

Saber unsheathes magic for local music scene

by Laura Payne

staff writer

Many local bands have graced the Las Vegas music scene in recent years yet few have managed to withstand the test of time. However, this is not to say there is not local talent worthy of recognition. One young group who have proven themselves deserving of such attention is Saber. Formed in 1987, they have attained in a short period of time what many bands are never able to capture, a large local

following and the attention of industry executives.

The band has become a popular name in Las Vegas clubs such as the Moby Grape and Main Gate. Numerous live performances have brought the group public notice and a devoted audience. An E.P. released by the band and distributed at Tower Records sold 600 copies and has remained successful. High energy performances have continually entertained enthusiastic crowds. With Brian Stephens at vocals and guitar, Terry Ripley on

lead guitar, Kevin Ertell on Bass and Davey 'Soko' entered the Yamaha Sound Check, a competi-



tion in California for unsigned talents. Two-thousand area bands sent in demo tapes to be judged by top record label agents. Saber placed in the top one-hundred and thus gained the attention of Arista Records. At their most recent performance the band played a sold-out show to an audience of 350 people.

The groups daily activities are hardly representative of their goals. From delivering beauty products to selling video cassettes their 9 to 5 jobs are similar to many. It is not until after hours that their lives come together. The band practices nightly from about 6

to 9:00 pm. With songs such as *Never See Me Cryin* and *Slide My Love To You* the music reflects a hard-rock to commercial metal style with a blues influence. The incredible talents of Terry Ripley, who also teaches guitar for a living, adds unusual and complex rhythms to their songs.

Currently, the band is writing and preparing to go back into the studio. It is a dedication to a dream and a passion for their music which has brought this local band notoriety and promises success.

GREAT JONES looks for magic in street art

Island Records and Chris Blackwell are proud to announce the creation of a new independently distributed Island label—GREAT JONES.

The GREAT JONES label will be devoted to Street Art, and will include

performance art, music, poetry, dialogue and other forms of underground expression.

The first GREAT JONES release will be the soundtrack for *Mondo New York*, a 4th & Broadway film distributed by

Island Pictures. *Mondo New York* is a collection of New York City's downtown eccentrics, performance artists and musicians, featuring such legends as Ann Magnuson, Dean and the Weenies and Dick

Manitoba's Wild Kingdom. 17 Pygmies marks the second GREAT JONES release. 17 Pygmies is a Los Angeles-based trio—Philip Drucker, Robert Lovelass, and Louise Bialik—whose sound is a

unique combination of poetry and music. 17 Pygmies features Charles Schneider (filmmaker and creator of the Theatre du Grand Guignol), Morris Topper (Captain Beefheart and Tom Waits),

Jack Brewer (Saccharine Trust), Brad Laner (Steaming Coils) and a host of others. GREAT JONES will be part of the Island Trading Co. and will be based in the Island Records N.Y. Offices.

Highlights from the Magic Extended View

by David Lory

Hi, kids, its been a while. But I'm back with something actually worth reading: an interview. Just when you think Dave is going to drown in his creative swamp, around comes the entertainment editor to pull him out of the slime and clean him off and give his life meaning.

Anyone hanging around the student union on Wednesday around 12:30 was likely to see a young guy playing with trash. Well this was Steve Trash (believe it or not) and he came to AMAZE.

Dispatched by my tyrant editor on yet another assignment-o-fun, I made my way to the CSUN offices to find this guy. Find him I did, and we had a great time talking about why he does what he does.

Born in west Texas, Steve Trash grew up in Alabama and graduated from Northern Alabama University with a double major in theatre and art. Moving to New York around five years ago, Steve became a "Pass-the-hat" street performer, relying on the generosity of passers-by in order to make a living. While doing his act of magic tricks, Steve noticed an increase in the number of people who would bring him trash to perform with. He soon made that part of his act and the rest, as they say, is history.

Steve travels everywhere, captivating audiences around the world with his unique brand of magic. He says he loves to perform on college campuses, citing students as "Hip" and "...Loving to get into the action and be silly." One of the benefits of his unique kind of magic is a "cheap overhead."

Steve was an intelligent, outspoken guy and to the crowd who watched him, he was a much-needed comic relief between classes.

Well, literacy fans, see you next week, (or maybe even later), with yet another in a continuing saga of nonsensical, liberal outspokenness. Thanks for reading and have an ordinary day.

Later.



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