

# LIFE IS A CABARET

EVENT \* THE CITIZENS BAND PERFORMS AT LA BOTTEGA



Citizens, unite! From left: Jon Fugelsang, Duke, Karen Elson, Chelsea Bacon, Alyssa Wendt, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Jorjee Douglas, Sarah Sophie Flicker and Rain Phoenix

ATTENTION POLITICOS AND LIBERTINES: IF YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THE CITIZENS BAND, BRING YOUR FISHNETS AND BLACK eyeliner. On a recent winter night at the Maritime Hotel's restaurant La Bottega, the scene was reminiscent of a debauched, old-time European cabaret—courtesy of the bunch of zanies who make up the troupe. That night the Citizens Band combined the talents of model **Karen Elson**, filmmaker **Sarah Sophie Flicker**, actress **Maggie Gyllenhaal**, Scottish songstress **Angela McCluskey**, gypsy artist **Eugene Hütz** and musician **Melissa Auf der Maur** (who cut off her long tresses and was sporting a bob). The *Moulin Rouge*-style show included lighter fare, like a Russian guy singing about lesbians, but the comedy skits and musicals were mostly laden with anti-Bush sentiments. (Auf der Maur sang Black Sabbath's "War Pigs.") For the surprise finale, **Cyndi Lauper** jumped out of the audience and joined the incredible Ms. McCluskey onstage. The crowd went wild.

All sorts of super-famous types squeezed into the restaurant to see the performance, including supermodel **Helena Christensen**, Imitation of Christ designer **Tara Subkoff**, painter **Cecily Brown**, former Smashing Pumpkin **James Iha** and Oscar de la Renta's **Coco Brandolini**. Fischerspooner vocalist **Casey Spooner**, who was clearly enjoying himself, told *pm* that he hasn't seen the new Fera commercial that uses his mantra, "Sounds good, looks good, feels good, too," but he's totally stoked about it—and it was a fitting mantra for the evening as a whole. For instance, we overheard Cyndi Lauper talking about cartoon fashion with a bemused Angela McCluskey. "But Angela," Lauper exclaimed, discussing some random guy, "he hasn't even seen *SpongeBob* and he's wearing those pants!" ★ **Carol Lee**

PHOTOGRAPH BY CAROLINE TOREM CRAIG