

The Queers are (still) here

Strange as it sounds, The Queers are an institution. The punk band led by Joe Queer is well into its second decade, have a new CD out called "Munki Brain," and is touring again, with a stop June 13 at the Tahoe Biltmore's Breeze nightclub.

Not up to speed? It's pretty easy to catch up to The Queers' music. There is a new DVD, "The Queers Are Here," that features a live CD with a set list stretching back to the band's early-'80s material. Also, the Queers' label, Asian Man Records from the Bay area, is re-releasing the band's albums that were on Lookout, including one out-and-out modern classic, 1996's "Don't Back Down."

The touring lineup of The Queers is the same that made 2003's "Pleasant Screams": Dave Swain on bass and Matt Drastic on drums. Queer said that Danny Vapid — a longtime member of the band also well-known for his work with Screaching Weasel — may also play guitar on some songs. Vapid's band the Methadones are also on this tour, along with Italian punk band The Manges.

So what happened to the rhythm section from the new CD? Queer said that bassist Phillip Hill and drummer Lurch Nobody "just started drinking to much, so I had to fire both of them. So I got Matt and Dave back in the band."

It's been a common issue with The Queers — it had a baker's dozen, and then some, of members since the beginning. Queer said it isn't as much of a hassle as it looks.

"It's actually kind of fun," he said. "We tour quite a bit and people get kind of burned out, but everybody's brought something new to the table and their own kind of enthusiasm."



The Queers play June 13 at the Tahoe Biltmore's Breeze.

Publicity photo

If you want to go:

The Queers play with openers Methadones, Mangers and Dirty Rigs at 8:30 p.m. June 13 at the Tahoe Biltmore's Breeze nightclub. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Details: 831-0660.

The new CD is loaded with that enthusiasm, but in a different direction than some other Queers albums. At times it's closer to '60s pop than straight-ahead punk.

"Everybody expected us to do a harder-edged album," Queer said, "but I thought, 'Why don't we do these songs?' It wasn't that conscious of a decision."

Another unplanned moment was "Monkey in a Suit," the band's first political song. A bash on George Bush, the song is hardly pious (there are goofy monkey sounds throughout) and still fits in with the band's often humorous songs.

"We wrote that one in the studio," Queer said. "I hate George Bush so bad I just thought, 'F--k it, we'll write a song about Bush. Normally I won't go there (into political writing), but the guy is so horrible and lying and deceitful and an embarrassment around the

world. I know it's like shooting fish in a barrel writing about it, but he's such an arrogant m--erfu--er."

Still, Queer confirmed that he likely won't write about politics beyond that one song.

"I also think it's arrogant when punk bands do that. Their heart is in the right place, but they'll act like they are smarter than the audience. It's self-serving in the punk world, where they talk down to the audience like they have this special knowledge. I'll tell kids, 'Don't go to punk shows to hear about politics. Read the paper, become involved, anything else, but don't let some idiot in a mohawk tell you about it.'"

One other interesting change on "Munki Brain": only one song has any obscenities in it, some kind of twisted record for a band that has filled albums with the most offensive words it could find. Queer laughed pretty loud when asked why "Munki Brain" was so PG-13, but said it wasn't a newfound maturity that led to the "clean up" of the songs.

"I actually didn't realize that until people were pointing it out," he said. "Again, on the next album, who knows, but that's just how these songs turned out."

— Mark Earnest, *Calendar correspondent*

530-644-3761.

Street Vibrations Spring Fever:

Motorcycle enthusiasts can enjoy live entertainment, bike games, competition ride-in shows, poker runs, poker walks and more at multiple venues. On Victorian Square in Sparks, Mike and the Maui Motorheads, the John Dawson Band and Skynnyn Lynnyrd Reloaded perform. At the Carson City Harley-Davidson on June 9, there will be stunt shows with ILL Conduct, live entertainment by Steel Breeze and an all-day barbecue. At the Reno Harley-Davidson will be live entertainment from the Voo-Doo Dogz, demo rides and vendors. Virginia City will host a poker walk and live entertainment. When: 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Cost: Free to watch. Details: 329-6469.

