

Lord Buckley in Los Angeles

press packet



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the Firefly Theater presents

LORD BUCKLEY IN LOS ANGELES

an Evening with his Royal Hipness

created by and starring Jake Broder

Kevin Spacey's *Beyond the Sea*; Mozart in Broadway's *Amadeus*

and also starring John Keefe

John Madden's *Proof*; *The Practice*

Who is Lord Buckley?

From the *NY Times* review: "...a largely forgotten nightclub performer from the 40s and 50s who may have been the hippest man who ever lived. Buckley was one of a kind, a Californian ex-lumberjack who invented an unlikely persona that was part English royalty, part Dizzy Gillespie...he did for comedy what Elvis did for music, inspiring a who's who of counterculture, including George Carlin, Lenny Bruce, and Ken Kesey. Bob Dylan raved about him in his recent memoirs, 'Buckley was the hipster bebop preacher who defied all labels.'"

And what is this show?

A 5-night special engagement for Los Angeles, of which the London and NY press has raved:

"mesmerizing...Jake Broder incarnates the 1950s cult lounge performer on a headlong ride through the late beat philosopher's oeuvre. A hot jazz trio backs Broder as he bops through resurrected spoken-word riffs...mind-bending exhilaration" - *The New Yorker*

"Turbo-charged...Stunning...Extraordinary"

- *The Evening Standard, London*

"subversive, mind-bending, and deeply affecting...tour-de-force"

- *The New York Sun*



Best Play, 2006 sTony Award Nomination

- *High Times Magazine*

"furious and inspired"

- *Time Out NY's 'Best of 2005, Comedy'*

"Believe - it'll blow your wig away!"

- *Time Out (London), Theatre*

Details

produced by Steven Klein

Staff Producer, Black Dahlia Theatre

award-winning LA theatre producer with hits including *Orson's Shadow*, *Belfast Blues*, *Nocturne*, & *An Infinite Ache* (

featuring the musical talents of Mark Sanfilippo (drums), Ryan Feves (bass), and Derek Yellin (piano)

Friday, October 6

Sunday, October 15

Saturday, October 28

Saturday, November 4

Friday, November 17

Sunday, December 10

Friday, December 15

Tickets:

Door \$15

Food Minimum \$10

M Bar

1253 N. Vine Street

Hollywood, CA 90038

valet & street parking on site

Curtain 8pm

Door 7pm

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY: (323) 856-0036

for information: www.fireflyinc.com

LORD BUCKLEY IN LOS ANGELES

By Jake Broder
with additional material by David Tughan and David Chidlow

THE PLAYERS

Jake Broder	Lord Buckley
John Keefe	Hip News Reader/Lincoln
Ryan Feves	Bass
Derek Yellin	Piano
Mark Sanfilippo	Drums

~

Lord Buckley single-handedly brought “Hip Semantic” into the mainstream in the 1950s. One of the most influential figures of American counter-culture, Lord Buckley inspired a host of visionary performers, including Lenny Bruce, Robin Williams, Richard Prior, Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Thelonious Monk, and Frank Sinatra. “Buckley was the hipster bebop preacher who defied all labels,” wrote Bob Dylan in his memoir *Chronicles*, “...(He) was a raging storyteller who did riffs on all kinds of things from supermarkets to bombs and the crucifixion. He did raps on characters like Gandhi and Julius Caesar... Buckley had a magical way of speaking. Everybody, including me, was influenced by him in one way or another.”

~

Jake Broder has worked extensively in theater, television and feature films. He explored the dark side of genius as Mozart in Broadway’s *Amadeus*, played London’s famed West End in *When Harry Met Sally* and appeared in Kevin Spacey’s *Beyond the Sea*. His television credits include the *How I Met Your Mother* and *Keen Eddie* and also include *Line of Beauty* and *Trigger Happy TV* for the BBC. Also an accomplished scribbler, Jake wrote and starred in the feature film *The Barn*, which won the 2004 British Independent Film Award. Jake’s award-winning show *His Royal Hipness Lord Buckley in the Zam Zam Room* earned great critical acclaim in New York and London and sold out its run in both cities. Jake’s current projects include the Los Angeles performance of *Buckley* and a feature screenplay, *Diz For Prez*, based on the true story of Dizzy Gillespie’s bid for the presidency in 1964.

John Keefe has appeared on TV for guest spots on *The Practice* and *The Inside*; on film as the lead role in two new *Return of the Living Dead* movies and as a supporting role in *Proof* (2005) and *White Air* (2006); and on stage most recently at the Boston Court Theater (Pasadena), and the New 42nd Street Theaters (NYC).

