



THE MONKERLY

Even This Band Had A Montage

"This resurrection is the product of destiny," exclaims Phil Enock, guitarist of The Monkerly, referring to the reuniting of the group after a brief hiatus. "Like those who enter a monastery in search of discipline and truth, this band has returned with tenacity and the desire to fill you with unabashed rock madness. And Kung Fu."

Following the release of their debut album in 2003, which was distributed by Rock Out Records under the moniker One Blue Link, the band members went their separate ways, only to realize their common destiny. Enock, along with singer Stu Warshawer and drummer Jeremy Da, invited new bassist Adam Davie to join them, and in February of 2006, The Monkerly was born. It wasn't long before they made the ultimate band commitment and moved in together in a house in Whitehouse, NJ, last month.

The music of The Monkerly has been compared to Sublime and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, with a touch of the Spin Doctors' vocal stylings mixed in. "Their unique brand of 'monk rock' pushes today's new punk sounds beyond power chords," adds Enock. "With a smirk and a Chuck Norris roundhouse jump-kick, they'll take you on journeys within. At times punk, at times rock, always monk rock."

Each member of the band makes a contribution to the development of what they call monk rock. "We have a collaborative and democratic writing process, where every member has a say in every single aspect of the music," Enock relates. "With four writers' ideas combined, we create more innovative and varied music than one person could possibly write alone. Each song comes alive differently, but many songs follow this typical process: Enock writes guitar parts, Warshawer writes lyrics and vocals complementing these riffs, while Da and Davie contribute ideas for new

sections and their own instruments' parts to complete the song. Throughout this process, the entire band critiques and revises every element in the song. In fact, we often return to a song, even months after it had seemed finished, and end up revamping it for a completely new feel."

Some of the songs they've produced have

rather, well, interesting themes. "The fans' favorite is 'Breaking Up.' Anytime the words 'This song is about masturbation' are uttered on stage, the crowd goes wild," laughs Enock. "The chorus reads, 'I'm breaking up with myself, Mama says that masturbation is bad for your health,' with verse lyrics 'Spankin', jerkin', punchin' the munchkin/No

small talk, no dinners or luncheons/Gonna say goodbye with the help of my band/I'm breaking it off with my trusty right hand."

But the best is apparently yet to come. "The band's favorite is a brand new song, 'The Sensei Song,' which is a tribute to the great, wise teachers in Warshawer's life, which include his karate teacher and vocal coach," Enock explains. "The chorus explodes, 'So punch me in the face!'"

The group made its live debut at Don Hill's in New York and drew a sizable crowd. They've toured throughout the East Coast in their newly purchased van, the "monk-mobile," playing shows in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Local stages graced by the band include the Bloomfield Avenue Café in Montclair, the Blair Academy in Blairstown, the Hamilton St. Cafe in Bound Brook, the Empress Ballroom in Danbury, CT, and The Mercury Lounge in Manhattan.

For those not in the know as far as martial arts, the name is a derivative of one aspect of the discipline. "The name of the band began with Warshawer watching too many kung-fu movies," says Enock. "In such films, there is a salient theme of the protagonist's retreat from society, training (typically captured in the famous 'training sequence'), and subsequent return, with more cunning, skill and power. This process, Warshawer and his brother, Andy Warshawer, decided, is called 'Monkerly.'"

Indeed, The Monkerly have returned from their "Monkerly," and are poised to take their music to the next level. "We have two vital goals," comments Enock. "To carve amazing music out of our combined beings and to get this music into the ears of as many people as possible. If we need to get signed to spread our music, we'll be ready to go for it when the time comes."

You can get more information about The Monkerly from their website, at themonkerly.com, or at myspace.com/themonkerly. You can also catch the band during their return to Don Hill's in New York City on Dec. 1. Doors open at 7:30.

