



Joe Keithley immortalized as a bobblehead doll.

Photograph by: Handout, Files

VANCOUVER -- There's a bobblehead for almost everyone, living or dead.

Abraham Lincoln. Che Guevara. Todd Bertuzzi.

An enterprising fellow near Philadelphia has even come out with a line of punk rock "throbbles." His latest: Joe Keithley of Vancouver punk rock legends DOA.

"I've had some pretty funny reactions," said Keithley. "'They made you look handsome, Joe! What happened?'"

Keithley, 53, does look rather Hollywood in the bobblehead, with his mop of "unruly" blueberry-blond hair, blank-generation stare and arms crossed in front of a tattered blue jean vest.

"I never really expected it," admits Keithley.

"But [keyboard player] Ford Pier once said to me 'Joe, I'll know I've made it when I have my own action figure.' So I figure this puts me on a level playing field with great Canadians like William Shatner."

Indeed.

The bobblehead stands seven inches tall, is being produced in a limited edition of 1,000 and will sell for \$16.95 US, plus shipping through the Aggronautix website (www.aggronautix.com/products.cfm?productid=15).

It's the brainstorm of publicist Clint Weiler, who has worked with DOA.

"I'm a big fan of punk rock, and toys," Weiler explained over the long distance line from Philadelphia. "More specifically, punk rock toys. They're not expensive, fans can get them at a reasonable price. It's just a fun project. I'm trying to do the old-school guys, the really intense legendary people."

His first throbbles was the late G.G. Allin, who definitely fit the "intense" description. Allin was known for his insane onstage antics, which Wikipedia notes included "performing naked, committing self-injury and attacking audience members." The Allin doll featured G.G. in his underwear, with a bloody head and nasty looking scrapes on his body and legs.

All 2,000 Allin throbbleheads quickly sold out, and Weiler has released a second “ghoulish” Allin bobblehead. He has also done bobbleheads of Tesco Vee of the Meatmen and Milo Aukerman of the Descendents, as well as a double-figured bobblehead of Blag the Ripper and HeWhoCannotBeNamed of The Dwarves.

How does Keithley rank in the punk rock pantheon?

“DOA is pretty important, they’re right up there,” said Weiler.

“They’re legendary. The fact that [Keithley] coined the term ‘hardcore’ says a lot. Whether people realize it or not, they deserve a lot of credit, and they’re a [bleeping] awesome band. He’s a cool guy.”

Keithley hopes to have some of the throbbleheads for sale when he has a “punk rock garage sale” at the Railway Club March 27. “I’m going through my garage,” said Keithley. “I’ll be selling singles, LPs, CDs, posters, anything.”

DOA has a new album coming out, as well. It’s called Talk Minus Action Equals Zero, and will be out May 1, the day the band kicks off a three-week European tour in Zurich.

DOA’s last European jaunt inspired one of the highlights of the album, a cover of the old Dean Martin hit That’s Amore.

“That will be a thrill for people, I’m sure,” Keithley laughs.

“We did a stack of shows in Italy last year and played that every night and people went nuts. We started slow, traditionally, and then it goes fast, then traditional at the end. At first the Italian punks just looked at each other, then they started going nuts. Couldn’t help themselves.”

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