

Less is more with Black Cat Bone

by Jonathan Weber

ALBUM REVIEW

Black Cat Bone
Truth
Chameleon Records

Crunch! Pow! Bam! Crash! Kentucky-based, Black Cat Bone delivers raw power and no apology. These guys don't need apologies, shooting with both barrels from the first track to the last. By the way, the first track spends a majority of its time in a tricky 7/4 time meter and still rocks straight ahead, no small feat.

The first thing you'll notice is how fresh yet recognizable Black Cat Bone sounds. Perhaps more impressive is the limitless energy packed into every track, leaving no cool drum-lick unturned, no unison bass/lead fill unexplored. With energy reminiscent of Van Halen's first vinyl effort, Black Cat Bone proves they don't have a pretentious cat-bone in their body with their powerful debut, *Truth*.

From the first track entitled "The Epic Continues," the boys from Lexington waste no

time establishing a punishing rock groove. (Never mind every song on this CD is a music lesson in "groove.") The music shifts rhythms effortlessly from straight-ahead to blues, the only clue to the change being a drum-fill expertly played by drummer Jon Mcgee. With an endless bank of killer chops, Mcgee dazes and amazes, never bores. Much like his predecessor Neil Peart of Rush, Mcgee often carries the band with his ingenuity and considerable snap.

Holding down lead "guitar and mic sucker" duties, David Angstrom does very well at the former and not so well at the latter. When it came to lead vocals, Angstrom should've stuck to the ancient musician's proverb "less is more." But okay, give 'em a break. There are



Black Cat Bone pose with guest pigs for this combo collector's item press release and farm animal catalogue photo.

probably not many screamers with the self-confidence to match the musicianship of Mcgee and Angstrom. At least Angstrom's voice is strong, but it lacks sensitivity. Clearly, Angstrom would profit from the advice of Frank Zappa: "Shut

up and play yer' guitar."

Angstrom plays his guitar and then some. Blues leads are

mixed with progressive chord-work, always heavy with rigid lead/bass unison themes. This work with bassist Mark Hendricks is especially effective in "In The Mood," "Be Like Me," and the CD's title track, "Truth." Hendricks is not satisfied with simply following Angstrom's shadow, showing real talent between phrases where he gets two or three beats to himself.

The overall production parallels the uncontrived level of the trio's musicianship; clean and very tight. A purposeful lack of reverb or digital delay keeps the sound squeaky-clean and "live" sounding, preserving integrity with punch. Amidst the likes of Metallica and Sound Garden, Black Cat Bone renders their valuable *Truth*: Less is more.

Owwwwoohh buddy, stop tweaking the Weasel's melon

Pauley Shore comes to UNLV

In the past year, "The Weasel" Pauley Shore has ventured beyond his MTV daily show, "Totally Pauly," to record his first comedy album, sell out venues with his live stand-up show and star in his first feature film.

Shore will bring his act to UNLV at 8 p.m. April 30 in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. This is the first time Shore has performed on campus since opening up the Warrant "Blood, Sweat and Beers" show at the Thomas & Mack Center last October.

MTV's "Totally Pauly," which debuted in June 1990, is the first West Coast, all-location-based daily broadcast, and features Pauly in such places as Las Vegas, Mexico, Alaska and a pig farm in the Midwest. When asked about his show, the 21-year old Shore answered, "It's kinda stoney, huh?"

Shore's debut album, *The Future of America*, contains Pauly's views on Hollywood, valley girls, aerobics, "The Love Connection," Europe, flying and rock concerts. The album concludes with the song "Lisa, Lisa (The One I Adore)," the story of a girl from the farm who comes to Hollywood to make it as an "acc-tress."

"Now, they think I'm an acc-tor," Shore said. He co-stars opposite Sean Astin in the film, *Encino Man*, shot in and around Los Angeles and due out this summer.

"It's about a couple of dudes from the San Fernando Valley who dig up a frozen caveman in my backyard," Shore said. "It's really cool."



"The Weasel" Pauley Shore will perform at Ham Hall on April 30.

Who is Pauley Shore? He described himself as "a stony individual with a crusty mop chillin' on top of his melon." Born and raised in Hollywood, California, Shore has been around comedy all his life. His father is comedian Sammy Shore, who was Elvis Presley's opening act in the '60s and '70s. Shore's mom is Mitzi Shore, owner and director of the Comedy Store in San Diego and Hollywood. Shore said he was destined to be a comedian.

"I couldn't help it," Shore said. "It was injected into my blood. My dad is a comedian, and at the age of nine I was sitting in the back of a comedy club in my Little League outfit, drinking a Shirley Temple watching people like Robin Williams, David Letterman and Richard Pryor. It wore off on me. It's not my fault I was a comedy sponge."

Tickets for the event go on sale April 20 for students and April 27 for the general public at the Performing Arts Center Box Office. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for the public.

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