

INTERVIEW: MEET THE WEEKLINGS

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Aftershow Pass

Co-Publisher and Writer

Their hot new self-titled CD received rave reviews even from Beatles insiders.

After a CD Release Celebration on March 13, 2015

They will rock The Fest for Beatles Fans on Sunday, March 22, 2015!

Meet Lefty Weekling, aka Glen Burtnik

Asbury Park, New Jersey, a Mecca in the music world

AP: What is a Weekling? Tell us the story of how the Weeklings were born, and named. Who is the oldest Weekling brother

LW: Once upon a time there were two little boys called Zeke and Lefty, by name christened. They decided to get together because they were the getting together type. When they were together they wondered what for after all, what for? So all of a sudden they grew guitars, both 4, 6 and 12 strangled, and fashioned a noise. Funnily enough, no one was interested, least of all the two little boys, until the noises they made became written songs, by them they were.

Lefty had a prehistoric history with a BeatlesMania, which had somehow eventually led him to a Beatles Fest for Beatles Fans Fest, where he discovered a 3rd little even littler man called Rocky running about.

Together Zeke and Lefty to Rocky they said, quite 'Rocky get a Gretsch-o-caster and you will be alright' and he did - but he wasn't just alright because he could not only play the thing, but he could sing just as good as the rest of the other two. Still there was no beat, and a kindly old man said, quote 'Thou hast not drums!' We had no drums! they coughed. So a series of drums came and went and came.

Suddenly, in Knew Brunswitch, performing with a Bashing Beatles Bash, the group (called the Weeklings called) discovered they had not a very loud sound - because they had no amplifiers. They got some. From time to time many people will ask what are Weeklings? Why Weeklings? Ugh, Weeklings, how did the name arrive? So we will tell you. It came in a vision - a man appeared on a flaming pizza and said unto them 'From this day on you are Weeklings with an 'E'. Thank you, mister man, they said, thanking him. And then a man with a beard cut off said - will you not only play in the Bashing of Beatles in Knew Brunswitch, but also go to Middle towns, Peer Villages, Headquarters of Mammoth Country Libraries Marzipan and Raspberry Parks for to play mighty rock for the peasants for money? And said they in reply "we would play mighty anything for money."

But before they could go they first had to grow a drummer, so they grew one out of a green, rambling brook as a cousin of a Leahey and his trouble was Ramblin' Dave. They called "Hello Ramblin' Dave, come off to Marzipan Libraries and other tasty towns!" "Yes!" called he back. Zooom. Zoom zoom Lefty (of Razzpimple Park) Zeke (of Eatingtowns via Eerie Pencilvanias) Rocky (of Greener Points of no sleep till Brooklyn) and Ramblin' Dave zoom zoom. All of them going gone to conquer Vests for Peoples Vans, with Zeek being the eldest.

AP: We would like to know about your pseudonym name – Lefty? You mentioned at a previous practice in Asbury Park that you are a lefty, but what about politically? Are the band's pseudonym names a nod to the Traveling Wilbury's?

LW: I am left-handed. Zeek loves the flavor of Wildberries, so he might've lifted the idea, it's unclear. Politically, I am moderately left on most issues, however vehemently either direction, depending on the issue.

AP: The CD release party at the Wonder Bar was packed with people filled with glee, as you performed. The band pulled out all the stops, and performed two extraordinary sets that were overwhelmingly well-received. Were there any surprises at your CD release party on Friday the 13?

LW: I know I was surprised there wasn't a cataclysmic meteorological event that day, myself.

AP: We found the band's button promotion humorous and fun. Franco Pietoso, Co-Publisher at Aftershow Pass would like to know whose idea it was to release The Weeklings recordings in monaural?

LW: Good question. I seem to recall a dinner at a restaurant named Fish where Zeek, Scooter the record company guy and yours truly agreed it was a good idea. Scooter ran with it after that and we followed. To be perfectly honest, I was prepared to put it out in stereo and SAY it was mono (I mean, who are the Audio Police?), but Rocky stepped in later and said, "No! If we say it's Mono, IT'S GONNA BE MONO!"

AP: Tell us about the meaning behind the original songs that you wrote alone or in collaboration with Zeek... What is the back-story on the beautiful ballad, "Oh! Darla"?

LW: LEAVE ME WITH MY PRIDE Well, that one originally came from an incident in which Zeek wanted to be left alone with his wife Zelda, so he began writing the song as 'Leave me with my Bride', but over time we both agreed it might be better to change "Bride" to "Pride". BREATHING UNDERWATER is our homage to oceanographer Steve Zissou.

IF I WAS IN LOVE and LITTLE TEASE are scenes from an upcoming production of a Rock Opera called WEEKLINGS ON ICE.