Texas Hold 'Em, Bingo

Tournament: Sky Nevada Vaulters, a pole vaulting club for area middle and high school athletes, will have a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament to raise funds for equipment. When: No-host bar begins at 6 p.m. Friday. Where: Lakeridge Tennis Club's Center Court Grill, 6000 Plumas St. Cost: Buy-in is \$100 for poker and \$25 for bingo and spectators, with a first prize of \$500, \$300 for second and \$200 for third. There will also be a silent auction. Details: 762-8527 or 530-9676 to purchase tickets.

Saturday

Lilly Oncology on Canvas: Event is for those affected by cancer, including patients, survivors, families, caregivers, medical professionals and staff. Those participating are invited to express thoughts through art. A catered lunch provided. When: 2-11 p.m. Saturday. Where: Barton Memorial Hospital, 2170 South Ave., South Lake Tahoe. Free. Details: 847-7774.

Pub Crawl: Crawl includes eight downtown bars all serving one hard liquor. This month is featuring bourbon. Purchase tickets for \$20 apiece at the 5 Star Saloon, or any of the other participating bars. When: 4:30-7 p.m. Saturday. Where: 5 Star Saloon, 132 West St. Cost: \$20. Details: 329-2878.

State of the Art at Studio on 4th: Learn the definition of art through a series of humorous monologues and social commentary. When: 7 p.m. Saturday. Where: Studio on 4th, 432 E. Fourth St. Cost: \$15. Details: 851-1638.

Sunday

Showings of The Secret: All ages are invited to view this feature length movie presentation that reveals "The Great Secret of the Universe." The movie is shown on the second Sunday of each month. When: 2 p.m. Sunday. Where: Northwest Reno Library, 2325 Robb Drive. Free. Details: 747-5966.

Monday

Summer Cinema Series: The Department of Foreign Languages and Literature shows films from noon-2:30 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday June 11 through Aug. 15. June showings: "Chicago" (USA) June 11, "Il Postino" (Italy) June 13, "Ladies in Lavender" (England) June 18. English subtitles when applicable. When: noon-2:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, June 18 and June 20. Where: University of Nevada, Reno (Getchell Library), 1664 N. Virginia St. Free. Details: 784-6055.

Tuesday

Books Into Film Series: Series takes place on the second Tuesday of each month and showcases films adapted from a novel, short story, play, or author biography. When: 7 p.m. Tuesday. Where: Dharma Books, 310 S. Arlington Ave. Free. Details: 324-1990.

the Arts, 314 W. Main St., Grass Valley, Calif. Cost: \$25 general, \$20 seniors age 65 and older and students age 17 and younger. Details: 530-274-8384 or www.thecenterforthearts.org.

Tuesday

Cowboy Poetry and Music With John Tyson: John Tyson and friends will perform. When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Where: Gold Hill Hotel, 1540 Main St., Gold Hill. Cost: \$25, includes dinner and show. Details: 775-847-0111.

Thursday

Corpse: Historic Nevada Theatre presents this comic thriller by Gerald Moon about estranged twin brothers. When: 7 p.m. on Thursday and June 21; 8 p.m. on June 15-16, June 22-23; 2 p.m. June 17. Where: Nevada Theatre, 401 Broad St., Nevada City, Calif. Cost: \$24 adults, \$22 seniors, \$19 students, \$11 children Thursdays and Sundays; \$26 adults, \$22 seniors, \$21 students, \$14 children Fridays and Saturdays. Details: 530-265-8587.

Events

Friday, June 8

58th Annual Hwy 50 Wagon Train: Take a step back through the portals of time and relive the adventures and rigors of the early pioneers as they forged their way west. Begins at Zephyr Cove. Must register in advance. When: 9 a.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Cost: \$20 a day, \$120 full trip. Details: www.hwy50wagontrain.com or