

D.O.A. alive and, well ...

Last punk standing Joey (S---head) Keithley hardly standing still



If any band has failed to live up to its name, it's D.O.A.

It's been more than 30 years since Joe Keithley formed the pioneering punk outfit in Vancouver — and aside from one brief hiatus in the '90s, D.O.A. has been virtually indestructible, outplaying, outperforming and outlasting the competition.

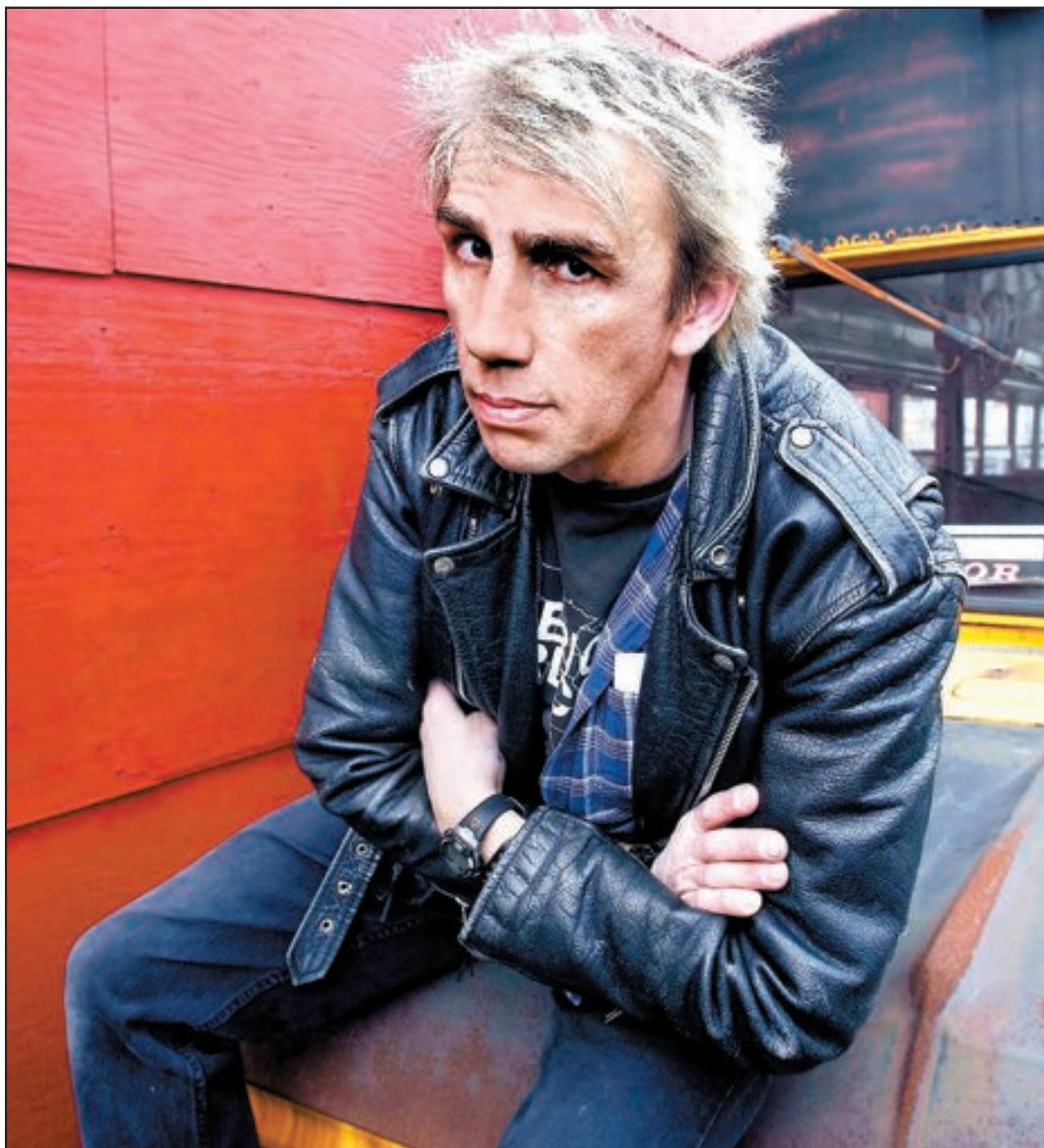
"D.O.A. is probably the oldest existing punk rock band," agrees the 53-year-old Keithley, known the world over as Joey S---head. "And I'm pretty sure I'm the last guy left from the original scene. I'm not sure why. Either we're completely f---ing crazy or there's something good about the band. Or maybe it's a little of both."

