

The Paris *FREE VOICE*

Razzmatazz All the World is a Stage

by Dana Micucci

Razzmatazz means «double-talk.» Originating from the word «razzledazzle» (or state of confusion), it is also an American mood word associated with a smoky cabaret atmosphere. The «hot swing, jazz, tap dance» group Razzmatazz brings its own brand of razzledazzle to the American Church on Friday, December 18, at 8:30 p.m.

Their name evokes an image magically suited to the group's core duo—singer, songwriter, guitarist Peadar Melinn and tap dancer and singer Martha Rodezno. The tall, red-headed Irishman and the small, black-haired Salvadorian radiate an irresistible chemistry that explodes into a performance pastiche of harmony vocals, tap dance, and jazz-derivative music. Joined by French bassist Pascal Segard, French harmonicist Gérard Champême, and special guest tap dancer, French Guyanese Herbin Vancayseele, the group's musical melange is as varied as its members' ethnic backgrounds. Their repertoire ranges from well-known hits such as «Sunny Side Of The Street,» Gershwin's «I Got Rhythm,» and Billy Holiday standards to the rock, jazz, and mambo beats of Melinn's original compositions.

Melinn and Rodezno have been performing together for seven years, during which time the group has evolved in name from «The Honey Pies» to «Flash Bang Wallop,» and two years ago, to Razzmatazz—with changing chapters of accompanying instrumentalists. While they have pleased crowds in such prestigious Parisian clubs as Le Casino de Paris and Le Splendid, and most recently in a midnight

performance at the Left Bank's Action Christine Cinema, Melinn and Rodezno began performing on the Paris streets and still play there. You may have noticed them in Les Halles, around the Latin Quarter, or, specifically, at the Rue Mouffetard and Rue de Buci markets.

