

The Story of Jake Speed & The Freddie's

Intro

For the past seven years, Jake Speed has hitchhiked down the American folk, political and cultural humor, & talking blues music highway with his award-winning band, the Freddie's. The musical conductors aboard the Freddie's include Jake Speed, Kentucky Graham, Justin Todhunter, and Chris Werner. Jake sings, picks guitar, blows harmonica, buzzes kazoo, and kicks the beat on the washboard. Kentucky Graham guns and grinds on the old tenor guitar. Justin Todhunter strums and picks on the tiniest of little old mandolins. Chris Werner pounds and thumps on the upright bass. Jake Speed & the Freddie's create boxcars full of original Cincinnati songs while reviving the music of legends like Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan and Hank Williams. The Freddie's originated on the streets of Cincinnati where they performed their songs for tips and continue to believe "If you ain't good enough for the street corner, what are you good for?"

The Show

Their near-vaudeville style shows and quick-witted charisma rope in loyal fans of new and old generations alike. A true bonus to any Freddie's show is the tongue-in-cheek stories and crowd-engaging antics, such as audience parades, watering can solos, and sing-alongs, all of which keep audiences of all makes and models thoroughly entertained. The University of Cincinnati News Record said: "All the audience participation demonstrated that the crowd clearly had fun joking around with the band."

A recent bonus to the shows are the songitorials™ - singing editorials commenting on the political and cultural foibles of the day. City Beat described them as "the voice and style of Woody Guthrie and the observational humor skills of Will Rogers."

Recognition

The Freddie's' traditionalist approach to the old timey music style has won them the respect of fellow musicians, music lovers, and even hard-nosed critics. CityBeat writer Ezra Waller says, "Jake Speed is a fixture of Cincinnati's traditional Folk scene." Cincinnati Post's Rick Bird says, "Jake Speed has quickly become the Queen City's favorite troubadour." The readers of CityBeat Magazine voted them Best Local Musicians in 2004. The listeners of WNKU FM 89.7 voted The Freddie's' second album, Cincinnati Legends of Jeremiah Schmidt, #29 of their Top 89 Albums of 2003. The band is a four-time winner of the Cincinnati Entertainment Award (2001, 2002, 2003, & 2004) for Best Folk Musician. They also won the 2002 CEA for Artist of the Year and 2002 & 2006 award for Best Singer/Songwriter.