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## LOS ANGELES

### Koffeehouse: Freshly Brewed and Always Hot

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I first found out about Koffeehouse a couple of years ago when a friend asked my wife and I to check out some up and coming bands at the Ford Amphitheatre. Having worked in the music business in New York, I have seen my fair share of “up and coming” bands and was not sure what to expect. I was excited about going to the Ford and figured what the hell, if nothing else I will sit out side, have a couple beers and enjoy the company of friends.

I ended up being blown away by the music that night. Band after band hit the stage and continued to raise the bar. There must have been 9 different groups that night and there was only 1 that I did not care for, however it was only because it wasn't my type of music...they were still tight.

Since then Koffeehouse has continued to present shows featuring the most talented emerging singer-songwriters and bands. I got an email about the upcoming Koffeehouse Sessions: The Westside's Musician's Showcase Series taking place the First Thursday of Every Month at Harvelle's in Santa Monica.

The first date is tomorrow night and will feature performances by Keaton Simons, Ernie Halter, Lelia Broussard, and Erick Macek along with DJ Audiodice on the turntables. Tickets are \$10.00 and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Donate Life America.

More information about the show and who's playing:

#### **10PM: KEATON SIMONS** ([www.myspace.com/keatonsimons](http://www.myspace.com/keatonsimons))

When considering the roll call of rock's most influential icons, those rare artists that pose a triple threat are the ones that consistently stand out, musicians that seize the spotlight through their singing, songwriting and instrumental prowess. That hallowed breed of musician has become increasingly less common in popular music, so it's especially worth noting that Keaton Simons also qualifies as a triple threat, given that his multifaceted talents have garnered him a presence on radio, television, film and the national concert circuit including performing for Desmond Tutu at an United Nations event with members of Paul Simon, Toto, and John Mayer's band. His album “Can You Hear Me” on CBS Records has made a powerful impact on the music community in the short year it has been out, with placements on American Dad, Harper's Island, NCIS, and The Cleaner, just to name a few.

#### **9PM: LELIA BROUSSARD** ([www.myspace.com/leliabroussard](http://www.myspace.com/leliabroussard))

Insightful yet completely irreverent, awkward yet elegant, contemporary yet unfazed to wander off the

beaten path, there really is something about Lelia. Lelia has seemingly had a lifetime career in the music industry. From her early beginnings at age 14, writing and recording her first song Secrets (from the EP "Louisiana Soul") which was picked up by the popular Joan of Arcadia CBS television show, along with the famed college radio station WXPN in Philadelphia to her soon to be, third independently released record, "Waiting on the 9", Lelia has proven to be all these things. She has toured extensively across the US as an independent artist on the TGIF tour, her new EP has already been picked up for distribution in Japan, and her music has been featured in several television shows and movies, yet the one thing that remains is her consistent grass roots efforts to reach her fans and keeping true to her own sound. Her song, "Don't Let Go" has proven to be an instant hit with over one million YouTube views and is also a fan favorite at her shows.

**8PM: ERICK MACEK** ([www.myspace.com/macek](http://www.myspace.com/macek))

Erick Macek's high-energy performances forge themselves into the minds of listeners with his ambitious guitar-playing and melodic grooves. Incorporating a wide array of musical styles ranging from jazz and funk to folk, pop and soul; Macek meanders his way into the music scene as he is often caught in the same sentences as Dave Matthews, John Mayer and Jack Johnson. Macek has been honored "Best Male Vocalist of the Year" at the 2007 Los Angeles Music Awards, along with "Best Overall Singer" at AMTC's worldwide talent competition. Coming back from performances such as the Sundance Film Festival, Academy Awards Gifting Lounge, SXSW and touring, Erick Macek is a name to remember and one to watch as his music, energy and passion is addicting and catching on nationally.

You can check out more about Koffeehouse at their website, [HYPERLINK "http://www.koffeehouse.com."](http://www.koffeehouse.com) [www.koffeehouse.com](http://www.koffeehouse.com). I don't know anything about the people playing, but I guarantee that this show won't disappoint.