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Fire up the grill

Parody band Mac Sabbath loves heavy metal, hates GMOs



If you think this band is scary, imagine a Taco Bell-themed Queensrÿche tribute.

BY LESLIE HICKS

On guitar is Slayer MacCheeze, a giant cheeseburger face with cow horns protruding between his buns like tusks. Bassist Grimalice (imagine: Grimace) is a fuzzy gumball with a twisted grin and dangling tongue.

"There's only some stages that Grimalice fits on," Odd says. "It's hard to get him in the van."

Catburglar, also known as "Glambuglar" or "Peter Criss Cut Fries," is a feline parolee still in his prison stripes, but on the road to rehabilitation through heavy music.

"We got [Catburglar's] kleptomaniac down to a minimum at this point," says Odd. "He's a pretty good kitty. We stop on the road and go to park so he can do parkour and stuff."

The motley crew of heavy metal satirists insist that its mission is positive and misunderstood. Their lyrics touch on current issues such as GMOs, consumerism, marketing to children and low-wage jobs.

"... Black Sabbath is perceived as being this evil band, but if you listen to their lyrics, it's really about warning people about evil," Odd says. "So, kinda in the same situation, everybody just assumes [Mac Sabbath] is this pro-hamburger band, when, if you listen to the lyrics, they're warning you about the evils of fast food."

"Everybody just assumes [Mac Sabbath] is this pro-hamburger band, when, if you listen to the lyrics, they're warning you about the evils of fast food."

Mike Odd
band manager, Mac Sabbath

At the Sacramento show, expect to see laser-eyed skull clowns and giant inflatable burgers bopping around the audience. Ronald will be flipping patties on a smoking grill while the band plays jams with titles such as "Frying Pan" ("Iron Man"), "Pair-a-buns" ("Paranoid"), and "Never Say Diet" ("Never Say Die").

And look out for more doppelgangers. Odd says attendees could see some of Osbourne's arch-nemeses. "Burger King Diamond," "Cinnabon Jovi" and the band "KFCDC."

On Friday night, the self-proclaimed originators of "drive-thru metal" will bring their fast-food-themed Black Sabbath covers to Holy Diver on 21st Street.

"You gotta see it to believe it," says Mac Sabbath's band manager Mike Odd, who is absolutely *not* frontman Ronald Osbourne (wink wink).

It's a parody band, and the members are all supposed to be time-travelers inspired by McDonald's mascots and rock legends. So they have to be kept from "polite society," he says, particularly Osbourne, the crazed clown who hates any technology created after 1979, and interacting with new tech could provoke him to spray seltzer water or smash a pie in someone's face.

The band formed in Los Angeles in 2014, and its rock-comedy theatrics have made it a YouTube sensation with songs such as "Sweet Beef" (a loyal but goofier version of Sabbath's "Sweet Leaf"). Mac Sabbath recently announced a U.S. summer tour with Okilly Dokilly, a heavy "Nedal" band whose members dress like Ned Flanders, the good neighbor in *The Simpsons*.

Here's Mac Sabbath's "official" origin story: Odd, who also fronts the L.A.-based shock-metal group Rosemary's Billygoat, says he was contacted by band members after they "traveled here through a wormhole from the 1970s to bring everybody back to a time when food and music was organic, to save us all from the current state of conventional food and rock."

Check out Mac Sabbath Friday, June 21 at Holy Diver. Show starts at 6:30 p.m. The Stoneberries, Blowload, Doppelgänger and Evolution Revolver open. Tickets are \$18. For show info, visit holydiversac.com.