

## Time travel with fun factor

Musical excursion to the '50s and '60s: Gal Holiday & The Honky Tonk Revue enchant at Ingolstadt's Neue Welt

By Sandra-Isabel Knobloch

**Ingolstadt (DK)** There are those concert nights where simply everything fits the bill: Gal Holiday & The Honky Tonk Revue's performance is definitely one of them! It's no surprise that the combo of four is currently regarded as one of the hottest bands from New Orleans bringing old-time sounds to the stage. The large audience at Neue Welt experienced a downright intoxicating Germany premiere and a feeling of being transported back to the last century. The perfectly matching overall appearance of the band and their music positively transports you straight to the America of the '50s and '60s. The band is fronted by vocalist Vanessa Niemann aka "The Gal", the authentic Rockabilly babe, whose voice equally bewitches both men and women—as evidenced by her song "The Rockin' Lady (from New Orleans)". Her timbre also beautifully shines while duetting with rhythm guitar player Greg Good, which the two of them impressively demonstrate with the famous Johnny Cash song "Jackson." Izzy Zaidmann lets his fingers dance across the electric guitar for many a solos, and David Brouillette pulls off a breathtaking slap technique on the upright bass.

Together, the quartet conjures modern Rock'n'Roll and Country music rooted in traditionally inspired Honky Tonk and Americana music out of their musical cowboy hat. All members of the band are in their element and show that American folk music doesn't necessarily have to be as conservative as its cliché at all.

Gal Holiday & The Honky Tonk Revue manage to interpret well-known pieces, such as the ballad "Crazy" by Patsy Cline, or the "Lovesick Blues" written by Cliff Friend and Irving Mills, so authentically as if they all had been present at the birth of these tunes.

Old-time classic: Gal Holiday at Neue Welt.

Photo: Knobloch

At the same time, their own compositions don't fall short of the old-time classics either: songs like "Plastic Jesus", "Rainy Nights, Sunny Days", or "Teach Me How to Two Step" from their current album "Last to Leave" immediately take a hold of you.

Moreover, there's always a story behind every song for which the charming entertainer Vanessa Niemann provides additional insights. For example, "Blue Ridge Baby" was her first song she wrote for the band in 2007, describing her travels from the Appalachian Mountains, where she grew up, to the swamps of Louisiana. "South of I-12" on the other

hand tells about the flat lands of South Louisiana where every now and then hurricane parties take place in light of yet another imminent evacuation.

And exactly that US state Gal Holiday & The Honky Tonk Revue pay homage to during their encore with the catchy Cajun song “Jambalaya (on the Bayou)” that was made famous by Hank Williams.

If this young combo continues on their current path, we will definitely hear a lot more from these four musical talents.