

COMING UP: At Musselman's Lake next weekend

# Ex-teen idol playing rock, reggae on comeback trail



Former model and pop singer Paris Black returns to a Musselman's Lake club with his new harder edge for a concert and bikini contest next Saturday.

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Can a former teen idol make a comeback?

Maybe.

Paris Black, who shot to fame in the late 1980s and early '90s with pop rock songs like *Better Get Ready*, *Lover* and *Buried Alive* is giving it a shot.

This time, the hair is longer and blonder and he's swapped the light poppy tunes for rock and reggae.

"Instead of a pretty-boy that got lucky, they see me as a grinder," Mr. Black said of his audience today, which has gone from 30,000 screaming girls in arenas to adults who may be more interested in what's on tap then on stage.

Mr. Black played Musselman's Lake Express Bar and Grill on Canada Day and returns next Saturday.

A bikini contest also takes place that night. The winners will be hand-picked by Mr. Black and be given a part in his upcoming video, which is being shot this summer.

The comeback started three years ago. A new CD entitled *I'm Not Jesus* was

released last year.

Mr. Black did not start out as a singer. He actually wanted to be a stand-up comic, although a part of his act included singing impressions.

*'It may sound vain,  
I really believe I'm  
the best rock front  
man ever'*

With a "home life not the greatest," Mr. Black headed to New York City as a teenager to hit the comedy stages of *Catch a Rising Star* and *The Improv*.

It didn't take long for a talent scout from *Wilhelmina Modeling* to discover him.

Comedy took a backseat to modeling.

Then one day, record label executives decided "I should be a teen idol and signed me to a record deal," he said.

Mr. Black's debut album, *Secret Seduction*, was released in 1988 and followed up with *Paris Black* in 1989, which

featured songs written by Michael Bolton and Diane Warren.

In 1992, he "flamed out".

"It didn't really matter what I did. I didn't grow as a musician and I just got worse and worse," he said.

He returned to modeling and added TV host to his resume. From 1995 to 2003, Mr. Black was the host of South Beach Florida's *The After Hours Club* show.

Mr. Black also took a variety of acting gigs that included characters named "pool hunk", "bartender" and "party dude".

He was also a human art statue and *Billy Idol* tribute artist.

"It may sound vain, I really believe I'm the best rock front man ever. It may sound bad, but a lot of people agree with me," he said.

You can be the judge July 16 at *The Express Bar and Grill*, 155 Cedarvale Blvd. in Musselman's Lake.

The show starts at 9:30 p.m.

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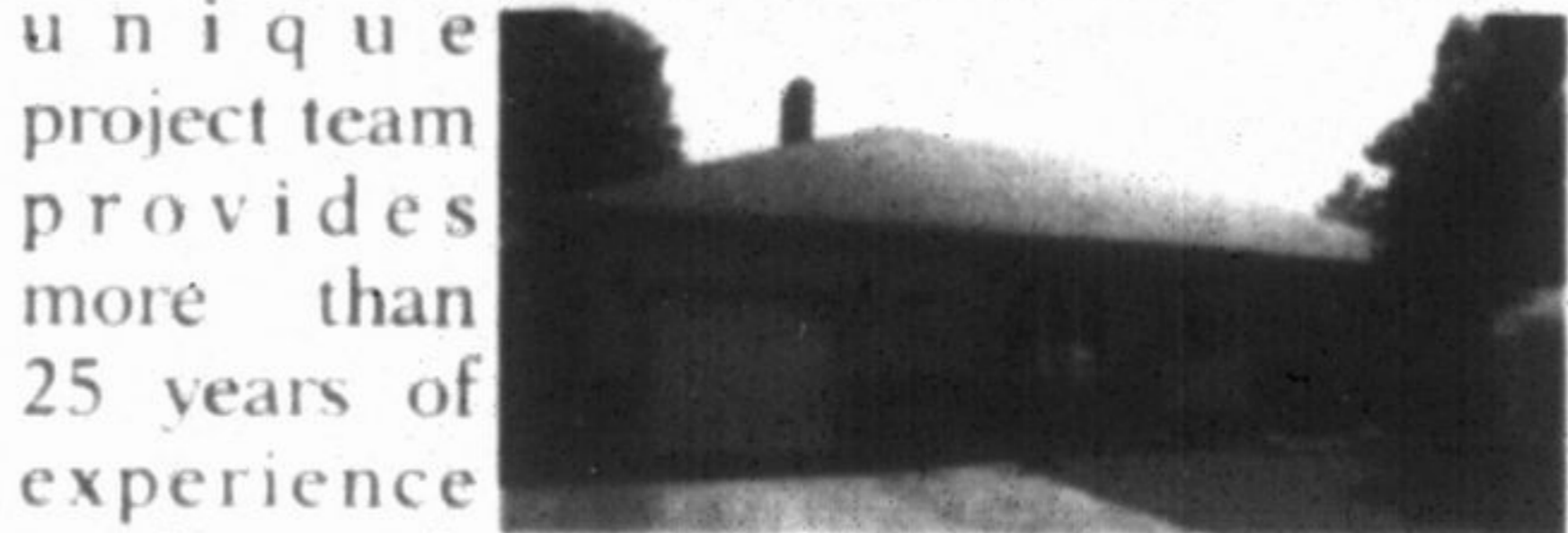
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