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Blues Magoos Keyboardist Ralph Scala Says Band Plays Better Now than Ever



Credit: Alan Rand

Pioneering psychedelic rockers **The Blues Magoos** will play a new series of shows in the northeastern U.S. in the coming week in support of their 2014 reunion album, *Psychedelic Resurrection*. The band features three members from its classic 1960s lineup -- frontman/keyboardist **Ralph Scala**, singer/guitarist **Peppy Castro** and drummer **Geoff Daking**.

Scala tells ABC Radio that the current Magoos sound better live now than they did during their heyday, when they scored a #5 hit on the *Billboard* Hot 100 with the garage-rock gem "(We Ain't Got) Nothin' Yet" and had the chance to tour the U.S. with **The Who** and **Herman's Hermits**.

"We've all become much better musicians," he explains. "We've all been playing for 30, 40 years since we did Blues Magoos, so we're

playing the Blues Magoos songs better than they were played when we originally wrote them."

Of course, the band also performs some songs from *Psychedelic Resurrection*, the first studio album The Magoos have released in more than 40 years. Asked why the group decided to put together a new record after so many years, Castro says, "I think it just felt right. Like, while we're still alive and while we're all still here, it'd be nice to just go back and revisit something and have a reunion."

Peppy tells ABC Radio that he and his band mates "had a ball writing in the Magoo head...because you can't take a band like Blues Magoos too serious."

On that note, Castro reveals that his favorite song on the album is a tongue-in-cheek tune with quite a memorable title -- "D'Stinko Me Tummys on the Blinko." The song focuses on the unfortunate after effects of eating some Chinese food, while also serving as a humorous homage to The Blues Magoos' days performing in New York City clubs, when they would frequent local Chinese restaurants after gigs and sometimes order "magoo" gai pan.

Scala, meanwhile, says his favorite tune from *Psychedelic Resurrection* is a song Castro wrote called "Psyche-Delight," which also pays tribute to the band's early career.

"It's got a great, cool groove...and the story that Peppy conjured up about us playing and what it was like to be on stage," Ralph points out. "We sing about our electric suits, the lava lamps which we endorsed, episodes with other players like **Keith Moon** wrecking all the hotel bars, and lyrics like that. To me, it's fun to sing."

In addition to the new material, *Psychedelic Resurrection* features updated versions of some of The Blues Magoos' best-known songs, including "(We Ain't Got) Nothin' Yet," "Gotta Get Away" and a cover of the **John D. Loudermilk** tune "Tobacco Road."

The Blues Magoos' brief tour kicks off tonight in Somerville, Massachusetts, and runs through a show this Sunday in Middletown, New York. Here's the band's complete itinerary:

5/21 -- Somerville, MA, Johnny D's
5/22 -- New Haven, CT, Café Nine
5/23 -- New York, NY, Bowery Electric

5/24 -- Middletown, NY, Brian's Backyard BBQ