

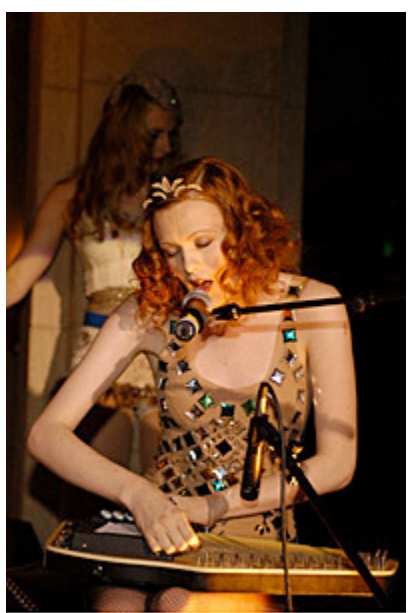
The Daily NEWS

Here, Life Is Beautiful! Citizens Band takes L.A. back to 1930's Berlin

LOS ANGELES: Thursday, July 21, 2005

Life truly is a cabaret for the ever-expanding music and dance troupe The Citizens Band which has included up to 30 people like **Maggie Gyllenhaal**, **Rain Phoenix**, **Melissa Auf der Maur**, **Angela McCluskey** and **Cyndi Lauper**. Nightlife and rock n' roll guru **Bryan Rabin** managed to lure the crew out to Los Angeles—in support of Citizens of Humanity—for their West Coast debut in the lobby of the red-hot Roosevelt Hotel. And the show was like nothing Hollywood has ever seen before—think Bob Fosse meets Edward Gorey with a splash of Fischerspooner.

Dressed in sultry body stocking outfits festooned with mirror chips, by fashion designer **Zaldy**, the group's singers, supermodel **Karen Elson** and filmmaker **Sarah Sophie Flicker** crooned lyrics like "Je t'aime scumbag" as if they were in a smoky 1930s Berlin supper club. A pretty girl with a mop of brown hair and a granny outfit tapped an accordion, while a shirtless man with a beard did a sexy jig. At one point, Elson, who recently married White Stripe rocker **Jack White** (**Renee Zellweger's** ex), sang softly and strummed a harpsichord, as Flicker did acrobatic swirls, twirls and ballet moves on a blue swing-like contraption. The burlesque thrills of each act managed to feel vintage, yet modern at the same time.



Karen Elson

"We all think we live in the 18th century," Flicker informed *The Daily*. Flicker also admitted that she adores the movie *Cabaret* that the Citizens obviously channeled throughout their performance. "I don't like anyone who doesn't like that movie," she declared. "I've seen it countless times."



It's doubtful that anyone in the crowd could be anti-*Cabaret* since all seemed to enjoy every minute of it. We spotted fashion scenesters like Lo-fi's **Kelly Cole**, Decades's **Cameron Silver**, designer **Jenni Kayne** (with handsome boyfriend and realtor to the stars, **Richard Ehrlich**), *Allure's* **Alex Hill**, actress and Webster designer **Alexia Landeau**, **Michael Schmidt** and **John Eshaya** of Fred Segal. Celebs included **Cindy Crawford**, **Debi Mazar**, **Rachel Bilson**, **Mischa Barton** (in a yellow lace top), **Dax Shepard**, **Michelle Hicks**, **Christina Milian**, *Entourage's* **Jerry Ferrara**, and the teenage power punk quarter

Orange, who are on the verge of becoming huge. Also spotted: **Amanda Demme**, **Johnny Zander**, **Stephen Saban**, **James St. James** and bi-coastal power publicist **Brian Long** in a Fake London flag print shirt.

New Yorkers can catch The Citizens Band September 10 when they perform at The Art Parade, sponsored by Deitch Projects and *Paper* magazine.

PETER DAVIS



The Citizens Band

Rachel Bilson and Mischa Barton

Photos by Patrick McMullan