



into the groove

Festival International de Louisiane celebrates 30 years

BY SARAH RAVITS
PHOTOS BY DAVID SIMPSON

A 25-YEAR-OLD HULA hoops to the live soundtrack of a Moroccan-influenced electronica band from France, so caught up in the trance that she doesn't notice it's raining. Three toddlers splash through a fountain with a babysitter, as their parents occupy themselves a few blocks away, inventing new dance moves to the beat of a celebrated New Orleans brass band. An older couple from Breaux Bridge two-steps in perfect, romantic harmony, as they have been for years to a Cajun group; and a skateboarder whizzes past an ensemble of Native American wind instrumentalists selling CD's outside of what might normally be considered a "college bar" - which is now offering cheap cocktails to go for everyone (who is over 21).

As the sun sets and the rain fades, an ensemble of teens scream as a French Canadian trio of scruffy-bearded hip-hop dudes belt into the microphone, asking to know - in English, and then in French