

Gwar to rock pants off Bogarts

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In 1984, a metal band from Richmond, VA, gave the music world something it had never seen before. Sci-fi costumes, political and social theatrics, lighting and sound spectacle extraordinaire — It was unlike anything music fans had experienced up to that point. It was GWAR.

GWAR was the lovechild of several underground metal bands in the Richmond, VA, area. Dave Brockie was the ring leader for this new metal experience. It began with Gwar (at that point known as GWAARGGGH!!) opening for local metal and punk rock bands like Brockie's Death Piggy.

"We'd all been in a million different bands before then," Brockie said. "I realized that we could take this Gwar idea and really add something to it and come up with a spectacular show."

That spectacular show involved sci-fi costumes, larger-than-life effigies of political figures (that usually undergo some sort of mutilation during the show), sacrifices, hundreds of gallons of (fake) blood and bodily fluids projecting over the audience, and whatever the f&%\$ else Gwar feels like doing.

"We just asked ourselves 'if the ultimate band were playing tonight, what would it be?'" Brockie said. "Somebody had to do Gwar sooner or later, and if somebody else had done it, it would have sucked."

The music world needed Gwar, and thank god Brockie and Crew brought it to us. In the past 25 years, Gwar has come out with 12 albums. Their newest album, Bloody Pit of Horror, will be released on Nov. 9. The entire album is tuned down at least a half octave, giving Gwar fans a new sound with the same old Gwar attitude, or Gwar-itude.

The compliment their new album, Gwar is currently on their "Bloody Tour of Horror," a 30 show tour ending on Nov. 6 with a performance at Fun Fun Fun Fest in Austin, TX. The tour features The Casualties, Inferneon and Mobile Deathcamp and will be tearing up Bogarts in Cincinnati Oct. 12.

What Gwar fans can look forward to is an intense night of metal, spectacle, theatrics and, above all, music that freaking rocks. Amidst all that pizzazz is a heavy social and political commentary that Gwar has come to be known for.

"Gwar has always been an underground counter-culture that shakes up the status quo," Brockie said. "We wanted to go after subjects that were pretty much taboo. We sort of developed this moniker of Kings of the Underworld."

These underworld rulers successfully combine spectacle, meaningful themes and bada\$\$ music in a mind-numbing phenomenon that can only be described in one word: Gwar.



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