

ETC.: There's a great but still somewhat unheralded jazz/funk/fusion keyboardist in our midst, and I'm glad I finally caught Thom Teresi (with his band Earthtones) at Madame Wong's in September. Wong's isn't the optimum locale for a jazz show, but Teresi is truly a marvel, cornering the world beat market with tunes ranging in style from South African ("The Soweto Shuffle") to Reggae ("Red Light Lady," featuring an energetic vocal by percussionist Steve Easter) to Latin ("Pingo Land") and tying together with some rockin' fusion.

Teresi allowed his tight ensemble lots of free play and solo action, but stood out with some amazing synth runs which (dare I say!) reminded me a little of Chick Corea's adventure with the Electric Band. Yet Teresi never lost sight of the melody--he is definitely the antidote for the "jacuzzi jazz" which grows boring so easily. Most impressive was the melodic and funky saxwork of 20-year old newcomer Maia Sharp on sax--she could be the next Candy Dulfer! Hopefully, we'll be seeing more of Teresi and Earthtones as time goes by.

They're shopping a deal, and I suggest someone get out of the contracts quickly!