MONA LISA was originally titled ANJELIA, but we were worried our friend with the same name might slap us with a lawsuit (cause she's bitchy that way).

OH! DARLA is, in fact, about my daughter (I just hope SHE doesn't slap us with a lawsuit!)

AP: Your professional music history includes performing Beatles covers in Liverpool, and playing Paul McCartney in the original Beatlemania. How does such regular work impact your work today? You play with such enthusiasm for The Beatles songs... Are you as enthused for the Beatles as 50 years ago?

LW: I'm as enthused as ever. And I've been around the block. I was in Beatlemania and Rain (for years). I have worked with the Fab Faux (subbing for two members). I've presented my annual Beatles Bash at the State Theatre in New Brunswick and have appeared at countless BeatleFests as member of Liverpool. And still, and forever, I am in awe of the music by the four-headed monster.

**Zeek Weekling, aka Bob Burger
Eatontown, New Jersey, a stone's throw (or maybe two) from Asbury Park,
music Mecca.**

AP: How is Zeek like Bob Burger?

ZW: They are both very handsome, although I would give Zeek the edge. Zeek is funnier, and Bob can be rather serious. They are both nice guys though...

AP: Do The Weeklings each have a tag like the Beatles did, for example, Paul was the cute one. What differentiates Zeek from his Weekling brothers?

ZW: Zeek has the poorest eyesight. Lefty is the cute one, but Zeek is a bit mischievous. Zeek is also an optimist and tries to push the others upward!

AP: How long have the Weeklings known each other? How close is the relationship of all four band members?

ZW: Zeek and Lefty have been friends for more years than either care to admit. The four have known each other for about eight years. The relationship is very close, and we all basically having a party when working together.

AP: Franco Pietoso, Co-Publisher of Aftershow Pass said that you took painstaking efforts to duplicate the recording techniques of the Beatles early recordings. He asked whether you recorded the CD digitally or analog? If it was analog, did the band use tape?

ZW: Yes. The individual tracks were recorded digitally, and then mastered onto analog tape.

AP: Which of your original songs do you imagine John Lennon would have favored?

ZW: The ones we haven't written yet.

AP: Given the positive response to The Weeklings energetic performances, do you believe the band will have longevity?

ZW: Yes, but mainly because we just have a good and productive experience working together. The positive response is on top of that!

AP: My favorite original song on the band's first CD, The Weeklings is "Breathing Under Water." What is the influence behind this song? You tell

an interesting anecdote about starting to write it many years ago, before finishing the songwriting in collaboration with Lefty. Do tell that story here!

ZW: That is the oldest original on the record, and Lefty and I wrote it back in the 90's. He then added the intro from an idea he had had even way before that. When we decided to do a record, Lefty suggested we include that one. Seeing as I forgot that we had written it way-back-when, I don't really remember the back story behind it. It may have come out of an untoward bathtub experience in childhood...

AP: Will the Weeklings keep on writing originals that are about love, or can we expect to hear some topical originals that include serious and/or political subjects in the future?

ZW: I don't see us writing about serious and/or political subjects in the near future. Those tend to not be as much fun as what we are doing now, and this band really is about fun and the joy of love and music. Maybe on our 10th record. Or maybe after we break up.

Rocky, aka John Merjave

Brooklyn, NY, a boro of New York, with an active music scene, too!

You seem like the most spiritual of The Weeklings, but have the pseudonym Rocky. Is that tongue in cheek?

RW: No, it's less cerebral than that. Rocky is the nickname of George Harrison's "psychedelic" Fender Stratocaster. It was an easy fit. Plus, "Rocky" sounds kinda "Brooklyn", my hometown.

AP: How is Rocky like John Merjave?

RW: Rocky loves music, loves the guitar and loves to sing, on occasion. I think we share the same musical passions.

AP: Franco Pietoso, Co-Publisher of Aftershow Pass Magazine, said that he noticed you use the same guitars as George Harrison, primarily the Gretsch. He'd like to know if there was any other equipment that you duplicated of George's, such as f/x pedals or amplifiers.

RW: I don't think the Beatles were tied down to any special FX when they played live. They just plugged a guitar into an amp and it was great. The real magic, in my opinion, happened in the studio. They were using fuzz boxes, compression, reverse-tape guitar solos and Leslie rotating speakers.

In the 'later years', they experimented so much with sound and texture. I only use my effects to emulate what those guys did in the studio. I can get close, but I know I'll never really 'nail' it.

AP: Every time I've had the pleasure to witness your lead on The Beatles tune, "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" from The White Album, you get a standing ovation, and bow your head. How does it feel to receive such adulation from your growing fan-base?

