

RAGAZINE

A True Grass Roots Publication



In this Issue

Budgie Downstruck

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THE
MORNING STAR
FESTIVAL
2010

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A FREUDIAN
SLIP

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From The Editor / John Kerecz

Well thanks for being with us for another high end issue of the Ragazine, this issue is a little lite even for us but do not fear we will make up for it next issue.

This month our main article is on the Band Called Budgie please take note to the back cover ad and the dates they are playing in the PA Lehigh Valley area.

Then we finish up with an article on Philly based band Downstruck. ~ Enjoy!!!

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BUDGIE

page 4

By Chef Jeff

THE BAND:

Burke Shelley (Bass & Lead Vocals)
Steve Williams (Drums)
Craig Goldy (Guitars)

THE HISTORY:

Formed in 1968 by Burke Shelley, Budgie was at the forefront of the hard rock movement in the early 1970's and the power trio from Cardiff, Wales signed a five-album deal with MCA Records. Their first album featuring the lineup of Burke Shelley, Tony Bourge (Guitars) and Ray Phillips (Drums) was released in 1971 and the band began touring relentlessly both in the United States and Europe. The album releases and worldwide tours continued at a very high pace throughout the 70's and early 80's as Budgie released ten studio albums and continued touring in support of each album. At that time, Budgie was considered one of the leading British hard rock bands of the 70's.

Budgie experienced many personnel changes throughout this time period. Drummer Ray Phillips departed after the 1973 release of "Never Turn Your Back on a Friend" and was briefly replaced by Pete Boot. Pete Boot was the drummer for the 1974 album "In for the Kill" and left shortly thereafter. Steve Williams joined the band as the drummer and was part of the 1975 release of the highly acclaimed album titled "Bandolier". In 1978, guitarist Tony Bourge left after spending long periods of time touring the United States and Canada and was replaced by Rob Kendrick (ex Trapeze). Kendrick spent a lot of time touring in America and left the band in 1979. John Thomas (former George Hatcher Band guitarist) joined Budgie and this lineup was recognized as the best "Live" lineup in Budgies history to that time. With John's arrival, Budgie got back to a harder edge that had been missing on the previous two albums on A&M. John breathed new life into the Budgie classics such as Breadfan and Napoleon Bonapart 1&2. The lineup of Shelley, Williams and Thomas recorded three studio albums and an EP together, toured extensively including a ground breaking stadium tour of Poland and headlined the Reading festival in 1982. In 1986, Steve Williams decided to leave the band and was replaced by Jim Simpson (ex Magnum & UFO) on drums until 1988, when Burke decided it was time to take a break after so many years of continuous touring and recording.

THE REUNION:

In 1995, after a seven-year absence, Burke reformed Budgie to headline the La Semana Alegre Music Festival in San Antonio, Texas. The reunion lineup consisted of Burke Shelley, John Thomas and Rob "Congo" Jones, as Budgie played in front of 20,000 fans at the festival. Soon after the festival in San Antonio, Steve Williams rejoined the band and Budgie played more shows in America and was one of the featured artists at the Sweden Rock Festival. Budgie shared the stage at the Sweden Rock Festival with Deep Purple, Dio and The Scorpions. This same lineup headlined a Welsh Rock Legends night at the Cardiff International arena in 2001. Shortly after this show John Thomas was to leave the band. His place was taken by Andy Hart as Budgie toured the UK extensively in 2002 and recorded a live album in San Antonio, Texas entitled Life In San Antonio released in Jan 2003. Later in 2003 Andy was replaced on guitar by Simon Lees, playing major European festivals in summer 2003 and a full UK tour in November and December. In March 2004 the band received an overwhelming reception from crowds when they returned to Poland for the first time since 1982 and then returned to America for more shows.

CURRENTLY.

Budgie is back in the touring mode. 2007 saw the departure of Simon Lees but Craig Goldy of DIO stepped in as guest guitarist and the band made it's first tour of Australia and two tours of Poland . Autumn 2009 saw the band returning to Australia again and dates in North and South America are currently being discussed. Writing has begun for a new CD featuring Craig to be recorded this summer to be followed by a full European tour.

