

MUSIC

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Josie Cotton, Geza X at the Knitting Factory

It would be a shame if Josie Cotton were remembered only for her 1981 hit version of “Johnny, Are You Queer,” the somewhat annoying power-pop tune that was also a staple at Go-Go’s shows in the late ‘70s. Her own songs, scattered sporadically over the decades, betrayed a sly wit and defiant intelligence that ultimately forced her to sink deeper underground and maintain an emotional blockade against the machinations of the music industry. With the shapeshifting pop personas of Movie Disaster Music (Scruffy), her first full-length release since 1993’s *Frightened by Nightingales*, she’s back – and unlike any Josie Cotton you may think you already know. She wraps herself invitingly in the gauze of Paul Roessler’s glimmering keyboards on “Bridget in the Sun,” kicks up her rockabilly heels while “Lookin’ for Elvis,” slinks through the serpentine exoticism of “Nikita” and is quietly spellbinding amid the spectral chimes of the aptly titled “Beautiful but Deadly.” The similarly reclusive Geza X – best known for producing the Germs, Redd Kross and Meredith Brooks – opens with a rare set of his new-wave deviations, such as the aggressively eccentric “Isotope Soap.” (Falling James)

