

Cheap Trick isn't for Halloween

The following italic words are titles of songs by Cheap Trick

By NICK CHARLES



Cheap Trick is (from left) Tom Petersson, Bun E. Carlos, Rick Nielsen and Robin Zander.

Elo Kiddies, I'd like to introduce you to a band who brought the fun back to rock and roll.

It's not Halloween, but this band knows how to put the treat into the trick, and that's a Cheap Trick!

Ever since its debut album came out with an A side and a side one, it was obvious that we were in for a ride.

Cheap Trick will be coming to you in color (and in black and white) at 8 p.m. Friday at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit.

Lead guitarist and high roller Rick Nielsen, who was born in Chicago, not only plays guitars but sleeps with them, talks to them and carpets his home with them.

His guitar collection now numbers somewhere in the neighborhood of 75 of the little noisemakers.

Born in Venezuela is drummer Bun E. (short for Bunezuela) Carlos, who makes it clear with his overzealous drumsticks that he wants you to want him.

THE BLOND GUY, known for his good looks as well as his thousand voices, is rhythm guitarist Robin Zander. Sweden-born bassist Tom Petersson knows what he wants and how to get it. He proved he knew what he wanted when he designed the first 12-string bass guitar and manages to get some pretty original sounds from it.

Cheap Trick proved to be stiff competition last time the band was in the area, which was last July 13 at the Pontiac Silverdome with New England and Kiss.

Besides having great music, Cheap Trick has the most colorful personalities.

Nielson and Carlos are constantly being criticized for not looking more like rock stars.

Nielson has been called Dennis the Menace, a Bowery Boys reject, a cartoon character and "The Honeyooners" Ed Norton.

To the neck and neck race for who's stranger, Carlos slips by Nielson for first place as the Big Boy's twin brother, a tire salesman, a spy, and head honcho in the coffee exporting business.

SO LET'S get the story straight. Both Nielson and Carlos are as much into rock as the other two tricksters.

Nielson, who likes Crackjacks for breakfast (because he gets a prize), is

preview

himself somewhat of the band's own prize.

In concert Nielson looks like he was raised to be the family court jester, but actually his parents were both opera singers. He toured around with them until he started getting his own musical ideas.

Nielson and Petersson were in their first band together, called Fuse.

Together they migrated to Europe and met two members of Todd Rundgren's band, The Nazz, after Rundgren left in 1969.

At this time they formed a new band that was neither the Fuse or The Nazz. Apparently they didn't practice too much, and the band only lasted a few months.

After many complicated stories and intricate explanations, the four star-banded musicians finally met in the south of France.

ONE THING happened after another

(like dominos), and they are now one of the most unusual rock bands in the world (Japan just goes gaga over these guys.)

Cheap Trick will be playing Detroit on what seems to be an auspicious tour of its fourth studio album "Dream Police" (Epic).

Don't settle for listening to their music on the radio because you'll be sitting on top of the world by the time the clock strikes ten.

So come on, come on, and surrender yourself to the rock and roll embrace of Cheap Trick because you can bet these boys are gonna raise hell!

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