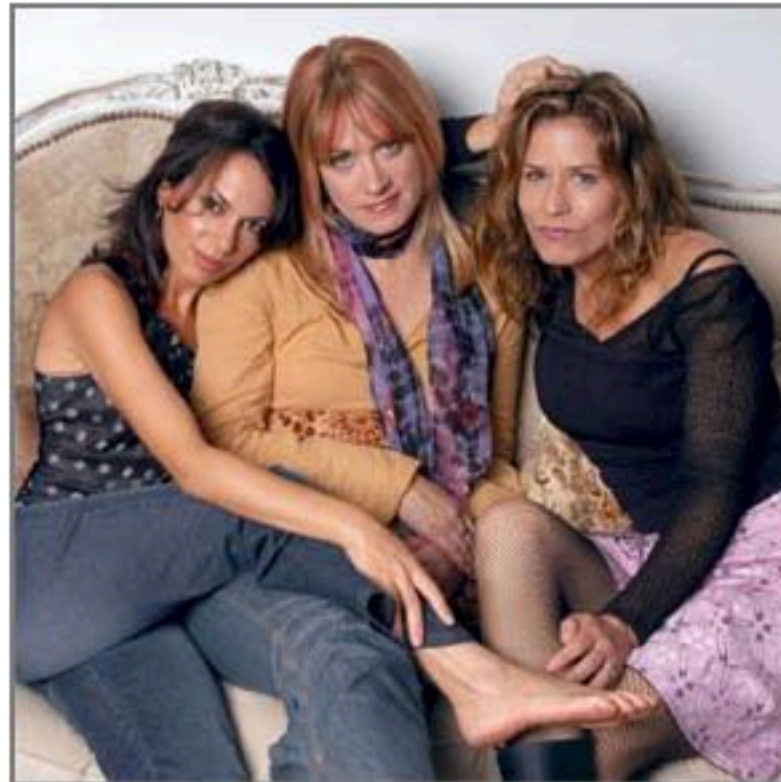


Girls Rock Showcase at SXSW



Women and girls dominate country and pop, but they're still woefully underrepresented in rock. For years I'd wanted to make female rockers a priority at SXSW. Four years ago, our friends at BMI wanted to help an organization I work with, **Girls Rock Austin (GRA)**, by sponsoring a showcase. This year, woman-rocker-friendly clothing company

Maurice's, along with PlayNetwork, has joined forces with us on this fundraising event, and bring pioneering all-female rock/pop acts **The Bangles**, and **Sick of Sarah** to the stage at Cedar Street Courtyard March 17. It's women only! We've got sister acts and "like sisters", too!

GRA, part of a growing alliance of girls-only summer music programs all over the world, is dedicated to mentoring girls ages 10-18, with a special focus on underserved populations. All door money and donations from this event will go to GRA's scholarship fund. The program helped foster the only Austin act on this white hot bill, critical and popular sensation **Schmillion**, whose one year of inception has been filled with events such as appearing in an Arcade Fire video and competing in 2010 SchoolJam Teen Battle of the Bands at NAMM in January.

But I'm getting ahead of myself here. The evening opens softly with **SHEL**, four sisters from Ft. Collins, CO, whose classical training and sweet vocals flavor their alt country sound. They'll be followed by Minneapolis rockers Sick of Sarah, a gutsy five-piece who are changing minds everywhere about "girl bands" and say outright in their video on the Maurice's site, "We're going to make girls not so afraid to play music!" Aforementioned Schmillion follows, and then Seattle natives and sister act **Smoosh** will take the stage, whose emotional and delectable music is maturing with them. Finally, Cali pop trailblazers **The Bangles** headline the show, bringing their bright vocals and hot licks to the songs we love so well.

Sure, I'd like the day to come when the phrase "all female band" just doesn't spring to mind, but until then, ask yourself this: Have you told a girl she can rock today?

Contributed by Roseana Auten

Photo of The Bangles courtesy of the band



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