



This Issue • Contact Info • Concert Calendar • Past Issues • Zero@MySpace • Mailing List • Contests • CD Comps

pulse
NOW!

LAUNCH RADIO

Zero Mag for the Zero Decade

Welcome Guest! [Login](#)

Article View

■ [Back to Issue](#)

The Queers Still Conquering

by Cooper Berkmoeyer

 [Send This Article to a Friend](#)

For twenty five years (that's a quarter-fucking-century!) Joe Queer has been creating some of the catchiest pop-punk this side of the Ramones. With a new album *Munki Brain* out on Asian Man records and a DVD *Shout at the Queers* out on *Selfless* records, Joe Queer has plenty to be cheery about . . . and he is.

Although the Queers released a seven-inch in the early 80s, Joe is quick to point out that the Queers didn't really come together until the early 90's. "We weren't even together to break up until later," says Joe. Throughout the 80's, the Queers went through various incarnations and 'break-ups,' playing only a handful of shows, until Joe Queer met Ben Weasel, mastermind behind Screeching Weasel. In 1990, The Queers solidified a line-up with Joe Queer on guitar/vocals, Hugh O'Neill on drums and B-Face on bass and recorded their first full length, *Grow Up*. With the help of Ben Weasel, The Queers were signed to Lookout! Records. Joe Queer and Ben Weasel have been working together ever since, writing songs together and keeping the Queers on their feet.



It may seem as if three-chord pop-punk may lose its appeal after twenty-plus years, but the Queers have treated Joe well: "I always wanted a band where I liked all the songs." A simple enough philosophy for a band, and, as Joe suggests, "the Queers is a solo project." Joe writes and loves to play with people he loves and the Queers are just one end product of that. "I do a lot of pop stuff that we don't play live," says Joe; he is his punk band, but his influences range from early 70's punk to 50's and 60's pop groups and surf rock. According to Joe, he participates in several other musical projects and is currently collaborating with Ben Weasel on an exclusively Joe/Ben album.

The virtues of 'play for fun' are clearly the driving force behind the Queers, but why not for all bands? Pop-punk got a bad rap throughout the 90's as frivolous and apathetic. "I don't know why bands like Franz Ferdinand are taken more seriously than the Queers," wonders Joe, "It's the name." Just because the Queers never directly address politics in their songs, many punks are quick to write them off as trivial or escapist. Joe responds that "I don't need to act like a retard, but I don't need to be an asshole to get my point across."

Where has all the laughter gone? Even bands like Black Flag, points out Joe, used humor to get their point across. What if laughter is the punchline? "Don't take things so seriously [...] that's what the Ramones taught me." Joe believes that pop-punk provides everyone with the much-needed laugh at him/herself. Not that shit isn't hitting the fan in a big way right now, but sometimes you have to wonder why someone was thrown in the first place and kinda' laugh at it. Joe Queer isn't oblivious to the world, he just thinks that it is a funny place sometimes.

In 1999, however, Joe lost friend and band mate Hugh O'Neill to brain cancer and the Queers went through a period of lineup changes and from Lookout. Apparently, Lookout! Records has yet to pay O'Neill's family the money they owe them from album sales. According to Joe, the end of Lookout came when they turned their backs on what had made the label in the first place: pop-punk. At this point, Joe realized it was time to start a new label that has started it all for the Queers. "I loved that label," says a remorseful Joe Queer. Still, the Queers pressed on, with a new line-up and a new label that has brought them to where they are today, with another album on Asian Man and a DVD on *Hopeless*.

The new album *Munki Brain* is just what you would expect from the Queers: fun-loving pop-punk in the vein of the Ramones and Screeching Weasel. The Queers don't break any ground but they don't suck all over it either. Is this the twilight of the Queers? Has twenty five years of punk rock finally worn thin for Joe Queer? "I can almost see an end in sight," says Joe. "I'm getting tired of touring." Joe has also recently married and moved from New Hampshire to Atlanta. He got to write songs with Ben Weasel. Maybe Joe Queer has accomplished everything that he wanted to accomplish. Maybe this is the end of the Queers. . but it is not the end of Joe Queer. So long as there is someone that needs a snotty "fuck you" hurled at them, or simply as long as Joe Queer has fun and play music with whomever he chooses for whatever reason he deems good enough.

ADVERTISEMENT

"It was only after I listened to Evolution Eden's album over and over again that I realized they actually had accomplished something rare. Their classic rock sound is proving its potential. Positive attitudes and a committed work ethic makes this band a welcomed asset to a growing live Rock scene."



DIY with Evolution Eden
by Rob Jackson -RipStar Press www.evolutioneden.com

Evolution Eden's last Album, "Story Road," is filled with meaning. It is obvious to me that the song-writing is deeply influenced by personal experiences, but they are conveyed in ways that make you associate them to your own life. Their song, "Summer Nights," really worked for me! I could almost smell fresh cut grass and barbeque. Maybe that song will chart here in the U.S.?

Better professional mixing and minor artistic direction will elevate this bands reception for sure. I just hope the polishing will not take away from the power of having some rough edges, which any real art process is bound to contain. Check this interview out!

Me: What are you working on and what are some past highlights and plans for Evolution Eden?
Pap: Right now our goal is to finish our next album "Saturday Night Drive In," by the Fall and to continue playing shows. We have upgraded from a 16 track studio to a 32 track studio, so there will be more layering and production work. This is a special album for us and we want it to have a "live" feel. Winnin the 2005 KGO's "Best Music You've Never Heard" contest, being nominated for the 2007 Inland Empire Music Awards "Best Out of Area Band," kind of stand out. The biggest highlight though, is when someone we don't know comes up and says one of our songs really touched them. To us, the fans are everything. They give us so much and we don't want to let them down! "Walls Of Wonderland," "Puppet On A String," and especially "Radioactive" are getting us some good responses. We have been very fortunate to have 6 of our songs playing around the world. We are currently getting airplay in 10 countries on over 60 radio stations. In Australia we had two songs reach the top 25 on the IRL Indie Music Charts!

Me: How do you think you could benefit from technical assistance and treatments of the songs, or are you satisfied with what you're putting out?
Pap: Keeping everything in house is a bit of a blessing and a curse. We have total freedom to do what we want, record when we want, and write what we like. On the other hand, it is always nice to have an outside ear, such as a producer or engineer, to make suggestions. We would love to work with a Butch Walker, Robert "Mutt" Lange, or someone who has passion for our music.

**RipStar's
Match List!**
 Music For Animals
 Sall to Arms
 Drunken Public
 Sin

Albums on RipStar's compilation releases by noon listed @ www.ripstar.cf/sites.org



Copyright Zeromag.com