

SUNDAY OBSERVER

Sri Lanka's English Newspaper with the largest circulation

30.11.08

Spicy and entertaining

By Mahes PERERA

Thomas Siffling Trio in performance at the Barefoot

The rains came down fiercely, but that did not deter the Thomas Siffling, Trio from performing their concert last Thursday at the Barefoot Gallery presented by the Goethe Institut. Although it was billed as a concert "of balance between acoustic jazz and electronic groove music", unfortunately due to travel constraints the electronic part of the concert could not be featured. Yet it was an entertaining evening of acoustic jazz with Thomas Siffling blowing a cool trumpet and flugelhorn, Jens Loh on acoustic bass and Markus Huller on drums. The Trio's programme was an easy going one with no undue avant gardish treatment of the pieces which some German musicians were guilty of when they performed here in Sri Lanka.

Thomas Siffling commented that he wrote music that is comprehensive and makes people dance. This was evident in the evening's performance. There were tunes that related to the audience.

Burt Bacharach's "The Look of Love" got a funk treatment, The "Beatles Come Together" was given a delicate muted trumpet expression with the bassist and drummer giving added thrust to the melody with their delightful artistry. The absence of a keyboard was not felt at all and I guess that's how it should be. If you are a musician you should be able to make music and hold the audience's attention with the minimum of instruments.

Tracks from their current CD 'Kitchen Music' was also performed which went down well with the audience the music laced with soul and funk beats. In his introduction to the tracks from 'Kitchen Music' Thomas Siffling said that 'Jazz is like ginger' and he isn't far wrong. Because it is spicy to a jazz addict, as it was for him.

It was evident that he found his own language both on his instruments and in the form of composition and sound.

The call for an encore from the audience was justifiable which sent the audience home on a happy note. From Colombo the Trio was proceeding early next morning to Mumbai and then to Chennai for concerts.

