

**CLUB REVIEWS**

**Side FX**

*Crash Mansion*  
 New York, NY

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**The Players:** Kim Cameron, vocals; Andy Shriver, guitar; Andy Hamburger, drums; Matt Everhart, bass; special guest Benji Harrison keyboards; special guest Riche Cannata, sax; special guest Brandon Ruchdashel, vocals.

**Material:** Call them the anti-indie band if you will. Amid the influx of solo singer-songwriters and boy rock bands, these Washington D.C. natives offer a refreshing departure. Side FX draw on various genres from pop, rock and jazz, leaning heavily toward a big top 40 sound. Kim Cameron, who writes most of the material, is also the lead singer. She draws lyrically on a multitude of deeply personal experiences. "If mountains could talk, I'd hear whispers," Cameron states in a dreamlike mid-tempo ballad. Along with their many originals, the band also perform an interesting jazzy treatment of the classic Carpenters' song "Rainy Days and Mondays."

**Musicianship:** Each band member is a seasoned professional and extremely proficient on his or her



**Side FX: An anti-indie band with the drive and ambition to mix up several styles of music.**

instrument and Cameron puts across her sultry alto voice with casual ease. The eclectic nature of the material changes grooves often, which drummer Andy Hamburger keeps a strong handle on (aided by the rest of the rhythm section).

**Performance:** The band performed a balanced mix of selections and it's evident that individually and collectively they are experienced live performers; Cameron made brief friendly patter between songs and band members occasionally

exchanged banter among themselves; however, they could have taken fuller advantage of their "breaking all the rules" stance with a tighter, more theatrical presentation. This was a large band aiming to make a particular statement and there was enormous potential to exploit their top 40 vibe that would have solidified their individuality to an even greater extent. A highpoint in the set, however, was surprise guest artist Riche Cannata on sax (Billy Joel) sitting in for a couple of songs.

**Summary:** Side FX is a professional group with drive and ambition. To the band's credit, they have made the brave choice of mixing several styles. Kicking it up a few notches to a showier, more theatrical presentation might further define a unique statement that will garner even more fans. The group are currently on a multi-city tour in support of their new release *Turning Point* which was released in January of this year.

—Ellen Woloshin

Mark Shroyer