



<http://groundcontrolmag.com/detail/1/3216/1/>

As perfectly cynical as the music industry prefers to present itself in the public eye, no one can deny that the holidays have a lot to do with giftgiving, and no kid is happier than when he or she is tearing through the paper on a brand new toy. Parents like giving toys for that reason but, deep down, they really wish that they could be unwrapping a toy too; it just seldom happens because being an adult is supposed to mean acting responsibly and not playing with toys. We at Ground Control dispute that thinking, and clearly Aggronautix must as well; since first appearing three years ago, the company has been manufacturing Throbblehead action figures of some of the greatest rock stars in history for the discerning grownup who also happens to like his rock n' roll with a shot of vintage *Creem* spirit in it.

That sounds neat right? *Ground Control* thought so, but wondered if these action figures ("They're not dolls dammit!") were actually any good and wanted to see if they were worth a kid seeking them out as a gift idea for their Dads and Moms, so we got the fine folks at Aggronautix to send us a couple in order to see if they were worth the asking price [\$19.95 USD per unit –ed] and have a bit of fun too. Those wonderful folks sent us three Throbbleheads for us to test drive, and here's what we found out about them.



[Joe "Shithead" Keithley](#)

For Canadian punks, there is no greater homegrown icon than Joey "Shithead" Keithley. As the guitarist and singer for D.O.A., Keithley was the man; the founder of hardcore punk north of the fortieth parallel, Keithley and D.O.A. were a rare breed in the late Seventies – which is to say that they were one of the only games of any significant worth for a long time. For that reason alone, Keithley deserves to be immortalized in action figure form but, if sceptics really need more, the guitarist's political activism efforts in the fields of anti-racism, anti-globalization, freedom of speech and environmental awareness and conservation make him a true public figure of character and quality.

Perhaps for all of those reasons too, Aggronautix' Joe Keithley throbblehead stands tall and dramatically on its perch. Embodying a stoic defiance with arms crossed, the head of this particular throbblehead is easily the most sensitive; one touch and the toy responds, shaking its head frantically in defiance. In that same spirit, great care was clearly taken with this doll to ensure that it doesn't simply look like a caricature of the subject; the lines in Keithley's face were undertaken with a decidedly 'human' feel, while the sculpted clothing actually looks like denim rather than simply like resin which is supposed to look like denim. For all of those reasons, Aggronautix' Joe "Shithead" Keithley understandably received the guitarist's personal endorsement; this is as much a statue as it is a toy.