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FREE

Entertainer ***& Lifestyles Magazine***

A group photograph of the band Liquid Blue. There are six members in total. Three women are standing in the back row, all wearing bright blue halter-neck dresses. Two men are standing behind them; one is wearing sunglasses and a black shirt, the other is wearing red-tinted sunglasses and a grey vest over a black shirt. In the front row, two men are seated. The man on the left has long, wavy brown hair and is wearing a black patterned jacket. The man on the right has long blonde hair, a camouflage headband, and is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt with a cross necklace. He is holding a blue electric guitar.

LIQUID BLUE

**Voted San Diego's Best Local Band
See What the Buzz is all About**

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at the San Diego Zoo**

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FEATURE STORY

By Carrie L. Tyler

Rarely if ever has this publication done a feature story on a local cover band, let alone a cover story! But Liquid Blue is the exception. Winning by a landslide, Liquid Blue was voted "Best Local Band" this year by the readers of the *Entertainer*. To find out what makes them so incredibly popular, I attended a couple of their recent performances, one at a club in the Gaslamp District in downtown San Diego.

When I got there, there was an unusually long line of people waiting outside to get in. At about 10:00pm, I finally got inside. The place was so packed that finding a seat was impossible. I then squeezed up towards the stage where it was standing room only and I got lost in an anxious crowd awaiting for the band to appear.

As a classical piece wailed over the PA system, the seven-member band of three females and four males entered

with music from a different decade. The "BlueGirls" changed their outfits for each set. The lights, the choreographed dancing, the outfits, the tight, fat sound and the great singing were so much more than I expected. What a show!

Who exactly is Liquid Blue?

Liquid Blue is a seven-member dance band featuring lead vocalist Scott Stephens and the "BlueGirls," a team of three dancer/vocalists that provide super harmony and choreographed stage excitement. The star of the BlueGirls is young singing sensation Nikki Geasland. All seven members of the band sing lead! Liquid Blue has a huge and very diverse repertoire of over 600 songs. From rock, alternative, R&B, disco, hip-hop and country, they play it all! For an example of their diversity, in one weekend I saw them do three completely different shows. On Friday night they performed in North County at a rock venue, then Saturday night they were at a downtown club doing R&B



Photo by: David Hebble

BlueGirls Ready for Action!

"BEST LOCAL BAND" WINNER LIQUID BLUE:

CREATING A BUZZ IN THE SAN DIEGO MUSIC SCENE

the stage. The crowd screamed and hooted as the classical piece reached a dramatic climax. Then amidst the fever pitch of the crowd, the band broke into their first song. Liquid Blue's choreographed high-energy movement and music soon had the crowd in such a frenzy that the dance floor filled immediately. The music was really, really pumping and you could actually hear

and Disco and finally on Sunday night they were in Mission Valley kicking out country hits!

To give you an idea of where you might catch a Liquid Blue show, here is a sample list of some of their past performances: San Diego Sports Arena; Humphrey's; La Costa Resort; Barefoot Bar; Dick's Last Resort; Viejas Casino;

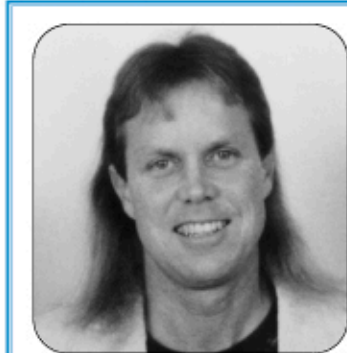
award-winning band are Michael Vangerov and Scott Stephens. Michael Vangerov, who designs & builds his own guitars, is a big reason Liquid Blue has achieved their current status. "Little Michael" as he is affectionately known, handles all of the lead and rhythm guitar parts. Michael is especially known for his great tone and feel for rhythm parts as well as tasty leads. Michael met vocalist Scott Stephens in grade school and during high school, they played together in their first band together called "Electric Warrior." The two grew up on the same block in Woodland Hills, a Los Angeles suburb in the San Fernando Valley. After three years in Electric Warrior, Vangerov joined Rhythm Tribe, a Los Angeles based Latin-funk band. Rhythm Tribe was signed by Elektra Records and performed on the soundtracks of such movies as Backdraft, Halloween III and Salsa. The group did two studio albums for Elektra, but failed to score a hit single and finally broke up after 10 years. At one point in the mid-1980's, they were one of the hottest up and coming acts in the country. During his time with the Rhythm Tribe, Vangerov was known for his stage acrobatics, which included climbing up and jumping off of speaker

stacks and doing somersaults while playing his guitar. Vangerov was so nationally known that he was endorsed by Gibson guitars. After Rhythm Tribe's breakup, Vangerov decided to take a break from music. Then in 1995 he got a call from Scott Stephens.

