

REBELPALOOZA: An unforgettable evening of music

There seems to be an endless string of ability for these talented musicians. *Rolling Stone* magazine gave high acclaim to the *Fabulosos Cadillac* new album, *Fabulosos Calavera*, by calling it "a landmark record designed to smash borders." *Los Angeles Times* agreed by writing that the album is "a raw and unconventional treasure from start to finish."

Holding the microphone tightly in his hands, the lead singer knelt on his knees and passionately belted out the bands tunes, giving evidence to the depth of their music. The audience went wild over the *Fabulosos Cadillac* music, and a large crowd gathered in front of the stage bouncing around, enjoying every minute.

Cherry Poppin' Daddies

The *Cherry Poppin' Daddies* were the next headlining band to hit the stage and they put the audience in a swing dancing frenzy with their upbeat music.

Band members Steve Perry on vocals and guitar, Jason Moss on guitar, Daniel Schmid on bass, Tim Donahue on drums, Dana Heitman on trumpet, Sean Flannery on tenor saxophone, Ian Early on baritone and alto saxophones and Dustin Lanker on keyboards, played with enthusiasm for the audience members.

Hailing from Eugene, Oregon, the *Cherry Poppin' Daddies* are a band that swings, not simply a swing band and unlike many of the bands that have recently jumped on the swing bandwagon. *Cherry Poppin' Daddies* have been unabashedly swinging since 1989.

"We're not a retro thing," said band founder and frontman Perry. "We could get involved in a nostalgic type of scene, but we don't want to do that. Swing has to be reinvented. Use the lyricism of the 1960s, use the punk-rock energy, use the stuff that can't be denied and create a new thing.....I guess we're like swing-core or something."

Perry's vision of a contemporary swing/ska/rock hybrid, expands boundaries while it pays homage to a wide array of influences. From the Tin Pan Alley influenced rifts of "When I Change Your Mind" and the vampish "Shake Your Lovemaker" to the subversive R&B jump of "No Mercy For Swine," the Daddies' style and sound maps new swing directions. And the performance of their song "Here Comes The Snake" sent slithering vibrations up the audience

members spines.

Donning a zoot suit and white tie, Perry belted out lyrics such as "I'll be happy to find you at the end of the night."

Perry describes the band's music as a marriage of the energy of punk-rock with the kind of sophistication and grooves the band has now.

The *Cherry Poppin' Daddies* Mojo Records debut, *Zoot Suit Riot*, collects the best of the band's previous three independently released records and adds four new songs (including the title track) for an exciting 14-track introduction to one of America's most dynamic music ensembles.

Although the band is more familiar with performing in clubs, they really enjoyed how involved and excited the audience was about their performance.

"We're sort of more of a club band," said Perry. "We do a lot of all ages shows and stuff like that. But we did a short tour with the BossTones which was all colleges, which was really fun and they're good friends of ours."

"I like doing college shows because a lot of times the people at the colleges have never even heard of us or anything. We're totally new to them."

There is one thing for sure. UNLV students knew who the *Cherry Poppin' Daddies* were and made sure they were able to attend the band's portion of the show. The swing dancing/music movement in Las Vegas is definitely on the rise and the Daddies' helped build peoples awareness of the swing movement on Friday night.

"I think it's part of the feel that swing has, is this kind of energy that's really different than a lot of stuff out there," said Perry. "It's not so blocky or masculine, it has some feminine qualities too; its sexiness and stuff. We try to have this energy with it. You can find a way to dance to it, even if you don't know how to swing dance. It's fun."

The *Cherry Poppin' Daddies* performance at UNLV will not soon be forgotten by all those who attended.

"I think this band (*Cherry Poppin' Daddies*) is the best out of all the band's that played," said Brittany Sinner a communication studies major at UNLV. "I like the whole atmosphere when a swing band's on,

it just changes."

If you listen closely to many of the band's lyrics, the listener will see the depth of life and reality that is portrayed in their music. The band wants people to gain the message of hope through their lyrics.

"I'd say open-mindedness and lyrically kind of triumphing over difficult circumstances, transcending hard times and stuff like that," said Perry. "A lot of our songs are about that. 'It's always darkest before dawn,' kind of thing, our songs are basically about that. Everybody says they're depressing, but really the situations are bad. But the characters in the end, there is hope for them."

Buck-O-Nine

Buck-O-Nine brought the Rebelpalooza to an exciting close, when the audience began moshing to the beat of their hard-core ska style music.

The band's roster includes Jon Pebsworth on vocals, Jonas Kleiner on guitar, Scott Kennerly on bass, Steve Bauer on drums, Dan Albert on trombone, Tony Curry on trumpet and Craig Yarnold on saxophone.

Buck-O-Nine's music contains a mix of ska, punk, reggae and includes a melting pot mix of other types of musical genres. Ska, however, is

more prevalent in this band's repertoire than any of its other elements.

At the beginning of their set Pebsworth got the crowd jumping when he yelled out, "are you guys gonna have some funken fun or what.....we're Buck-O-Nine." And he continued by singing "throw your hands in the air and waive them like you just don't care."

During the song, "It's Impossible" a crowd of audience members lined up in front of the stage moshing and passing around other audience members above their heads.

Although *Buck-O-Nine's* time on stage was limited by the campus police chief because the show went long, the band reached a musical millennium with their fans.

Rebelpalooza '98 exceeded all expectations and will be tough to top next year. Grammy Award-winners, swing dancers, ska masters and rockers all combined to create a state of euphoria.

The annual concert festival was sponsored by the UNLV Student Government in conjunction with Bogus Productions. Other sponsors included Costello Beverage, Unique Interactive, 103.5 The Edge, Moose McGillycuddy's, UBX and the Riviera Comedy Club.

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