

That Voodoo You Do So Well

Atlanta rockers bring taste of '70s to Texas Hall of Fame

BY SCOTT HARRIS
The Battalion

Nobody ever said being on the road was easy, especially for a band trying to make a name for itself in the music industry.

Cadillac Voodoo Choir found this out last year when their tour bus was towed away with all of their equipment inside.

Taxi Haskell, drummer and founder of the band, said their musical careers flashed before their eyes when their

bus was towed.

"Some of the guys from Marvelous 3 were working at a music store," Haskell said. "We asked them if we could park our bus behind the store, and they said yes. So we parked the bus and left, then they left and their boss came back and saw this big, ugly tour bus sitting behind his store and had it towed."

"It took us forever to figure out where the bus had gone, we even had the police looking for it. We finally found it and it cost us \$1,400 to get it back. Our entire careers and lives were packed away in that bus. It was just scary see-

ing it gone."

Despite the minor setbacks, Cadillac Voodoo Choir kept on touring. Now they are making their way to College Station, playing tonight at the Texas Hall of Fame.

Haskell said that although they have only played a few dates in College Station, they tend to put on good shows here.

"We played the last two North By Northgate shows and really rocked the place," Haskell said. "[Tonight] we are just going to have a complete assault on the senses. Since it is a shorter show, we are going to lay off the slow songs and come out there and really kick people in the teeth."

Haskell said Aggies really get into their shows. "Usually at our shows it's just the people in the first few rows that are going nuts," Haskell said. "People in College Station let it all hang out. It seems like everybody in the crowd wants to get naked and roll around. That's cool because that's what it's all about."

Haskell said their live shows are so rowdy that it cost them a record deal.

"We don't hold back on our live shows, we are basically just five guys on stage, having as much fun as possible," he said. "It's funny because back during the grunge years, we had this record label approach us. They said if we stop moving around and our lead singer put his hair in his face and just stared at the ground he would give us a deal."

"He wanted us to sound like Pearl Jam. We told him to go f—k himself because if we can't dance to our music how can we expect the audience to dance?"

Haskell said when they were coming up with the name Cadillac Voodoo Choir, they wanted a name that was non-representational of the band.

"We wanted a name that people would hear and not be able to categorize the band," he said. "Actually, the only word in the name that means anything is 'Choir' because we all sing. We are five-part harmonies, very soulful. We have huge vocals."

Haskell said '70s rock was a huge influence of the band. "The way it used to be done, when rock 'n' roll made you shake your ass to the music from the soul," he said. "We are all influenced by Aerosmith and Sly & the Family Stone and bands like that, but we all have our own influences, too. Willie Nelson, Motown, a lot of different things influence our music."

Cadillac Voodoo Choir will play their '70s driven rock and roll tonight at 8 at the Texas Hall of Fame.



Cadillac Voodoo Choir
Boomtown Flood
CD Courtesy of Matchbox Records

Due to certain laws of physics, time travel is impossible, but listening to Cadillac Voodoo Choir may be the next best thing.

With *Boomtown Flood*, the band takes their listeners back to a time when rock 'n' roll was pure and simple, a time of free love and peace, a time of bellbottoms and long hair — the '70s.

Cadillac Voodoo Choir is driven by heavy guitar and soulful vocals, beckoning back to the days of Aerosmith and Humble Pie, both of which seem to be major influences of the band.

With songs like "Lordy Miss Helen," "Brass Ring" and "Great Day in the Morning," this album will get most people up and dancing around.

Some songs do seem to run together without much distinction between them, but overall, the album is not too shabby.

The band members might have been born a little too late to play in the '70s, but their music and their hearts live on there. (Grade: C+)

— Scott Harris

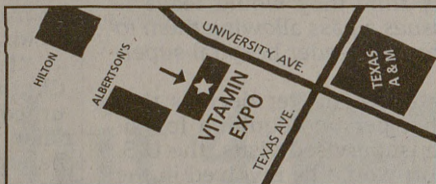


PHOTO COURTESY OF CADILLAC VOODOO CHOIR

Cadillac Voodoo Choir will perform their '70s style rock 'n' roll tonight at the Texas Hall of Fame at 8 p.m.

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