

# BACK STAGE

February 23, 1996

THE PERFORMING ARTS WEEKLY

## *Bistro Bits*

By Martin Schaeffer

**The Sweetest Sounds** - *AT HIS RECENT SHOWS AT EIGHTY EIGHT'S*, Boston-based pop and jazz vocalist **Dane Vannatter** demonstrated why he is becoming such a hot commodity. The show, titled "Here's to Life," provided a rich human tapestry upon which Vannatter could weave his vocal magic. There was humor, tenderness, romance, and sadness, as well as the pure joy of being alive, all in one hour of fine music.

Vannatter brings a light, fizzy zip to "Give Me the Simple Life" in medley with "Let's Face the Music and Dance." His voice flows like a fine vintage wine, helping to create a romantic and optimistic message. Yet in the next moment Vannatter is able to create an exquisite expression of freedom with "Flight." There is a genuine gut-like yearning here which is balanced by Vannatter's superb vocal control. Another medley, of "House of Flowers" and "Midnight Sun," returned the set to those notes of yearning established earlier.

Vannatter is nothing less than superb in "Wild Is the Wind," and achingly poignant with "Here's to Life," a song which frankly brought tears to my eyes. High marks for the success of this show must also go to music director Doug Hammer, whose fine piano support went far in making the set a success.

Dane Vannatter is definitely a major plus on the New York club scene. Hopefully, a planned move to our Apple will make him more accessible to audiences here. He has "star" markings all over.



### **Avitus Productions**

300 Lynn Shore Drive #807, Lynn, MA 01902

tel: 781-598-9156 • fax: 781-595-8445 • e-mail: danevannatter@aol.com

[www.danevannatter.com](http://www.danevannatter.com)