

INSECTS VS. ROBOTS GETS GHOULLY FOR HALLOWEEN SHOWS Rolling Stone Raves About the Band's 'Epic Time-Shifting Prog Jams'

LOS ANGELES, CA - It's fitting that a band described as “Psychedelic freak-folk-rock space-punk gnome-orchestra” would be playing a Halloween event described as a “psychedelic freak out,” and that's just what Insects vs. Robots is doing this October to celebrate All Hallows' Eve.

The Los Angeles-based band is slated to perform a series of Halloween costume parties as part of The Electric Ghoul-Acid Test II on the first three Tuesdays of October (Oct 7, Oct. 14, and Oct. 21) at The Del Monte Speakeasy/Venice Townhouse in Venice, California.

"We do encourage people to come to the show in costume, though of course it's not required. It's just fun to dress up and get weird and spooky. It's good for you. There aren't really any other months out of the year when being a ridiculous freak in public is not only socially accepted, but expected and encouraged. Being able to hide behind a mask or costume allows people to step into a different identity temporarily and so much of the fear and social boundaries are thrown out the window. Our Halloween shows are the best! People get super wild and fun and hilarious and it's entertaining for everybody," says the band's J. Micah Nelson (charango, guitar, vocals, percussion, vocals, noises, whispers, drums).

Of course, Halloween is more than trick-or-treating, sticky sweets, costumes, and great parties. Nelson appreciates the long history and folklore of the holiday as well. He explains the appeal, "In old Celtic Ireland, Samhain (Autumn) was a spiritual time, but with some twisty warped chaos tossed in. As it was a transitional time, being 'between worlds,' the veil between worlds became thinner so that fairies, puka, ban sheers, and other spirits could come and go as they please. 'Shape shifters' were also about. This is the origin of the dark spooky side of Halloween. Bonfires would be lit and people would wear masks to confuse the spirits who might be seeking revenge from the afterlife. In the late 1700s in England, the concept of 'mischief night' emerged, originally in May, but which eventually became October 31. On this night children would sneak about the towns pulling pranks and causing chaos."

Meanwhile, Insects vs. Robots has received rave reviews for their performance at Farm Aid (organized and headlined by Micah's dad, Willie Nelson). RollingStone.com wrote, "Micah Nelson soon took the stage with his psych-folk act Insects vs. Robots, leading epic time-shifting prog jams as guitarist Milo Gonzalez performed back-bending contortion moves." Likewise, Raleigh News Observer wrote, "Micah Nelson soon took the stage with his psych-folk act Insects vs. Robots, leading epic time-shifting prog jams as guitarist Milo Gonzalez performed back-bending contortion moves."

Insects vs. Robots is also working on a show for Halloween, Oct. 31, itself as well. Details to come.

About Insects vs. Robots:

Insects vs. Robots is Tony "Grandma" Peluso (drums, synths, screams), Milo Gonzalez (electric guitar, acoustic guitar, vocals, engineering), Jeff "FEJ" Smith (bass, grooves), Maggie Lally (vocals, hoots, hollers, screams, whoops), J. Micah Nelson (charango, guitar, vocals, percussion, vocals, noises, whispers, drums), and Nikita Sorokin (violin, guitar, vocals, whispers, screams, album cover art). The band formed in 2008, playing what they call "psychedelic freak-folk-rock space-punk" – a fever dream of acoustic and electric guitars, sundry vocalizations, bass, violin, percussion and far-out effects. They released their first CD *Geryl and the Great Homunculous* in 2009, *Tales from the Blue House* in 2011, and *Insects vs. Robots* in 2014. Both were self-produced and recorded in the band's Cozy Castle studio/venue/dwelling – a communal space where creativity was encouraged and nurtured.

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