

BIG WHEEL

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FREE



THE QUEERS

New album *Munki Brain*
out 2/6
and DVD, *The Queers Are Here*
out 2/20

There's nothing quite like The Queers. They have the old time charm of the Ramones with the newer, sassier punk attitude. So it's great enjoyable music, but at the same time you could still piss off your mom with it. Whether or not you had a mohawk, blue hair and a billion studs on your dirty jacket, if you were a kid who listened to and had the swagger of The Queers, you were punk. You were also probably the funnest kid on the block too.

Nowadays, the boys are touring, making music with the greats, and kicking ass like never before. Even though Joe Queer and I mostly just talked about the Ramones, because that just seemed to be our favorite topic, just know that The Queers are just as great now as they were then and if I don't see you at the next show, we're no longer friends.

Big Wheel: Is playing with Marky Ramone like a dream come true?

Joe Queer: Yeah. We're just opening up for him, but we played with him a week ago Sunday in Barcelona. He needed me and Phillip to play guitar and bass, so we opened up as the Queers and then jumped on stage with him. We actually had a pretty good time, it was all Ramones shit so that was cool. But in Brazil he has another band so we're just opening up.

BW: I'd take it.

Joe: Yeah, yeah. I didn't really know Marky. I had said hi to him before when The Queers opened up for the Ramones, but Joey was the guy I knew, and Dee Dee. I got to co-write a song with Ben Weasel and Joey Ramone. Fucking great, I don't give a shit now. That's

way more than I could have ever hoped for. And I got to know Joey and he called me on the phone and asked me to write songs on his solo album, and I just said, "Fuck it, that's great."

BW: I just want to talk about the Ramones all day...

Joe: [laughs] I could do that too. The Ramones for me, just... I heard them way back when and a light went off, I was going, "Fuck, this is great." And I always liked them because they wrote songs, and to me they were the greatest punk band because they had a sense of humor. The good punk message they taught us—to laugh at yourself and not take yourself so seriously and to question things—that's the whole punk message to me in a nutshell. The biggest difference I see between the old days and now is the sense of humor. I mean, look at the DK's, they got across a great message politically, but they did it with a great sense of humor. And now you have all these bands that report to be political but are just so serious, and except for the way they look, there's humor at all. A lot of these bands just take themselves way too fucking seriously and with a band like the Queers, you can't. Kids get mad and me, or whatever and I'm like, "What the fuck? We're in a band called the Queers, you can't take us fucking seriously."

Looks like I ran out of room. To sum it up, they have a new album, and DVD. So go buy it, and go see them and buy a couple shirts and support any way you know how.

By: Donna Ramone

THE RAMONES