

Folksinger Michelle Shocked to sing at UCSD

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FOLKSINGER MICHELLE SHOCKED TO SING AT UCSD ON MARCH 5

Folksinger Michelle Shocked will perform with the group Cowboy Junkies at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 5, in the Mandeville Center Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Shocked, whose real name is Michelle Johnston, was born in Texas. She left a broken, fundamentalist home at 16, and went to Dallas in search of her father. Under her father's influence, she learned to play guitar and took inspiration from such blues and bluegrass musicians as Doc Watson, Leadbelly, Big Bill Broonzy, Norman Blake and Guy Clark.

In 1981, she went to Austin, Texas, where a surge of folk/rock-a-billy music was taking place on the sidewalks and in small clubs throughout the city. It was here she gained experience at a time when local songwriters gathered regularly for open mike sessions in clubs and bars.

Shocked was discovered at a folk festival while sitting on a fence playing her songs. British record producer Peter Lawrence heard her and taped "until the batteries ran out." The result was an independent album produced in Great Britain, complete with background chirping crickets and truck noises, that netted a number one rating on the British charts.

When the Republican National Convention went to Dallas in 1984, Shocked was arrested for demonstrating. The photograph of her encounter with Dallas police is the photographic image used for the cover of her second album, "Short Sharp Shocked."

The 1989 American tour will be the second one for Shocked, who made her debut tour last year with musician Billy Bragg. The newly released "Short Sharp Shocked" album is on the Polygram/Mercury label. Shocked lives in London.

The Cowboy Junkies' 1988 album "The Trinity Sessions" was hailed by the Los Angeles Times as the best album of the year.

Tickets for the Shocked concert are \$14 general admission, and may be purchased from the UCSD Box Office, (534-4559) and from TicketMaster outlets. Seating is reserved. This event is brought to San Diego by the UCSD University Events Office.

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