

Arts & Entertainment

Lincoln heats up to Scorchers' tunes

By Donna Sisson and Tish Mockler

If you're tired of the long cold winter, there is an alternative tonight, as Jason and the Scorchers warm up Lincoln with their burning Nashville music.

Jason and the Scorchers are nationally renowned, not just for their unique sound, but also for the energy and spontaneity they bring to each show.

Jason and the Nashville Scorchers formed in January of 1982 and consists of Jason Ringenberg, lead singer; Perry Baggs, drums; Warner Hodges, guitar; and Jeff Johnson, bass.

Ringenberg was raised on an Illinois farm and began by teaching himself to play harmonica. From there, he played in several bands ranging from rockabilly to country and found his way to Nashville, where he met the others. At the time, Johnson and Hodges were members of innovative new-wave bands and Baggs was playing in garage bands.

They have produced two EPs, *Reckless Country Soul* and *Fervor*. The latter was initially released on the Praxis label, but was recently re-released by EMI. With the re-release, they changed their name to simply "Jason and the Scorchers."

One change in the new release of *Fervor*, is the addition of Bob Dylan's "Absolutely Sweet Marie," done in the forceful Scorchers style.

A personal favorite, "Pray for Me Mama (I'm a Gypsy Now)," is about a struggle between every person's desire for carefree abandon and the desire to be tied to the earth. It has an honest mama's boy quality, very much like Jason himself.

The rest of the EP contains everything from pining country ballads to rompin', stompin' get-up and get-crazy country tunes.

As a live act, they actually do get up and get crazy. Ringenberg drolls out lyrics in an honest, heart-wrenching voice while he weaves around the stage like a human slinky. When the music shifts into fourth gear and the stage can't contain him, he sings on the bar or any place else he can find to sing the music he obviously lives.

Hodges' act consists of sticking cigarettes up his nose and chugging full beers while playing. While he's driving the band with his guitar, he also drives an inescapable insanity into the audience. When he takes a break to play his lab steel guitar, he simply



Jason and the Nashville Scorchers. From left to right: Perry Baggs, Jason Ringenberg, Jeff Jonson and Warren Hodges.

twists the music right down to the bottom of your emotions.

Though not as outrageous on stage, Johnson contributes an endearing quality that makes the decadence of the band seem like an everyday occurrence. Just to make sure these guys don't forget they're making music, Baggs pounds out an unstoppable rhythm on the drums.

Judging from their reckless energy, the world is lucky the band has their instruments to keep them off the streets and to breathe life back into rock and roll.

At the same time, the music they play is more than rock and roll. It is more than country and more than punk — it's a collaboration of them all. It is the traditional form of American music reincarnated for this generation.

The Southern fire they bring with their show will make you glad it's still cold in Lincoln.

The Scorchers will be playing tonight only at the Drumstick. Charlie Burton and the CutOuts will open for them. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door.

HOTSPOTS



The Fabulous Thunderbirds will be appearing tonight at the Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway. For more details, see Around Town.

Television

Cable television subscribers are in for a treat tonight. KSHB (cable Channel 2) will be running *The Wild One* featuring a very young Marlon Brando. The 1954 film, which chronicles the exploits of a motorcycle gang, begins at 7 p.m.

Radio

KUCV (90.9 FM) will broadcast a special concert, featuring the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and Minnesota Orchestra, beginning at 8 p.m. The ensemble is being conducted by Neville Marriner. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma will be the featured soloist.

At the Sheldon

Generations of Resistance will be screened today at the Film Theatre. Screenings are at 3, 7 and 9 p.m.

Around Town

When it rains it pours. Two major touring bands will be putting in appearances in Lincoln bars tonight. Jason and the Scorchers will be at the Drumstick, 547 N. 48th St. Cover charge is \$6 at the door. An article on the band appears elsewhere on this page.

The Fabulous Thunderbirds will appear tonight at the Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway. The T-Birds' aggressive blend of blues and rock music has made them cadre of fans. The band has recorded several albums, the most recent produced by Nick Lowe. Current band members are Jimmie Vaughn (Stevie Ray's younger brother), Kim Wilson, Keith Ferguson and Fran Christina. Lincoln's Backbeats will open the show. Tickets are \$5.50 at the door.

Profundities overflow in new drama on ice

Allister Cooke: Good evening. Welcome to *Masterpiece Theater*. Tonight, we bring you a drama by the young American playwright, Edward Lee Smith, known for his uses of dramatic irony. This piece, entitled *World On The Brink*, features the struggle

Tom Mockler and Glenn Stuva

between three earnest colleagues coming to grips with the modern world. Now, without further adieu, we bring you *World On The Brink*, by Edward Lee Smith.

(A single spotlight on three men. All are dressed in white body leotards and seated on three chairs facing each other. The stage is otherwise bare, with the exception of the silhouetted images of ice machines, refrigerators, glasses, soda fountains and an assortment of sizes of cans and bottles of Coke.)

Robert: You know, I worked at McDonald's for six years. Cleaning up after customers. Cooking on a hot grill. Filling drinks and making shakes. It's been hell. And you know what? After six years, the only thing I've learned is that if you put too much ice in your soft drink, it's going to get diluted.

Mitchell: Oh, come on. You need lots of ice in your drink. The more the better.

Robert: No you don't. You should put in only enough ice to keep it cold. No more. No less.

Stephen: Well, I think you're both wrong. Coke should be drunk cold, but with no ice.

Roberts: Your'e crazy. The ice helps keep the carbonation in the Coke. If you don't put ice in your glass, you'll lose your carbonation.

Stephen: Call me a fool, but I like pop with no ice.

Robert: Fool.

Mitchell: But what's wrong with ice? I like ice. The more ice you use, the colder your drink stays. That's why I like lots of it in my soft drinks.

Stephen: But it makes it taste watery.

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