

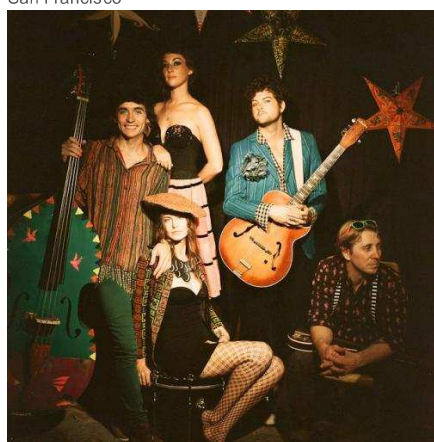


he's my brother she's my sister

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Posted by Johnny Sabin Fadda on September 28, 2012

Golden Gate Park
San Francisco



Bicyclists in San Francisco in full costumed regalia gathered in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park for a parade and carnival sideshow shenanigans. The New Belgium Brewing Company's Tour De Fat rode into the Bay Area, bringing laughter and entertainment to Lindley Meadow, highlighted by a performance by a band that took the crowd on a psychedelic horseback ride, LA's He's My Brother, She's My Sister.

"I love you all the time," declared Rachel Kolar, to her brother Rob Kolar, the lead vocalists and songwriting brother and sister team who front the band. Rob also plays guitar.

"Even when I'm an asshole?" Rob asks her.

"You haven't been an asshole for three weeks," Rachel said with a smile.

"You mean three days," adds Rob. The dynamic between the siblings is palpable and the affection they have for one another spread from the stage through the crowd.

The band began as an escape project for the Kolars, who along with Lauren Brown, the group's tap dancing drummer, make up the core of the musicians. They have been together for around four years, with the current lineup including Aaron Robinson on guitar and harmonica and Oliver Newell rounding out the rhythm section...and what a rhythm they create! Lauren performs standing up on a drum, the beat emanating from her tapping feet as she plays, setting the tone for dancing and clapping along with her.

When asked how long she has been tapping, Lauren said since childhood. "I've only been drumming for about a year and a half," a situation that came about for the simple reason that "our drummer quit." She is enjoying the tour and it is contagious. "We all love each other right now," said Lauren about the tour, "but in six weeks, this could go the other way and be a totally different interview!" Rob nods his head in agreement and they both laugh. The band has been touring for a few months and joined Tour De Fat for the San Francisco show, as well as the remaining dates to come. They also played apart from the Tour in Berkeley and Arcata.

Rob had been playing hard rock with the group Lemon Sun which took up most of his time while Rachel was busy writing plays, a musical among other works, when the band came together. "It was our side project," said Rob. "Now it's the main focus." The Kolars started writing songs and along with Lauren developed the material as something fun to do when they got together to hang out. "We had no idea it would turn into this" he stated, amazed at their success.

The soundcheck drew people toward the bandstand and the crowd prepared themselves for a good time. Before their set, paddle-ball master Devil Dan and his crew cracked up the audience with a show made up of contorted paddling (of the balls and of himself), outrageous wardrobe creations, dueling rivals with yo-yos, and an appearance by Darth Vader, a pink Darth Vader, rising from a cloud of smoke in pink fishnets. Yes, Vader in fishnet stockings, who shocked the rivals by revealing to them that they are long-lost brothers. "Young Dogwalkers" he called them.

When He's My Brother, She's My Sister took to the stage, the fun went to a whole other level. As the band opened with "How'm I Gonna Get Back Home?" people scrambled to fill in the lawn space in front of them, bikes parked and beers in hand. "Let It Live Free" came next, and it was clear that the unique mix of rock, country, folk, and tapping was working beautifully.

During the second number, Rachel's microphone cord became entangled in her clothing. "Excuse me, I have to get my microphone out of my shirt," Rachel said as she turned to unravel herself, avoiding any wardrobe malfunctions. "There we go," she said after producing the lost mike. "It's a magic show."

"Straight Shooter" brought the crowd to its feet. "I think we got some pregnant ladies dancing to that one," said Rachel. "That's a good sign!"

Next came a pounding dance tune, "Slow It Down," followed by "Same Old Ground". "The view was askew," sang the band during "Can't See The Stars". "Clackin'", a song featuring Lauren's tapping, captured everyone's attention, even the folks in line for beer. The whole scene paused in the meadow as Lauren performed. It was a perfect moment of musical joy.

The set continued with "Let's Go", "Coattails", and ended with "Tales That I Tell". Many new fans were made and a few diehard followers were pleased to meet and take photos with the group members after the show.

The rapport among the Kolars and Lauren charmed the bicyclists and the heartfelt lyrics and music stuck with the crowd. The other band members were grateful.

"The set list changes every show," said Oliver, another factor appreciated by Bay Area audiences and Deadheads everywhere. The same show isn't played twice. He's My Brother, She's My Sister should definitely be experienced at least once, a wild time worth returning to again and again.

The Tour De Fat continues with dates in San Diego, Tempe, and Austin and is fun for the whole family.

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