

Gigs

SEVEN DAYS OF ROCK!

30/01/08 - 05/02/08

DROPKICK MURPHYS

SUPPORT: MAD CADDIES, THE BRIGGS

TOUR DATES: GLASGOW BARROWLAND FEBRUARY 2, ABERDEEN MOSHULU 3, NEWCASTLE ACADEMY 4, SHEFFIELD LEADMILL 5, NORWICH UEA 6, LEEDS MET UNI 7, WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC 8, MANCHESTER ACADEMY 9, OXFORD ACADEMY 10, SOUTHAMPTON GUILDHALL 11, BRISTOL ACADEMY 13, SWANSEA BRANGWYN HALL 14, EXETER GREAT HALL 15, LONDON BRIXTON ACADEMY 16.

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: JAMES SHARROCK

THE 14-LEGGED PATRON SAINTS OF GOOD TIMES ARE COMING OUR WAY, SO GRAB A GUINNESS AND GET READY FOR THE PARTY...

You guys are known for being a good time band - is it possible for someone to come to one of your shows and not enjoy themselves?

AL BARR (Vocals): "Well, we're hoping that if you have a really bad day we're gonna take you out of that so I would say no - but then if you put that challenge out there people go, 'Oh, I'm gonna go and specifically not have a good time!'. But in general, people have a pretty good time at our shows."

You played at a baseball game for your home team in Boston recently - would you like to come and play a football game over here?

AL: "We actually played Celtic Park in Glasgow a few years ago before a game. We thought we were gonna get murdered but the crowd were all actually into it, so that was cool. We're always up for a sporting event though; we've done so many of them now we've kind of become that band, which is kinda funny."

There are seven of you in the band - do you have a hard time staying on smaller stages?

AL: "We've definitely fallen off a lot of stages in our time, and one of the guitar players falls off routinely, but that's always good for a laugh. Thankfully, nobody's gotten killed yet, I think that would definitely put an end to the show for the night - but then we have a saying in the band: if you're gonna die, die onstage!"

Have you had much in the way of farces when you're trying to get some place but everything just keeps going wrong?

AL: "Oh yeah, definitely. A few years ago, we had a gig in Finland and to get there we literally had to take a bus to a plane, then a plane to another plane and then we had a charter plane that wasn't going to wait for us and we had to get there on time, and there's actually video footage of us all running across an airport and you can see how unhealthy this band actually is! (Laughs) By the fifth leg of the race our lungs are literally coming out our mouths, but we actually did make it, but yeah, we've had some Spinal Tap moments for sure."

Playing as many shows as you do, have you ever been somewhere but convinced you were somewhere else?

AL: "Definitely! We used to have this thing when we were still touring in a van, where we'd be at like a gas station in the middle of Albuquerque, New Mexico or somewhere like that and someone would be, like, 'We've been here before!' and someone else would say we hadn't and then you've got them saying 'No, no, I remember the bathroom of this place!'. (Laughs) The funniest thing is our bass player who, literally, once on a tour will wake up on the bus in the middle of the night and not know where he is at all, and you'll be in your bunk and hear this crazed screaming and he'll go flying by your bunk and be, like, oh God, Kenny's having one of his moments! (Laughs) I laugh at his expense, but one time, the next night I woke up screaming, 'Kenny! There's all these chairs in front of my bunk, I can't get out!'. So you gotta be careful of the pleasure you take in someone else's downfall (laughs)."

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AL BARR

GO KERRANG!

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