Budgie still has a huge cult following worldwide and it was cover versions of Budgie songs by latter day rock heroes Iron Maiden, Soundgarden, and especially Metallica who acclaimed Budgie as being a major influence in their early days which helped to rekindle interest in the band's music in the 1990's. Iron Maiden covered "I Can't See My Feelings", Soundgarden covered "Homicidal Suicidal" and Metallica covered "Breadfan" and "Crash Course in Brain Surgery".

BUDGIE DISCOGRAPHY:

Budgie (1971)

Squawk (1972)

Never Turn your Back on a Friend (1973)

In For The Kill (1974)

Bandolier (1975)

Best of (MCA,1976)

If I Were Brittania, I'd Waive the Rules (1976)

Impeckable (1978)

If Swallowed Do Not Induce Vomiting (1980 EP)

Power Supply (1980)

Nightflight (1981)

Best of (Cube 1981)

Deliver Us From Evil (1982)

+ 5 CD Box Set (1st Five Albums on Picture Disc CD) (Early 90's by Repertoire)

+ Best of (MCA, 1989 & reissued in 1990's)

+ An Ecstasy Of Fumbling (2 CD Anthology, 1996)

+ We Came, We Saw...(2 CD Live 1980/82) (1997)

+ Best Of (Half Moon, 1997)

+ Heavier Than Air (2 CD Live, 1972/1974/1978) (1998)

Life In San Antonio (2003)

The Last Stage (2004)

Radio Sessions '74 & '78 (2005)

The BBC Recordings (2006)

You're All Living In Cuckooland (2006)



by John Kerecz

DownStruck is a hard rock up-and-coming east coast band from the greater Philadelphia area born from the merger of Triple Shot and Slaughter Beach in the summer of 2009. Slaughter Beach front man Bill Bradford joined up with the remaining members of Triple Shot Jim Preto and Ryan Popejoy and the three built instant chemistry as Bill's artistic vocal style complimented Jim and Ryan's energetic music. Then after holding numerous auditions the band found the perfect fit for a bassist with their current fill in Jay Roemhild and decided as a group in October of 2009 to move on as the newly formed DownStruck.

DownStruck then feeling all the pieces were in place hit the studio for over two months and worked with engineer producer Will Yip (Papa Roach, CKY, Blacklisted, King Sunny Ade, Cradle of Filth) in legendary Studio 4. Will got the best out of Bill, Jim, Jay, and Ryan, the band recorded an EP which was mastered by former Thursday guitarist Bill Henderson, and is presently available. The band learned that "being in the studio was a totally different experience then performing live" and "We came out of it better musicians from that experience".

With the regrouped line up and new EP completed, DownStruck was then ready to force it's unique blend of hard hitting rock and metal down everyone's throats, and has been hard at it every since on the road playing venues. The guys commented about taking the act on the road " You really do not know what Rock and Roll is until you drive over 2 hours to play just a twenty minute set"

Downs truck's music is difficult to categorize: there are hints of acts like Guns N' Roses, Alice in Chains, White Zombie, Led Zeppelin, Alter Bridge, Thin Lizzy, Pantera, Motorhead and Soundgarden present. When the band is asked to comment on the music the over all consensus is that they are "Loud, Hard, and Sexy too!" while riding the hard line between "Hard rock and Heavy metal".

Listening to Downstruck the drums and vocals are impressive, while their guitarist and bass player stand out with intensity. The intensity of their music grows with excellent proficiency, and strong instrumentation that communicates to the listener with ease. It is a total package that remains interesting and enjoyable through out. These elements will help DownStruck to satisfy almost any listener. During a live show DownStruck has plenty of energy that keeps the crowd's excitement really high while making the show enjoyable. As the guys say the shows are filled with "Just good hard rock!"

For more information please go to www.myspace.com/downstruck or e-mail dstruckrocks@yahoo.com Also make sure to check out DownStruck on Facebook and ReverbNation!



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