

LET'S GET STONED

The Gay Blades keep rolling along

By **CHRIS JORDAN**
STAFF WRITER

Thinking about Mick Jagger lately?

Gay Blades frontman Clark Westfield is.

"To be truthfully honest, the Stones play a tribute show to themselves," said Westfield, otherwise known as James Wells. "They play a 30-year tribute to themselves, and that's what they should be doing."

The Gay Blades present their irreverent take on the iconic Rolling Stones singer on the track "Mick Jagger" from their just-released album, "Savages" (Triple Crown Records/ILG). The sound of the Blades' funky and clippy "Mick Jagger" conjures up the Stones of the early '80s.

"Nobody wants to hear new music from the Stones," Westfield continued. "You don't think of it. You think of Mick Jagger in a loud sequined jacket and tight jeans and Keith Richards smoking like a chimney and playing riffs. Leave it to younger artists to create new music and the Stones to provide entertaining concerts — that's awesome."

The Gay Blades are a younger band, and they do put on entertaining concerts, which should be evident tonight at the Asbury Lanes New Year's Eve party, which also features a DJ.

The guys — vets of Exit 9 bands such as Clever Hans and Hello Lovely — have built a rep for their minimalist snark and alternately charming and creepy wit, with Westfield

on guitar and Puppy Mills (Quinn English) on drums, *a la* White Stripes with humor. Critics on both sides of the pond raved about their debut album, "Ghosts," and the band shared stages with Cur-sive, MGMT, Ra Ra Riot, Jack's Mannequin and Juliette Lewis.

Now, with the new "Savages," the Gay Blades have expanded their sound to include horns, arena power chords and gospel choirs. Also, the death of Westfield's younger brother last year had added a bit of seriousness to the lyrics, songs about Mick Jagger aside.

As for the live show, multi-instrumentalist Mike Abiuso of Kiss Kiss now is accompanying the band on tour, which leads us to ask whether he had to undergo some sort of initiation to go on the road with Westfield and Mills.

"If I told you what happened, I'd have to make love to you," Westfield said.

Hmm, maybe the Blades haven't changed that much after all.

Let it snow

The big snow has affected a couple of shows in the area.

The sold-out Starting Line show scheduled for Dec. 26 at the Starland Ballroom has been postponed until Friday, Jan. 7.

"We understand that many of you made plans to travel to (New Jersey) for this concert, and we apologize that this may hinder your plans," said the band in a statement. "At this

time, we felt it was best to lean on the side of caution, and we hope to see you in two weeks."

Hit The Lights and Such Gold also are on the bill. Tickets from Dec. 26 will be honored on Jan. 7.

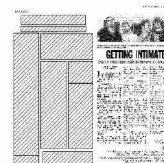
Call 732-238-5500 or visit www.starlandballroom.com for more information.

Also, the David "DJ" Blish memorial concert for benefit of the Epilepsy Foundation has been moved from Dec. 26 to 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16, at the Saint in Asbury Park.

Lost In Society, Blacktop Kids, A Clever Con, Gentleman Thieves, Lance Greene and Jake Raynor are on the bill.

Blish of Monroe died at 20 due to an epileptic seizure in January 2008.

Call 732-775-9144 or visit www.thesaintnj.com for more information.



GAY BLADES NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

*9 tonight • Asbury Lanes, 209 Fourth Ave.,
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PHOTO: LUCIA HOLM

The Gay Blades are in the driver's seat.