*

A piano bar like no other, The Shout House shakes up the Gaslamp with dueling pianos and outrageous fun. This whoopee spot is where the gin is cold but the piano's hot, and you won't hear a bit of jazz. The players encourage, even require, audience participation during their sinful, soulful shootout.

The Shout House players perform such classics as, "My Little Runaway," and "Pretty Woman," and current hits like, Gnarl's Barkley's, "Crazy." It doesn't matter if they are familiar with a requested song or not, they'll do it, and shock the audience with their improvisational singing skills.

Upon receiving a request for

Bon Jovi's, "Livin' on a Prayer," player Roger Hunt confessed he hadn't attempted the song before, then belted it out anyway, no doubt from his personal memories of 1986. Hunt's voice bears an incredible likeness to Randy Newman as he drops the bomb into, "Political Science."

Kevin Clover pumps out another 80's classic with Def Leppard's highly charged, "Pour Some Sugar on Me," then moves over to the drums and continues his performance with a Rick Allen style one-armed solo. Tom Bagley does a mean Joe Cocker, complete with screams and convulsions, during his rendition of "With a Little Help From my Friends." Adam Johnson's sultry voice is the perfect accompaniment to his sultry piano playing and he proves that even punk can be played

on the piano successfully in his version of The Violent Femmes', "Blister in the Sun."

The surprise of the night is Hart's bluegrass version of "Gin and Juice," by Snoop Dogg. "This is what Snoop Dogg would sound like had he been born in the hills of West Virginia," said Hunt upon introduction of the song. At first the audience is leery but even those with an extreme aversion to rap will stand and applaud at the end of this fabulously funky song.

The Shout House players perform with unbridled brilliance and unequivocal talent. They continuously straddle the line of decency, occasionally slipping over to the raunchy side, taking the audience happily, joyfully, and enthusiastically along. Kenny Rogers' pristine "Lucille," becomes soiled, obscene and a

heckuva lot of fun, with the Shout House touch. For special occasions like birthdays, audience members are invited up on stage, and onto a piano, for a serenade unseen anywhere else in San Diego.

The Shout House is open Tuesday through Sunday for those 21 and over. Cover charges vary depending upon the night. When there is standing room only, reservations are recommended for Friday and Saturday nights. Thursday is College Night at The Shout House. Students with a valid, current ID receive free admission and discounted drinks.

The Shout House is located at 655 4th Avenue, 4th and G in the Gaslamp Quarter of downtown San Diego. For more information, call 619-231-6700 or [www.theshouthouse.com](http://www.theshouthouse.com).

Photo courtesy of Roger Hunt

## Reviews