

The goddesses are coming to the Avon Cinema in Providence.

The Thayer Street movie theater will host a rare live performance Sunday afternoon at 4 called The Goddess Show, A Celebration of Women in Music. Performing will be Laura Berkson, Mary Day, Hurricane, Mary Ann Rossoni, the Rhode Island Feminist Chorus, Susan Souza, Kim Trusty and MC Keirra Hall.

The show will benefit the Rhode Island Pride Committee, which organizes the state's annual Gay Pride Parade and Festival.

Thayer Dietrick, the show's producer, said a concert by women musicians was a bit of departure for the Pride Committee.

"There have been a lot of drag shows, dances, and theatrical events to raise money, but you rarely hear about women's music," she said. "It seemed like an area that could use more exposure for us . . . I expect quite a cross-section of men and women, gay and straight, in the audience."

Dietrick said Kenneth Dulgarian, owner of the Avon, is allowing Goddess organizers to build a new stage in the theater for the occasion.

Singer-songwriter Rossoni, one of the Goddess performers, said all the musicians on the bill are supporters of the Gay Pride March, although she added this does not mean everyone is gay or overtly political.

"Most of us are just your regular folksingers," Rossoni said. "I don't really have a gay following, I don't write that kind of music."

She has just signed a new record deal with Wall Street Records, a company from the Chicago area. "The fact that they're really willing to push my music is very encouraging," she said.

Rossoni plans to record a new album at Lakewest Studios in West Greenwich for release in the spring, and she sees it moving in a pop-rock direction.

"I'm writing a lot of pop - I'm not as weepy folk-acoustic as I used to be," she said. "Maybe because I signed a record deal, that's lightened my spirit. It's going to be loud. Louder than the last one, anyway."

Dietrick said Sunday's show couldn't accomodate all the musicians who wanted to play, so she hopes to put on another Goddess show in June at AS22 7in downtown Providence.

Tickets for the Goddess Show are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Tickets are available at Headlines on Wickenden Street and Hairspray, also on Wickenden Street.

Bobby 'Blue' Bland

One of the all-time great blues singers, Bobby "Blue" Bland, comes to Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel, 239 Westminster St., Providence, tomorrow.

Bland, a member of the Blues and Rock 'n' Roll halls of fame and the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Grammy in 1997, mixes blues, soul and gospel into a seamless whole.

No one sang Turn on Your Love Light, I Pity the Fool or Stormy Monday with the technique and authority of Bland at his early '60s peak.

Born Robert Calvin Brooks in tiny Rosemark, Tenn., Bland, 69, listened to blues, gospel and even country music growing up. In 1947 his family moved to Memphis, where he sang in a gospel group and then in a blues

band called the Beale Streeters, who also included Johnnie Ace, Junior Parker and B.B. King.

In the early '50s, Bland recorded for the Modern and Chess labels, but it was after he came out of the Army in 1954 and hooked up with Duke Records that he hit his stride.

In 1957 Bland had his first number one R&B hit, Farther Up the Road, and became a regular on the "chitlin' circuit" of Southern blues clubs.

Bandleader and arranger Joe Scott gave Bland a meaty big-band wallop; three fine guitarists, Wayne Bennett, Roy Gaines and Clarence Hollimon, provided instrumental foils for his singing.

Bland never had the crossover success and publicity of, say, his old pal B.B. King. But dozens of singers in blues and rock acknowledge his influence.

He currently records for Malaco, a label based in Jackson, Mississippi. His latest disc is a concert album, Live on Beale Street, recorded in Memphis. Bland will appear with Paul Geremia and Dave Howard & the High Rollers at Lupo's tomorrow. Admission is \$15. For information, call 272-5876.

Concert news

*Country fans have something to look forward to this spring, a big concert at Foxboro Stadium starring George Strait, Tim McGraw, the Dixie Chicks, Jo Dee Messina and Asleep at the Wheel. Tickets will go on sale March 6 through Ticketmaster. Ticket prices have not yet been announced.

*On a very different level, Slayer, Satan's favorite band, will come to Lupo's on April 2, with Sick of It All and Meshuggah. Admission is \$20, on sale tomorrow at Ticketmaster outlets and the box office. Call 331-2211 to charge by phone.

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CAPTION: MARY DAY AND MARY ANN ROSSONI will be among the female performers playing Sunday at the Avon Cinema.

CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

Andy Smith, 'POP MUSIC 'Goddesses' to play for gay pride', *Providence Journal* (online), 25 Feb 1999 G-04
〈<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1525140462CF3588>〉

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