

MUSIC CONNECTION



Harvelle's Santa Monica, CA

Contact: dougdeutschpr@gmail.com

Web: <https://facebook.com/blowinsmokeband>

The Players: Larry "Fuzzy" Knight, bass, vocals; Dave Raven Rutchinski, lead guitar, vocals; Don Littleton, drums; John "JT" Thomas, keys; Joe Sublett, tenor sax; Scott Martin, tenor sax; Johnny "V," trumpet, flugelhorn; Lance Keller, trombone; Lyrica Garrett, vocals; La Quita Davis, vocals; Madame "Dee" (Dwana Parker), vocals.
Username: fuzzy@ktb.net

Material: Blowin' Smoke conveys a welcome reminder to all people with a beating heart that putting a full horn section in front of a smoking

rhythm section, then layering three powerful and charismatic vocalists on top of that—all live and at the same time—is music at its most enriching. Tunes like "COD" and "Chain of Fools" make it clear that a groove and the right attitude can not only entertain, but make life seem better than it did earlier that day.

Musicianship: Bandleader "Fuzzy" Knight must know a thing or two about putting the right pieces in place to make a show, as he has done in this case. Even with a couple subs in the horn section, the clear fact is that Knight is going to present true professionals whenever Blowin' Smoke takes the stand. Knight himself is a quality bass player and bluesy singer with an almost

grittier Randy Newman kind of sound. Guitarist Rutchinski also does a bit of singing, and his voice is a more clear, thin, precise tone, giving some diversity. The "Fabulous Smokettes" live up to their name—working the harmonies and each singer knowing how to take the spotlight when it hits.

Performance: The packed night club was in good hands, as a diverse audience came together to be inspired and entertained. "Fuzzy" Knight had a classic, fun and positive approach, and every pro on the stand was clearly in love with the craft. The "Fabulous Smokettes" entered the stage about an hour into the first set, turning what seemed at first to be a case of a missing singer into a dramatic and explosive entrance by the more veteran Madame "Dee." Every twinge of audience anxiety was immediately removed and converted to utter worship within moments of "Dee" (Parker) taking command of the stage. Even before the "Smokettes" took the experience to such heights, the band earned its name and was truly "Smokin'."

Summary: Blowin' Smoke and the Fabulous Smokettes is a rhythm and blues review band. But regardless of specific musical tastes, leader "Fuzzy" Knight reminds all of us in the modern technological era that real people with real instruments and real personalities playing music that hits the gut and forces the knees to bend... it makes one happy to be alive and in the community of other living people. — Tim Reid, Jr.

<http://www.musicconnection.com/CompleteIssuePDFs/MCSept2013.pdf>