Vocalist and founder of Liquid Blue, Scott Stephens also has an extremely colorful past.

At 15 he became a Los Angeles Life-guard. Then at age 16, he founded a punk rock/metal publication called Raw Power Magazine. Once an adult at 18, Stephens joined the Los Angeles T-Birds Roller Derby team. Once he turned 21, he decided to move to Alaska to join a band called "The Pacesetters" in Anchorage. After finishing college in Anchorage with a degree in Fine and Performing Arts, Scott came back to Southern California at age 25 and opened an Allstate insurance agency in Encinitas which has been awarded Top District Agency several times. An avid surfer and bodysurfer, he recently reached the quarterfinals of the World Bodysurfing Championship. And just a few years ago, he got his amateur boxer's license and won his first

(cont. on page 13)



Lead Vocalists Scott & Nikki

the vocals clearly! It was like being at a major concert event! There was a guitar player who could not have been over five feet tall who played like a giant! The band performed four sets, each one

Rock Bottom; Blind Melon's; Boar Cross'n; Fogerty's; In Cahoots and Del Mar Fair. And that's just a few.

The two individuals that started this

FEATURE STORY

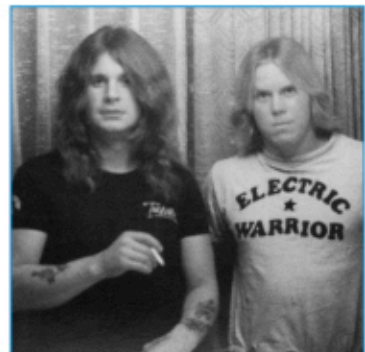
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officially sanctioned bout. Scott has sung for several bands upon returning to Southern California, and has performed in several major arenas including the San Diego Sports Arena, Los Angeles Forum and Mexico City's Sports Palace. He has appeared in several rock videos including one with Michael Jackson, and also appeared in the movie "Girls Just Want to Have Fun." Then in 1995 he made that fateful call to Vangerov and formed Liquid Blue.

During an interview with Liquid Blue founder, Scott Stephens, this is what he had to say:

Tell me about your magazine?

I was heavy into the Sex Pistols, Iggy Pop, Aerosmith, Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath - anything that rocked, so I decided to start *Raw Power* the only magazine that covered both punk and



Scott Stephens with Ozzy Osbourne

metal. At that time the punks hated metal heads and visa versa. We developed a solid circulation in Los Angeles and the record companies took notice. Before long we were invited to interview the top rockers of the day.

Is it true that you were responsible for hooking up Randy Rhoads with Ozzy Osbourne?

On the cover of our second issue, we featured Quiet Riot and at that time the late guitar legend Randy Rhoades was their guitarist. We became friends with Randy and went to their shows regularly. Later we interviewed Ozzy and put him on the cover of our fourth issue. During this interview, he told us he was looking for a guitarist so we told him about Randy. And the rest is history.

What other rock stars did you interview that left a lasting impression?

We interviewed David Lee Roth just before the release of the first Van Halen

album. He was so nuts! We were fortunate to be one of the first to see KISS without make-up. Then there was Ted Nugent, who told us he'd kill us if we published the pictures we took of him while he was eating lunch. We did! Punk icon Iggy Pop seemed quite bored with us during our one interview with him even though we named our magazine after one of his albums. Oh, and Ronnie Dio was as strange as his lyrics would suggest. We interviewed AC/DC when they were just breaking into the U.S. market and Bon Scott was still with them. I knew Joan Jett when she was a member of the Runaways with Lita Ford. She exemplifies what rock n' roll is all about. We interviewed Blondie on a bad hair day and it was hard to believe she was the same performer we were used to seeing. Sammy Hagar was really cool to hang with and very passionate about his music. Cheap Trick, Styx, the Ramones and Devo were all memorable interviews also.

Are you still involved with the magazine company today?

No, I've been out for years now. The company now has 50 employees, offices in London and Los Angeles and no longer publishes a magazine.

After the magazine, you went into quite a different direction. Tell us about your days in the Roller Derby.

I spent three years with the L.A. T-Birds. It was the greatest experience I could have had at the time. We traveled all over the country and Mexico and packed some large arenas. We used to come to San Diego and sell out the Sports Arena on a regular basis. The fans in San Diego were great! I feel very fortunate to have skated on the same team with some of the legends of the game, including Ral-

phie Valladares, John Hall, Danny Reilly, Ronnie Rains, Sam Washington and Skinny Minnie Miller. After three years and various injuries, I had to get out. It is an exciting sport, but very brutal.



Scott as a member of the L.A. T-Birds Roller Derby Team.

