

Shadowland

Simon & Loveheart at Shadowland April 2nd

On Saturday, April 2nd, at 8:00 PM, John Simon (*left photo*) and his wife, actress/singer C.C. Loveheart, (*right photo*) currently filming the new movie musical version of "The Producers," will perform in a cabaret café concert to benefit *Shadowland Theatre*, the Mid-Hudson Valley's leading professional, non-profit Actors' Equity theater.

"I love the fact that *Shadowland* exists right here in Ellenville, in the middle of everything," said Simon. Added Loveheart, "John and I are grateful for the chance to help out by doing this as a benefit."

The critically acclaimed album producer for The Band, Janis Joplin, Leonard Cohen, Simon & Garfunkle, Mama Cass Elliot, John Hartford, David Sanborn and others, John Simon is also a composer/songwriter. His reviews tell the story: "Clever, articulate songs" (Jon Pareles, NY Times); "A superb, witty lyricist" (Rex Reed); "An individuality all too rare in music today" (Time magazine); and "Bursting with talent" (Rolling Stone).

In another review by Rex Reed, this time focusing on the husband-and-wife duo, Reed said, "It's always a thrill to discover an act that is unique, original, and unhackneyed. So if you feel like Christopher Columbus, a new territory awaits you. The act under scrutiny is C.C. Loveheart and John Simon and it is so far out I'm not sure I can describe it. It is also fresh and funny and the kind of act NY used to have more of. C.C. Loveheart is a tall, svelte combination of Olive Oyl and a Collegiate Dragon Lady. Simon is her husband. He's a superb, witty lyricist. He may also be a critic, but not the same one you're allergic to. Together, they create songs about whatever happens to be on their minds and let the results fall where they will. Some love songs are a little bit loony. Some loony tunes are a little bit lovely. There's nothing boring here. I hope there's an audience sophisticated and smart enough to applaud these compatible, co-habitable lunatics to the stardom they deserve. They're Nichols and May with tunes."

A member of Actors' Studio, Loveheart has appeared in the film "Far From Heaven" (2002) and will appear in the movie musical, "The Producers," currently in production.

"Long referred to as the 'sixth member of The Band,' John has been a longtime Ulster County resident. We're thrilled that he and C.C. will perform together in one of our café concerts, the fifth in our series since December," said Brendan Burke, artistic director at *Shadowland Theatre*.

Simon joined Columbia Records in New York as a producer-in-training. After his first pop record, "Red Rubber Ball", by The Cyrkle in the 1960s, he produced Janis



Joplin and Big Brother and the Holding Company's "Cheap Thrills," most of Simon and Garfunkle's "Bookends," Leonard Cohen's first album, the first album by Blood, Sweat and Tears, and the first two albums by The Band. Never an actual member of The Band, he met the group in 1967 when he was working on Peter Yarrow's movie "You Are What You Eat" in Woodstock.

Based on his engineering skills and studio experience, he was invited to work with The Band in the basement of the Big Pink recording studio, eventually hired as the producer for their debut album. On their acclaimed 1969 record "The Band," which he co-produced with The Band, he played keyboards and horns. In addition, he was credited on most of The Band's albums from the 1970s and continued the collaboration with the group into the 1990s, once again producing and playing horns and keyboards on the 1993 comeback album, "Jericho." Members of The Band are also credited on two of Simon's solo albums, "John Simon's Album" (1971) and "Out on the Street" (1992).

Simon also produced "The Last Waltz," David Sanborn's "Heart To Heart," and albums by John Hartford, Gil Evans, and Mama Cass Elliott, as well as working with Taj Mahal, Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt, Dave Mason, Howlin' Wolf, Bob Dylan, Dr. John, Phoebe Snow, and Joni Mitchell. His most recent album productions have been for A.J. Croce, Jackie Cain, and Roy Kral, and a new album by Hirth Martinez.

Recently, the Japanese company, Pioneer/LDC Records, commissioned two new albums of Simon's songs. The first, "Out on the Street," was released in Japan in 1992, where it was selected by the HMV music store chain as one of the two best records of the year alongside Eric Clapton and Peter Gabriel. In 1994, the album was released in the U.S. by Vanguard. He followed that album in Japan with the release of "Harmony Farm" and "Home." In 2001, Dreamsville, another record label in Japan, released "Hoagyland," his tribute to Hoagy Carmichael.

Admission at *Shadowland* is \$12. Reservations are recommended by calling the box office at 845-647-5511. Food and beverages will be provided by *Aroma Thyme Bistro* in Ellenville.

Shadowland Theatre is the leading professional non-profit Actors' Equity company in the Mid-Hudson Valley/Catskill Mountain region. Located 90 miles from New York City in Ellenville, NY, *Shadowland* was named "Best Theatre 2004" in the "Best of the Valley" award program covering 10 counties from Albany to Westchester by Hudson Valley Magazine.

Founded in 1984, *Shadowland* performs in a restored 1920's Art Deco vaudeville/movie house converted to a 148-seat theatre.

For information: www.shadowlandtheatre.org





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