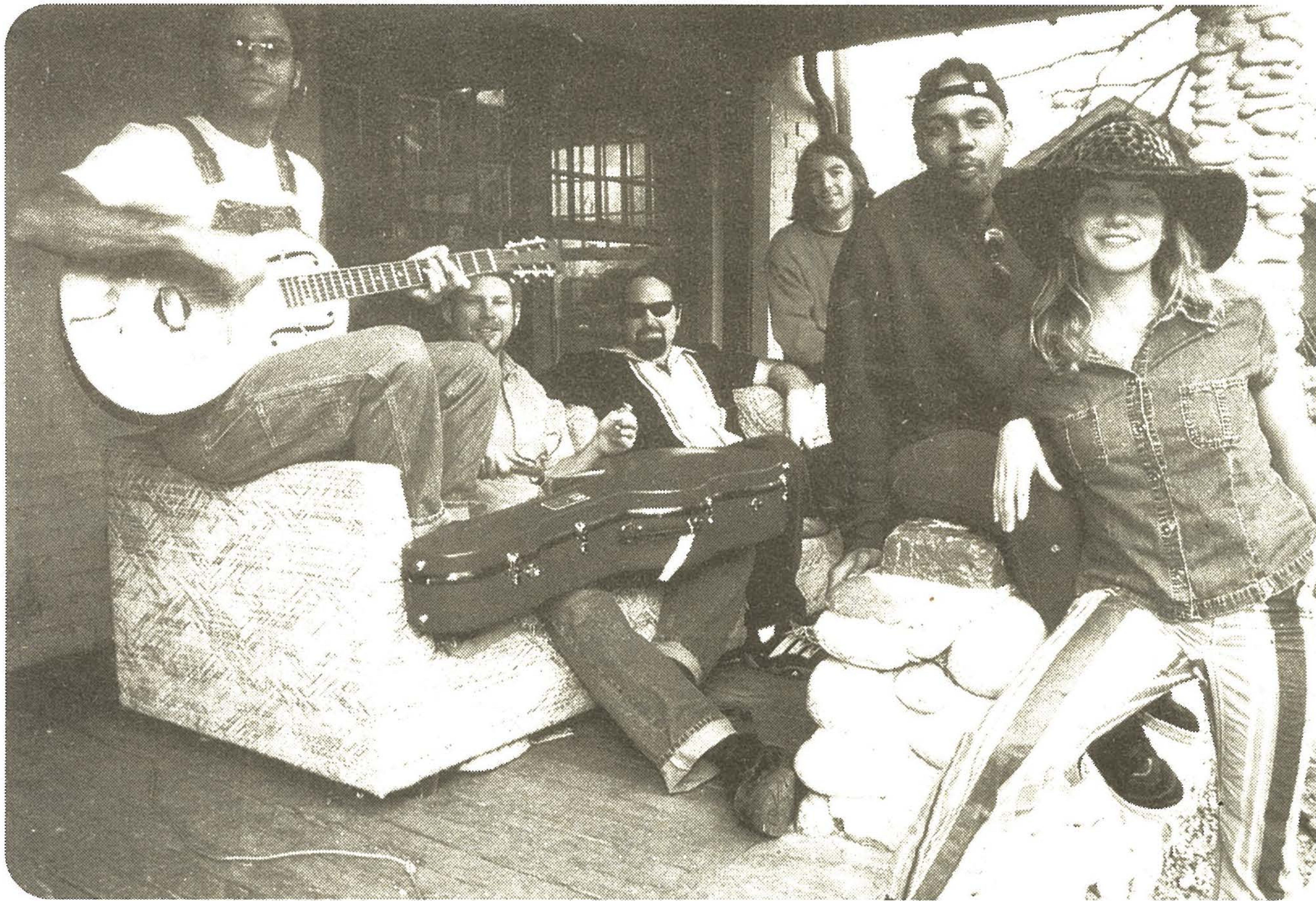


# AfterHours

ENTERTAINMENT, TRAVEL AND CULTURE IN ORANGE COUNTY



Sally Taylor  
loves her  
famous  
parents but  
makes music  
all her own.

## Delightful Daughter

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**C**harming to say the very least. That is the first word that comes to mind after spending a little time kicking back with the lovely Sally Taylor – daughter of Carly Simon and James Taylor – on a wonderfully hot day at the Doheny Days Festival on Saturday, Sept. 16.

I wasn't aware until I did a little background work that Simon and Taylor even had a daughter in the biz, let alone one as amazingly talented and attractive as Miss Taylor. It was a pleasant surprise to find that she is not some spoiled, bratty offspring taking an easy road through the industry on the coattails of her talented parents. She certainly enjoys the luck of a high-quality musical gene pool, but she is appreciative of and responsible about the privileges that come along with that inheritance.

