

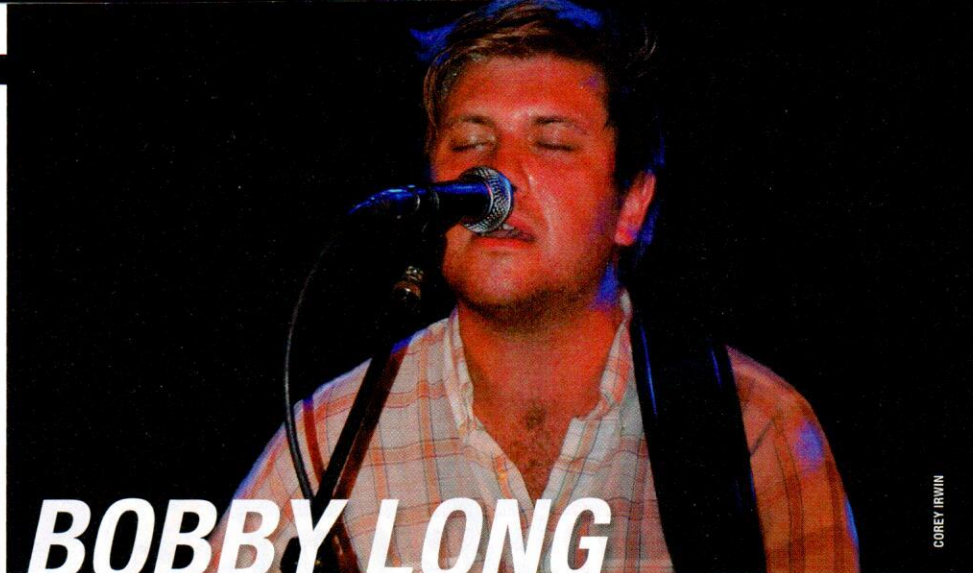
## The Troubadour West Hollywood, CA

**Contact:** Sharon Weisz, W3 Public Relations, w3pr@yahoo.com  
**Web:** http://bobbylong.info  
**The Players:** Bobby Long, vocals, guitar; Rob Dwyer, mandolin; Jack Dawson, violin.  
**AMP Username:** bobbylong

**Material:** Blessed with a powerful voice and a gift for catchy choruses, singer-songwriter Bobby Long toes the line between soft, acoustic tunes and heavier rock. His work is reminiscent of John Mayer or Ben Harper, but with a sharper edge.

His well-crafted lyrics have moments of being both beautiful and brutally honest. These songs seem destined for the alt-rock airwaves, but also have Top 40 crossover potential.

**Musicianship:** There's no denying Bobby Long's talent as a musician. While he is equally adept at singing and playing the guitar, perhaps his greatest asset is his authenticity. In a time when the airwaves are dominated by auto-tune and studio wizardry, Long's refreshingly organic sound hits listeners' ears like a breath of fresh air. He's backed by touring musicians Rob Dwyer (mandolin) and Jack Dawson (violin). Their inclusion enables the songs to take on a more dynamic sound and adds real life to the music. Completing the ensemble with a drummer would be the final touch. Long uses drums masterfully on his latest album,



# BOBBY LONG

COREY IRWIN

*Wishbone*, and they were sorely missed during the live performance.

**Performance:** The artist took the stage solo, only an acoustic guitar by his side for support. On opener "All My Brothers" his heavy, grizzled voice echoed throughout the room and demanded the crowd's attention. With each song the singer's lyrics cut through the air with strength and conviction. "She Won't Leave" tugged on heartstrings as Long sang "Now that I'm older now, she won't grow older with me. She won't leave, I won't go, since none of us here will ever know." Though his material was intense at times, Long used his charm and wit on stage to keep the mood lively. Another set

highlight was the emotional and earnest "Who Have You Been Loving," the capacity crowd rising in unison to sing along to the chorus "You owe me an apology." The bluesy, heartfelt "Dead & Done" rounded out a strong set from this powerful and promising songwriter.

**Summary:** Bobby Long's résumé is already rather impressive. He has performed at Bonnaroo and Austin City Limits, and supported such vaunted acts as Michael Franti, Iron & Wine and Steve Winwood.

As his star continues to rise, one shouldn't be surprised when Bobby Long becomes a household name. — **Corey Irwin**

## The Living Room New York City, NY

**Contact:** jessie@thepleaseplease.me.com  
**Web:** http://thepleaseplease.me.com  
**The Players:** Jessie Torrissi, electric guitar, lead vocals, African drums; Agustin Frederic, drumset, electronic drums, glockenspiel, backup vocals; Alissa McClure, effected cello, backup vocals.  
**AMP Username:** pleaseplease.me

**Material:** Austin-based indie rock trio the Please, Please Me made their New York City tour stop an evening of high energy and showmanship. Fronted by ex-glam band drummer Jessie Torrissi (originally a Brooklyn girl), she brings 10 years of New York City performing experience. That, combined with her scrappy, feisty personality, makes for a high spirited and energetic set. Showcasing songs from the band's newly released EP *Shake A Little Harder*, the songs run the gamut from alternative to straight-ahead rock.

"She Leaves Notes," an up-tempo song about an ex-lover leaving traces of herself behind, serves as a metaphor for what remains in its wake. The juxtaposition of painful feelings set to more light-hearted music tends to undercut what could be an even more poignant statement. On the lighter side, "All Danced Out," one of the strongest songs in the set, has a catchy chorus tagline and universal message—it's an audience grabber.

**Musicianship:** Each band member demonstrates a high skill level on her respective instrument. Torrissi has solid vocal control using her voice adeptly to highlight the songs' changing dynamics. Her main instrument is electric guitar, but occasionally switches to drumming on a log, creating a unique percussion sound while giving her the chance to show off her ex-



# THE PLEASE PLEASE ME

MARK SHWOLICH

glam day drum chops. Frederic brings rhythmic solidity providing a strong framework for the arrangements. Rounding out the trio with cello (an increasingly popular choice among pop/rock bands) never fails to bring something special to the mix while opening up a whole new avenue for creativity. McClure adds rich bottom tones while also experimenting with octave pedals and delays, this leaves room for Torrissi and Frederic to focus on different drum and percussion sounds as well as electronic effects and drum pads.

**Performance:** Covering a multitude of sonic elements between three people was impressive as well as visually satisfying. The band remained true to their musical statement and kept the set moving at a decent pace. In an

attempt to involve the crowd, Torrissi invited audience members to come up and dance during "All Danced Out." Although it can be a great way to bond with fans, it seemed to detract from what was going on on-stage. A better scripted improv moment can still seem spontaneous.

**Summary:** The Please, Please Me are a trio of solid musicians who display dedication and a love of what they do. Their repertoire has some interesting themes, though at times the messages could cut a little deeper without impeding the band's overall statement and sense of frivolity. The trio are currently completing their second EP with Grammy-nominated producer Frenchie Smith.

— **Ellen Woloshin**