ESPN Classics still show those games from my era. There has been a re-birth of the sport recently, under the name of RollerJam. It's shown weekly on TNN. The game has changed quite a bit. Today's skaters wear in-line skates instead of quads, which I don't believe work as well on a banked track.

Let's talk about Liquid Blue. What are some of your best moments with the band?

Performing at the Republican Convention kick off in 1996 at Planet Hollywood. Performing as Larry Gatlin's backup band. Touring Asia in 1997. Sharing the stage with some of the best female vocalists in town. Currently, working with a great group of fun, energetic people all of whom get along like family.

How has Liquid Blue developed such a large following so quickly?



Rockin' the house

We have talented and dedicated individuals in the group. Our sound and light systems are top of the line. We also promote our shows via an e-mail list, fax list, a web site and a phone hotline.

I have heard your current CD. I enjoyed all the songs. You really are very diverse. Are you planning to record some of your own material?

Yes, we've got some great songwriters in the group and are making plans to record our first CD sometime next year.

You also do something that I have seen no other bands do, you offer literature at your gigs on two charity organizations, Amnesty International and Surfrider. Could you tell me about these organizations?

Amnesty International is an organization that fights human rights abuses, specifically torture. Their work has helped eliminate much individual suffering in the world. Their strength is in numbers. Corrupt governments change only when pressured consistently. Amnesty International is often the only hope and solace for victims of human right abuses.

The Surfrider Foundation is essential for anyone who swims in the ocean. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting our oceans, waves, and beaches. With the continued growth in San Diego our waters are becoming more and more contaminated. Without people such as the volunteers at Surfrider, we would eventually be unable to swim at our local beaches.

We're just trying to make a small difference in the world.

Liquid Blue heads the San Diego market in wedding reception entertainment.

(cont. on pg. 14)

FEATURE STORY

(cont from pg. 13)

At the Bridal Bazaar headquarters in San Diego, Liquid Blue is considered "the only choice" for wedding reception entertainment. Bridal Bazaar president and CEO, Heather Somers, had this to say, "Liquid Blue has been tremendous. The brides love the band, especially because they play the latest songs." Bridal Bazaar is the largest wedding show in California and the second largest in the United States. They hold four shows annually in San Diego during the months of January, March, July and October. Liquid Blue has been selected to perform at every San Diego Bridal Bazaar show for the past several years. Terri Waldorf, an rep from one of California's biggest talent agencies specializing in weddings said this about Liquid Blue, "LIQUID BLUE IS OUR MOST REQUESTED BAND FOR WEDDINGS. Their extensive tune list allows them to satisfy all age groups and their high energy stage performance always gets the crowd on their feet."

Liquid Blue is also known as one of the fastest rising stars in the very competitive corporate entertainment market. Local talent guru Bernie Kaye said,

"Liquid Blue has exactly what we need for our corporate clients. A HIGH-ENERGY, GOOD LOOKING, TIGHT, POLISHED ACT." According to talent agent Peggy Jewell, "Liquid Blue is exceptional. If a client is considering Liquid Blue, we tell them, go no further, this is the band to have."

What are people saying about Liquid Blue?

We interviewed several people at the above mentioned downtown show and asked them,

What do you enjoy about Liquid Blue?

Jenny Brookings: "Dancing! My friends and I love to dance and we follow Liquid Blue wherever they perform because they are the best band to dance to and play the coolest songs."

Sandi Gartner: "The BlueGirls rock! They cover some great girl songs. I think the females in the crowd really relate to them."

Steve Weinland: "The BlueGirls are hot!"

Lisa Gonzales: "The band is really fun! You can see that they like each-other and enjoy performing together."

T. Nguyen: "Their lead singing is the best I've heard in while. I especially like their song selection too. They don't play the same old songs over and over."

And what do the "industry people" have to say about the band?

Studio Engineer Gary Hangartner on the recording of the band's demo: "They were the most professional bunch I've ever worked with. Scott Stephens blew my mind in the studio. What a talent!"

Sheri T. on speaking of her wedding reception: "I couldn't have asked for better. Liquid Blue was great! I have never seen my stuffy in-laws dance! The night was just incredible."

San Diego Swing Dance Club had this to say, "Our dancers loved them. The best band we've ever had."

Ralph Burnetto, owner of the Boar Cross'n said, "One of the best bands we've ever had in here."

Mike Brown of In Cahoots is happy to



BlueGirls Understudy Lelit

say that Liquid Blue is, "One the best local acts who have been in here in a long time."

Liquid Blue is definitely the winning choice for entertainment!

[To obtain more information about Liquid Blue visit their web site www.liquid-blue.com. To keep updated on where and when Liquid Blue is performing ask to be included in their monthly e-mailing list.]



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