

# Newsday's NightBeat

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Club Land

The Ultimate  
Club Guide

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Nightcrawler



## Mutual Admiration Society

*Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne,  
Shawn Colvin and Bruce Hornsby  
are charter members*

By Martin Johnson

**T**O GET BONNIE Raitt, Jackson Browne, Shawn Colvin, Bruce Hornsby, David Lindley, and Wally Ingram on the same stage, you'd need either an important cause to benefit or a stage that spans two or three continents.

Yet Sunday night at Jones Beach (where the stage keeps all four corners firmly within North America), all six performers will make the second stop of a monthlong all-star tour. And the cause is, by the standards of these noteworthy do-gooders, downright nihilistic. They're just out to make some music and have some fun.

"The whole idea started when we were doing acoustic benefits together," Raitt said in a statement. "Last December Jackson, Bruce and I did some shows for Hurricane Mitch relief, and a few days after we called each other and said that it was so much fun, we should really try to take this out on tour. We immediately thought to call Shawn Colvin and David Lindley to see if they'd like to join up. The idea is to weave in and out of each other's solo sets and also play together as one band."



Spain's Distrito 14 is hoping to catch on with American audiences and build a fan base here.

Photo by Jennifer Shea

## At Home In Queens

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**NYC Nights**

## A Wainwright Of His Own

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Photo by Leo Sarel

Bonnie Raitt and Jackson Browne will join a few friends onstage at Jones Beach Sunday.



Newsday Photo / Bruce Gilbert

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## Nightcrawler

Spain's Distrito 14:  
At Home in Queens

**W**HILE RAIN MADE the streets of Astoria a damp, cluttered mess last Friday, I popped into the dark recesses of **La Kueva** just in time to hear the Spanish band **Distrito 14** thundering through its sound check. Distrito 14 had come to New York for its first performances on the East Coast, the second of which will be Saturday at midnight.

With the club nearly empty hours before the band's performance, I heard the same elements that attracted me to the band several months ago, when singer Mariano Chueca mysteriously acquired my address and sent me a few CDs. Guitarist Francisco Jaraba pealed out languid, dreamy riffs, while the band brewed up its undulating blend of jam-band riffs, folk rock and alterna-pop.



Isaac Guzmán

Later, Chueca talked about the band's ambitions in New York. Though Distrito 14 has had significant success in Spain, released six albums and become the first non-Cuban band to tour the eastern provinces of Cuba, it is little-known even among rock en Español aficionados.

Radiating more sincerity (and perhaps naivete) than an Oklahoma Boy Scout, Chueca told me that Distrito 14's anonymity didn't really matter. He believes the band's artistic sensibility would draw listeners of all backgrounds.

"We feel that this place has a lot of heart," Chueca said. "The people's minds and hearts are here, and people from all over the world live here. We think Americans will find value in our ideas and our songs."



Photo by Jennifer Shea

## Distrito 14 plays at Astoria's La Kueva Saturday.

Even those Americans who don't understand Chueca's deceptively simple lyrics will recognize the influence of Jackson Browne, Carlos Santana and the Grateful Dead in Distrito 14's sound. There's also a certain psychedelic element brought on by the band's love for Soft Machine founder Kevin Ayers. That psychedelic influence dovetails with Chueca's desire to write songs that evoke an emotional response.

"We're from the land of Luis Bunuel and Dali," he said. "We look for the connection between the concrete moment and the part that is not rational and that is part of a dream. I tell simple stories, but the story is not important. The story is just the medium."

Even though the band plays just one more show this summer, look for Distrito 14 to return soon. Chueca said he feels at home in Queens. It reminds him of District 14, the suburb of Zaragoza that the

band hails from.

"As I came across the Triborough Bridge," he said. "Queens seemed a lot like our barrio, because it's also across a river. When I grew up, it was just a suburb, but now it's gotten used to the idea of being part of the city."

*Distrito 14: Saturday at midnight at La Kueva, 28-26 Steinway St., Astoria, Queens, 718-267-9069.*

## End Notes

This Saturday, two sets of call letters go head-to-head in drawing your attention to local bands. The LIMC (Long Island Music Coalition) presents a showcase with **B. Arvacus, Moon, Wounded** and **Needulhed** at Lakesides (260 Smithtown Blvd., Nesconset, 979-4169).

And the LIMF (Long Island Music Festival) presents the final round of its annual battle of the bands. The field has been narrowed to nine groups. Judges will decide the winner of \$1,000 and a bunch of free studio time.

Finalists are **Blind Curve, Bunk, Down Home Souls, Imperial Pints, Kaluka Bone, Lester Swing, The Mutha Funks, Portnoy Wilson** and **Zoraida**. Catch them all at Mulcahy's (3232 Railroad Ave., Wantagh, 826-6857).

... When it comes to free shows, it's hard to beat this weekend's **Riverhead Town Blues Festival**. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, artists such as **Sam Taylor, The Hackensack Men, Jeff Denny, The Straightjackets, Muletrain Vaughn, The Little Wilson Band** and our own rising star **Kerry Kearney** will play along the banks of the Peconic River near the intersection of Peconic Avenue and Main Street.

*E-mail Isaac Guzmán at [Guzman@Newsday.com](mailto:Guzman@Newsday.com) with your nightcrawling tips and comments. Send CDs, promos and other hard-copy hype to Nightcrawler, Newsday NightBeat, 235 Pinelawn Road, Melville, NY 11747-4250.*