

HARD AND HEAVY

MAUI'S OWN "MONSTERS OF ROCK" CREATE A SUBVERSIVE MUSIC SCENE IN PARADISE



Zero Tolerance

Certainly, hard rock music is not a stranger to Maui. Bands like Rezin, Anesthesia, Retribution, Dick Midnight, Swirly, Carnage, Stonehenge, Hand Over Fist, Tensore, and several others, have been on the fringe of our musical scene here for over a decade. Players come and go, get recycled, move off island, come back and sometimes try again. Anesthesia is one metal band in particular that has recently enjoyed a comeback, playing successful shows at DeanO's, Casanova, and Hard Rock Cafe over the past few months, although not without some opposition from well-intended yet skeptical organizers.

There are many other bands that have

been forced to get inventive and play shows at less conventional venues like at the beaches or parks that surround our tropical island. There are even up-and-coming bands, like Absence of Void and Entity, that rock (and rock hard!) with members not yet old enough to play in the few clubs and bars that feature live music, and yet have a solid following of young and older rockers islandwide.

Two bands in particular have put in their time in the studio, weathered some outrageously successful gigs at popular venues, and are ready to embark on off-island tours to further their hard and heavy rock careers and see where it lands them...

ZERO TOLERANCE

Zero Tolerance's hard-edged, heavy rock is like a sonic boom, a deep rumble that rises up from the bowels of the earth, simultaneously building momentum and producing a full-force onslaught of nature's havoc. Before it reaches your ears, it's in your gut, like a subversive premonition, a dreaded moment of clarity that brings you a long-awaited deliverance.

Their sounds bubble and boil, like a volcanic eruption, spewing a hot, molten lava of heavy, burning chaos... its an experience that you're both drawn to and need to escape from, but you can't move. A primal scream rises up from your belly, stopping in your throat, taking over your whole body and you enter the matrix of primordial urges... you enter The Pit (even if only in theory - we are on Maui, you know).

Vinnie Finazzo's relentless rolling and pounding tsunamic drum force kicks in on "#7", one of the songs currently being recorded on Zero Tolerance's upcoming album to be released in August of this year. Rising like a scorching phoenix from the pyre comes Sean Quick, lending his thundering vocals to fill the melodic tension that hard and heavy music sears into your skull. The power of Jaxon Fuqua's mercilessly scathing guitar playing takes you on yet another plane of rhythmic, unyielding intensity on "Jesus Crack" as he riffs and bleeds his lead all over your soul. Bassist Shawn Brewer adds his layer of deep, dark depravity, further fueling the fire. Never will you feel such complete, unified and heavy, powerful energy than on "Last Rites", clearly a hard rock anthem to the underbelly in the making. Its the

kind of music that gets under your skin, blows your mind and sucks your soul out through your cranium.

Zero Tolerance is not music for the masses - it's music for the massive.

Difficult to classify, Zero Tolerance creates an ambience of raw and powerful energy that reaches from influences of hardcore punk, old school metal, and yes, rock and roll. Jaxon, lead guitarist, prefers to think of his band's sound as "post-millennium rock 'n roll." Sean Quick's lyrics delve into the personal darkness that finds meaning within, equally created from love and hate, repression and release.

In order to maintain focus, they avoid lining up too many gigs in a short period of time, which creates a palpable anticipation for the shows they do play. Meanwhile, they're in the studio, creating new material and cutting tracks for their new CD. Jaxon puts it best, "We don't want to play the same lame set, every fucking week. When we do shows, people come out of the woodwork and they show up, 'cause it's an event, it's not a weekly thing where - 'oh, whatever, I saw them last week. I can skip tonight.' When we play, we play. You gotta see us or you don't. You won't see us for another couple of months probably." Vinnie agrees, "That's why we get the turnout we do, 'cause we don't play all the time."

Zero Tolerance further increased the respect of their audience as well as fellow musicians at a recent gig opening for a well-known punk band from Oahu. Undaunted, they reveled in the chance to "blow the doors down" and prove that they were ready to rock. The headlining act was duly in awe, and in a surprising switch of station, the sister-island punk rock veterans wondered how they were going to follow such a powerful lead.

Sean Q. explains that the musical climate here is catered to tourists so "the scene as far as local bands is like, you gotta create your own scene and your following here. There's only so many people on this island! It's kind of a small place so we'll support each other, get some stuff going together. So when you come to Maui, the local bands are firing."

Vinnie says, "We live on a rock together, we're all working for the same thing. Let's stick together, let's push for this together to make it happen on this island to where we're accepted in almost every bar on the island and it can happen on a regular basis. Help out the future of the music scene on the island." "And other bands just starting out that are like 'well we can't play anywhere. What's the point?'" Jaxon continues. However, they both believe that the suppression and isolation that occurs from living on a small remote island does breed clarity and creativity, as well as a vital part of great rock 'n roll music: rebellion.

After creating the kind of band every