While Keithley may be the last punk standing, he's hardly standing still. The latest lineup of D.O.A. — bassist Dirty Dan Sedan and drummer Floor Tom Jones — recently released its umpteenth studio album of bareknuckle political punk, *Talk - Action = 0*, titled after their longtime motto. They just finished a European tour that included 20 shows in 19 days, including one gig that ended in a riot.

And Keithley, who still runs his own Sudden Death record label, is about to dig through his vast archives once again for his second book. Between filling CD orders at Sudden Death HQ, he found a few minutes to jaw about his longevity, the new S---head bobblehead doll, and where he sees himself in another 20 years.

You've been at this for three decades. Don't you ever get tired of it?

If the shows and the people are good, then it's fine. But yeah, sometimes it's the same old thing. We had one show the other day and some skinhead guy kept f---ing with the monitor and turning it around. He did it about 15 times. I finally had to kick him in the chest. Stuff like that, I get kind of tired of it.



At 53 and having fronted Vancouver punkers D.O.A. for more than three decades, Joey (S---head) Keithley has no plans to retire.

But it's all about the shows. For instance, we just played an incredible show in Zurich. It was an outdoor protest show for a May Day March, basically. The organizers never had a permit. After we finished playing, the park was surrounded by about 1,000 riot police and trucks with water cannons. They arrested about 400 people in

all. We were inside this hall and went outside to see what was going on and it was like, 'Holy s---!' We ran as fast as we f---ing could back to the hall — and of course the door was locked, so that wasn't too smart (laughs). But we got through it OK. Eventually we got back inside and hid. They tried to get in, but the doors were pretty secure.

At that point, weren't you thinking, 'I'm too old for this?'

When we were locked out, I was thinking, 'Well, this is really f---ed up.' But I'm not the oldest guy around. Charlie Harper from the U.K. Subs is actually older than me. I like to go on tour with him so I don't have to be the oldest guy in the van.

Does it get harder to maintain that fire in your belly?

I've tried hard not to get to that jaded point where you just go, 'f--- it.' And I think I've managed to avoid it by coming up with new albums and new ideas — or maybe they're just variations on old ones. Either way, it keeps us progressing instead

of becoming a nostalgia act. And we keep going to different places. To me, that thing in Zurich was really interesting. We're going to South America for the first time later this year. And we went to China for the first time. That was totally whacked. Everything was totally backward to what you're used to. So it was a great education and a great time too.

It sounds like you need to update your autobiography I, S---head.

Actually, I think I'm going to do a photo book of set lists and memorabilia. It will probably be out next year.

Do you have a big collection of memorabilia?

I've got tons of stuff. What's that show on TV, *Hoarders*? I could be on that. I'm not quite that bad; you can still walk through my house. But I've got boxes and boxes of stuff. I've saved a set list or a poster from pretty much every show.

And now you can add a bobblehead doll to your collection.

That's pretty funny. The reaction has been pretty good. Nobody's made too much fun of me. I think it's hilarious. The resemblance is pretty close. Of course, bobbleheads make you look thinner than you really are, so that's OK, too. And having a bobblehead puts me on a level playing field with my fellow Canadian William Shatner. He's one of my heroes.

You're gonna be a senior citizen soon. Any plans to retire?

I expect I'll do this until I die. I said to the guys the other day that I could see doing this for another 10 years. And they said, 'F---, you'll never stop.' But when people stop coming, that's when I'll stop. That's when I'll head to the legion on Saturday night and play for beers. That's where you'll find me when I'm 75.

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