

Friday, December 17, 2004

Klett is back in the game with redlightmusic

One of the high points of Peter Klett's career as lead guitarist for Seattle's Candlebox was the first of three homecoming concerts in December 1994 at the Paramount Theatre.

"It was at the end of a tour and it was my birthday that night," the singer-guitarist said this week.

The songs "You" and "Far Behind" had taken off on mainstream rock radio, and the band was the latest in a string of successful Seattle bands.

"I look back and realize we had it pretty easy," the singer-guitarist said this week. "I took it for granted, for sure."

But a backlash wasn't far behind for the local group caught between the grass-roots Seattle rock scene of the late '80s and early '90s and the post-grunge era of the late '90s.

Klett, whose new band, redlightmusic, released its debut album in late October, hit bottom after Candlebox's demise in 1999. Problems with alcohol abuse, as well as post-stardom depression, nearly did him in.

"It was like, 'Who am I now?' It was like an identity crisis," said Klett, who keeps in touch with his former Candlebox bandmates.

"I just started to creep further down into the hole. And one day I said, 'This is it. I've had enough.' It just got old. And the charm and the childish fun were long gone. So I got sober three years ago this October."

Klett's new album with redlightmusic, on Digital Musicworks International (DMI), was a two-year labor of love with new bandmates Tommy Woo (guitar and backing vocals), Jason T. Phraner (bass) and Keith Ryland (drums).

"Though Klett really wasn't a singer, his new bandmates persuaded him to be the group's lead vocalist. But it was producer Kelly Gray (briefly a member of Queensryche) who guided him through the learning process.

"He'd say, 'No, Peter. Your voice needs to grow, it needs to pop. You're not ready, it can be better. As your friend I will not allow you to put something out until you're ready.' "

The result of that practice can be heard on the powerful "Say It Again" and the beautiful "Fading Away," the first songs on redlightmusic's self-titled debut.

The band celebrated the release of its album at Neumo's and will return to the club for a show tomorrow night at 6:30, with Upwell and Floater. Tickets are \$10 at TicketsWest.

DMI's big push for radio play will begin after the first of the year.

-- Gene Stout

Webtowns 

More headlines and info from [Capitol Hill](#).

ADVERTISING

\$24.99
/ month

Unlimited calling.
US and Canada.



VONAGE
THE BROADBAND PHONE COMPANY®

[LEARN MORE >>](#)