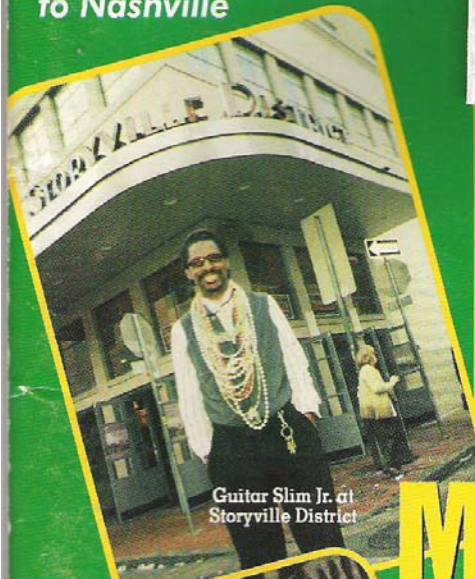
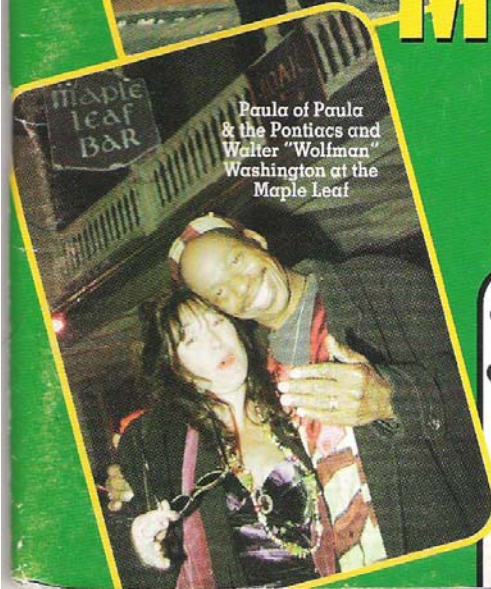


# BIG BLUES

On The Road: From Atlanta to Memphis and St. Louis to Nashville



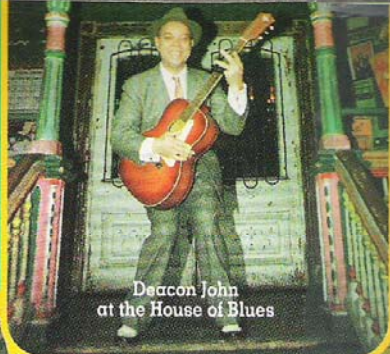
Guitar Slim Jr. at Storyville District



Paula of Paula & the Pontiacs and Walter "Wolfman" Washington at the Maple Leaf



Deacon John, Paula, Earl King, 1998 Jazz Fest



Deacon John at the House of Blues

## Mississippi Queens

The Blues Clubs of New Orleans



without a doubt, one of the finest purveyors of New Orleans blues, and any visit to New Orleans just wouldn't be complete without spending a Saturday night grooving to the blues of Walter "Wolfman" Washington and the Roadmasters at the Maple Leaf.

### PAULA & THE PONTIACS

Most people don't know Paula's last name of Rangell, but it is not for lack of success. In fact, just the opposite is true. Because she and her group, the Pontiacs, have become so well known she is most often referred to simply as, "Paula", of Paula and the Pontiacs.

Paula Rangell, of Paula and the Pontiacs fame, is one hardworking blues woman. This name recognition didn't come overnight and it didn't come easy. Paula has been working hard for years to achieve her special place on the roster of New Orleans blues artists.

Paula grew up in a musical family in Colorado. Older brothers Andrew and Bobby are well-known classical musicians. Like Paula, younger brother Nelson plays saxophone, and is well-known in jazz circles. Paula herself started young with classical training on the clarinet, but upon discovering blues in her teens switched to blues harp and several years later began playing the saxophone. Her professional career began with the Colorado jug band, the Beegle Boys.

She formed the first incarnation of the Pontiacs in 1978, and several years later the band relocated to Austin, Texas. The Austin blues scene of the early '80s proved influential to Paula's development as a blues artist. The late Stevie Ray Vaughn sat in with Paula and the Pontiacs on more than a few occasions. Blue Monday jam sessions at Antone's gave her the opportunity to play with some of Austin's most notable blues artists like Hubert Sumlin, Kim Wilson, Sister Sarah Brown and Kaz Kazanoff.

A developing friendship with Earl King and a need for greater inspiration prompted Paula to pack-up her harp and her saxophone one day in 1984, hop into her pink Cadillac, and move on down the road to New Orleans to find her true muse and broaden her musical horizons. And find her true muse she did.

Since that fateful day in 1984, Paula Rangell has produced two critically acclaimed CDs, *Cadillac Love* and *30 by 90*, on her own label, Pontiac Productions.

Both CDs feature Rangell's warm, husky voice, solid chops on harp and alto saxophone and exceptional songwriting talent. Of the ten tunes on *Cadillac Love*, five are Rangell penned, and all the tunes on *30 by 90* are originals. The line-up of backing musicians on those CDs is an indicator of the level of respect that Rangell has achieved since arriving in New Orleans 15 years ago. Among New Orleans' finest on *Cadillac Love* is the Roadmaster horn section and John Mooney, and on *30 by 90* is her good friend Earl King.

Catch Paula and the Pontiacs perform during Jazz Fest on Saturday, April 24th at the Rivershock Tavern, and on Sunday, May 2nd, with Earl King and Deacon John, at Southport Hall. Paula will also discuss her music and career at the LMNOP Music Conference's "Women in Music" symposium.