RW: It's hard to describe. I get a bit self-conscious because I really don't think I deserve it. It's not that I don't appreciate it, I've just never taken to compliments too well. But, if I had to narrow it down to one word, it would be grateful.

AP: Half the songs are unreleased Beatles covers on the new CD. You have had many years performing in the Beatles band, Liverpool, the house band at the Fest for Beatles Fans. Who is your favorite Beatle, and why?

RW: As a kid, I never thought of that at all, I just loved The Beatles. As I got older, and started analyzing and performing their music, I would lean toward Paul because of the brilliance of his songwriting. But then I started getting deep into Lennon's solo work, especially "Plastic Ono Band" and "Double Fantasy". After joining Liverpool, I immersed

myself into George's guitar style, solo career and Indian influences. Also, being a frustrated drummer at heart, Ringo certainly defined what a rock drummer should be...and he sang, too! So, I guess I got it right as a kid: They're ALL my favorites!

AP; What would people be surprised to learn about you here regarding your personal music history?

RW: My dad bought my first guitar, but I didn't immediately gravitate toward it. I REALLY wanted to be a drummer...I wanted to be Peter Criss (of KISS). So, one Christmas, my parents caved and bought me a drum set. I played drums, religiously, from seventh grade through sophomore year of high school, and I got pretty good, too. In fact, my first "paying" gig was on drums when I was in seventh grade. My fee: two Quarter Pounders with Cheese!

Ramblin Dave Weekling, aka Dave Anthony

Nobody would mistake him for a rolling stone, just a mover and a shaker.

Where do you call home?

RDW: Lovely Greenbrook, NJ

AP: Tell us about why your pseudonym is Rambling Dave? Does it have anything to do with your active life as a musician who also drums for Dennis DeYoung, formerly of Styx?

RDW: No, I was named "Ramblin Dave" before the DeYoung gig came along. Hmm. This is a good question. Zeek came up with this pseudonym. It's funny because it really doesn't describe me at all. I'm a grounded family man. I don't Ramble at the mouth very much (well...compared to the other Weeklings. Ha). I think that is what is humorous about the name. Thanks Zeek.

AP: Do you share any similar traits as Ringo?

RDW: Not as much as I'd like...Ringo is a very interesting player, He's a lefty that plays righty...hates drum solos...has a very distinct feel...I'd like to think that Ringo and I share the same philosophy on how a drummer should play for a song.

AP: Franco Pietoso, Co-Publisher of Aftershow Pass would like you to share with us how it feels using Ringo's drum techniques? If you ever met Ringo, what would you like to ask him?

RDW: Playing like Ringo is harder than it seems. Technically speaking it's not tough...he played simply most of the time...but he has a very distinct feel that's hard to immitate. For example, his shuffles are very interesting...neither swung or straight. Somewhere in between...as I mentioned before, I love his sensibility on how to support a song. I also love his sound. This is a result of the old Ludwigs, but more importantly, his touch and how he was hitting the drums. I'm not sure what I would ask Ringo if I met him. I'd probably ask if I could buy him a beer.

It's the end of the interview... Maureen Daye & Franco Pietoso agree there is nothing like a live performance of The Weeklings. Be prepared for some wildly energetic rock that wakes and shakes...

BeatleFest!!!

Sunday March 22, 2:00pm

Fest For Beatle Fans

Hilton Westchester

699 Westchester Avenue, Rye Brook, New York.

1-800-HILTONS

New Venue!!!

Wednesday, March 25, 10:00pm
The Bitter End
147 Bleecker St, New York, NY 10012
212-673-7030

New Venue!!!

Wednesday, April 15, 8:00pm
The Watermark
800 Ocean Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
732-455-3447

Saturday, April 25, 2:00pm
Vintage Vinyl Records
51 Lafayette Rd., Fords, NJ 08863
732-225-7717

Sunday, April 26, 2:00pm
International Flavor Festival
White Street Parking Lot, Red Bank, NJ

New Venue!!!

Saturday, May 2, 8:00pm
Crossroads
78 North Ave, Garwood, NJ 07027
908-232-5666

Wednesday, May 20, 8:00pm
The Watermark
800 Ocean Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
732-455-3447

Wednesday, June 10, 8:00pm
The Watermark
800 Ocean Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
732-455-3447

Wednesday, July 8, 8:00pm
The Watermark
800 Ocean Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
732-455-3447

Return to Daryl's House!!!
Friday, July 10, 8:00pm
Daryl's House Club
130 Route 22, Pawling, NY 12564
845-289-0185

Glen Burtnik's British Invasion!!!
w/ Lefty, Zeek and Rocky!!
Saturday, July 11, 8:00pm
Location TBA