**BY TIM MASTERSON**





properties in the leaf that aren't being put to use because of the stigma. So I was down there with really amazing doctor studying coca and flying around and being all groovy and stuff."

Taylor has film aspirations as well. "I just auditioned for a movie yesterday," she told me. "I have an agent who submits me for things he thinks I might be right for - you know, girl singer/songwriter type scripts." She and her lead guitarist, Chris Soucy, can be heard in the recent Jim Carey hit "Me, Myself and Irene," singing the song "Don't Say You Don't Remember."

A good way to get to know Sally is through her Web site, [www.sallytaylor.com](http://www.sallytaylor.com). She is one of the few musicians I know of who keeps a diary of her life on the road and you can read all about her touring experience. The site also has lots of photos, tour dates and CD ordering information.



Taylor is currently on tour - driving a 1960s-type hippie van - in support of her second CD, "Apt #6s", and working hard at it. In October alone she and her four-member band will play 25 dates across the country in locations ranging from New Orleans to Nashville to New York.

As with her 1999 release, "Tomboy Bride," Taylor put her current album out independently. She has a distribution deal with Warner Brothers to get her music out there, but she has declined numerous major record label offers in the past year because she wants to control her own musical destiny. She also turned thumbs down when a representative of PEOPLE magazine asked to do a story about her, prompting the startled staffer to admit that he'd never before been rejected. Taylor laughs at the memory and at the notion that she might someday regret her decision.

"I feel great about not doing it," she says. "I feel like it reminds me of who I want to be."

No lover of urban environments, Taylor was born on the shores of Martha's Vineyard - where her father lives - and now resides in the Boulder, Colorado where she charts her own course. Although she is still very close to both her parents, whom she says are still friends despite being divorced since 1982, she tries not to use that connection to further her career. "I don't want people to listen to me because

of who my parents are. There has never been a conscious attempt to imitate my mom or dad. In college I was totally into Brazilian Jazz. Today I listen to everything from New Orleans's funk to Duke Ellington to the Sex Pistols." Her voice has been compared to Alanis Morissette but Taylor says she can't hear it. Natalie Merchant is probably closer to the mark.

Taylor started performing while in college, covering rock and disco tunes in what she calls "a local dive" in Providence Town, Rhode Island.

She has fond memories of her childhood. "I'd wake up in the morning with melodies in my head and some words to go with the sound. I had this little tape recorder next to my bed and I'd record what I woke up with and write more lyrics later on. I still have a ninety minute tape of me singing acappella stuff. It's really funny. My mom sent it to me a while back and I'm all excited on the tape, saying 'Play it back! Play it back!'"

"What I'm doing now is completely within my integrity. That is the most important thing to me - that I am happy with what I am doing, that I'm staying true to my heart and not selling out to make more money or because I could be on the cover of some magazine I don't care about.

"I promised myself that I'm not going to do anything just for the betterment of my career. I'm only going to do things that make me happy and truly successful.

Success, to me, is happiness.

"I'm in this for making music and to take a stand for the fact that you can do music independently. You can't have fame independently; you need to be made in order to be famous. I think the only way to be involved with a record company while maintaining integrity is to have the record company working for you instead of you working for the record company. In order to do that, you have to be independent and strong. You have to gain the respect of your audience and of the people who are supporting you.

"I feel very empowered. I feel like I know what I want out of life. If there is one thing my parents taught me it was 'whatever you do, follow your heart.' they taught me a quadrillion things, but that is the most important. If that is the only thing I've done with my life, then I've accomplished everything."

Taylor has accomplished a lot, including earning a bachelor's degree in medical anthropology. Her studies took her to Peru where she studied the medicinal applications of the coca leaf, best known as the source of cocaine.

"That's all most people think about when they think about coca," she says. "But there are seven other medicinal

Her writing is great, and if she ever decides to give up music she could easily become a writer. After reading some of the entries from her touring diary, I felt jealous that I wasn't part of her real-life cast and crew. I play keyboards and offered to go along with the tour to fill out the rhythm section, but she said the van was already crowded.

Rich, sensual, bright and engaging are words that come to mind after hearing Sally Taylor perform.

"The way I feel about the songs I write is that they tend to have a very specific mood, almost like they are rooms and you enter a song or a room and get a particular vibe. So I want to construct them like a house I'd want to live in."

If you missed her in Dana Point, you can catch Taylor on an Internet Webcast from the House of Blues on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles on Sept. 19. Her CDs are available at her concerts or from her web site. **ah**