

It's FAN-tastic!



PHOTO COURTESY OF KID FANTASTIC

Kid Fantastic was chosen to perform at this year's annual South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin.

Local band brings power pop to Crooked Path

BY JACOB HUVAL
The Battalion

Elvis brought the nation gyrating hips; The Beatles introduced the world to hopping crazies, and Marilyn Manson presented us all with the benefits of cage-altering surgery.

On the local level, Kid Fantastic creating a musical experience that prompts the listener into a state of constant head nodding, foot tapping, booty shaking and sheer bodily fun.

Composed of bassist Nathan Krown, vocalist/guitarist Tim Schlater, guitarist Jason Schlater and drummer Adreon Henry, formerly of the band Kneegaskit, Kid Fantastic bears a sound that stands apart from most local bands, relying more on talent and band cooperation than pure distortion and loud effects.

When one hears the name Kid Fantastic, one understandably comes to expect yet another rage-esque punk band. But despite their name's clever guise, Kid Fantastic produces a sound far from punk.

Henry said he compares his band's sound with some fairly popular rock groups.

"We've been called the Cheap Trick of the '90s," he said. "One

guy said we sounded a lot like Weezer, but I don't know about that."

If anyone knows the secrets of the local music industry's virtuosity and longevity, it is Kid Fantastic.

One comes to expect local bands to play together for, at most, one year and then silently, inconspicuously fade from the scene.

Just as their music does not conform to mediocre expectations, Kid Fantastic breaks the mold as a local band that can also be considered a "serious band." Kid Fantastic was established in 1997 and has since played the local scene from College Station to Dallas and beyond.

Henry said one of his most memorable moments occurred at a party.

"We were playing at a frat party, and Nathan was gone, so we didn't have a bass," he said. "So we just improvised some and played some covers and took requests ... we ended up playing 'Whiskey River' about a dozen times!"

There is no better evidence that hard work and diligence pay off — even in the music business — than this homegrown, four-man wonder.

Following the debut of their sophomore release, *Revival Hits*, and two announced local perfor-

mances, Kid Fantastic will be playing a midnight set at The Copper Tank Brewery in Austin March 18 with over 500 other bands at this year's South by Southwest Music Festival.

Approximately 5,000 musicians and bands from all four corners of the country applied for appearances at this legendary event, of which only the 500 finest were chosen to perform.

Schlater said the band went through painstaking and complex procedure when applying to appear in SXSW.

"It was really weird," he said. "We got in the application the day it was due!"

Henry, although enthusiastic about the opportunity to perform at SXSW, said he remains humbly confounded as to how Kid Fantastic was chosen.

"I'm not sure how it happened," he said. "I guess they just liked what they heard."

To any listener, however, the reason is clear: talent. With pop melodies and a distinctive mellow rock, almost shoegaze, sound, Kid Fantastic is a diamond in the rough of small-town-rocker wannabes.

Kid Fantastic's first album, *Closer to The End*, made definite ripples in the deep and peculiarly warm waters of the local music pool.

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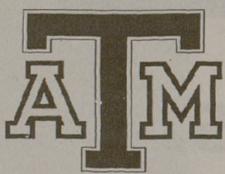
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