Contacts:

Producer: Steven Klein
Firefly Theater
www.fireflyinc.com
(323) 309-6556

Jake Broder: Marc Manus
Literary Manager
Manus Entertainment
(310) 720-0672

Lovett Management
Theatrical Management
(310) 451-2536

Ryan Feves (Bass) was born and raised in Pendleton, Oregon. He began playing the violin when he was 3 years old, but later switched to upright and electric bass. It was in Portland, Oregon, during its era of jazz luminaries Red Mitchell, Leroy Vinnegar, and Andrew Hill, that Ryan first discovered Jazz and improvisational music. In 1995 Ryan moved to Los Angeles to attend California Institute of the Arts and studying jazz bass performance under the direction of Charlie Haden. Since Graduating from CalArts in 2000 with a B.F.A. in music performance, Ryan has performed extensively throughout North America and Europe while remaining in high demand for his work as a producer, musician, educator, and music engineering and technology consultant. Some of his most recent work includes a four week U.S. tour with Joe Firstman, performances on upcoming albums by Eleni Mandell and Money Mark, as well as appearances in the house band on the NBC late night program *Last Call with Carson Daly*.

Derek Yellin (Piano) is pleased to be the pianist for *Lord Buckley in Los Angeles*, and you'll find him playing piano elsewhere well into the future.

Mark Sanfilippo (Drums) began playing the drums and studying privately at the age of twelve. Soon thereafter, he began forming and playing in small rock bands. At San Gabriel High School, he was a member of the marching band, while also studying orchestral percussion and earning a place in the Los Angeles Junior Philharmonic. Mark earned numerous scholarships to attend UCLA's Jazz Studies program, including the prestigious Gluck Fellows Scholarship, and he graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2000. Mark has studied with an impressive array of master musicians, including drummers Billy Higgins and Sherman Ferguson, cornetist Bobby Bradford, arranger/composers Dirk Fischer and Gerald Wilson, guitarists Kenny Burrell and Anthony Wilson, saxophonist Harold Land, bassist Roberto Miguel Miranda, and Malian multi-instrumentalist/composer Cheick Tidiane Seck. Mark began playing professional at the age of fourteen, and in 1996 became one of the original members of the Goliard Trio. Out of an already extensive list of musical engagements, Mark's highlights include performing in the Duke Ellington Centennial Celebration at UCLA's Royce Hall, with guest conductor Lalo Schiffrin and featuring jazz great Herbie Hancock on piano.

Steven Klein (Producer) is an often-appearing actor and producer at the Black Dahlia Theatre, where his credits include *Orson's Shadow*, *Ragged Time*, *Belfast Blues*, *Nocturne*, *An Infinite Ache*, *Farewell, Miss Cotton*, and the now-running *Huck & Holden*. In total, his LA theatre work has earned over a dozen Garland, LA Drama Critics Circle, LA Weekly, Ticketholder, and Maddy Awards, along with mention in numerous critic's "best of" lists, and his non-LA work has included productions in Belfast, London, and leading US theatres. Wanting to make films with the same level of interaction across disciplines as theatre, Steven co-founded a film collective with Bruce Cohen, Academy Award-winning producer of *American Beauty*. This group of filmmakers collaboratively made over 35 shorts from 2001 - 2005. With numerous film projects growing from these and his theatre work, Steven Klein founded Firefly Films, upon which more can be found at www.fireflyinc.com. Steven most recently acted in, executive produced, and produced *Pizza Time*, a spec action-comedy television pilot executive produced by Todd Holland, and acted in and produced *The Grand Design*, a 16mm short film co-directed by and starring Eric Stoltz.

The Firefly Theater was founded in 1996, with productions including acclaimed shows at Yale, in New Haven, and in Los Angeles (*Measure for Measure*, *The Unseen Hand*, *Bobby Gould in Hell*), where the company moved in 1998. Firefly's founder, Steven Klein, is now producing theater in LA primarily as Staff Producer at the Black Dahlia Theatre (Matt Shakman, Artistic Director). See www.fireflyinc.com for information on the mission integration of Firefly Theater and Firefly Films.

THEATER REVIEW

This righteous hipster doesn't miss a beat, man

By DAVID C. NICHOLS
Special to The Times

"Dig infinity!" proclaimed the late, great Lord Buckley. He would be 100 this year, and "Lord Buckley in Los Angeles" at M Bar is one far-out centenary gift. The iconic hip messiah riffs his way into the pounce of the now through this tight set by divine swinger Jake Broder.

Born in Tuolumne in 1906, former lumberjack Richard Myrle Buckley rattled '50s counterculture much as Elvis shook up pop culture, albeit from underground. With a mix of British posh and Dizzy Gillespie rasp, Buckley's persona, lingo and watershed records influenced countless artists, starting with Lenny Bruce and Bob Dylan, and presaged modern rap.

Broder, immaculately decked out, nails this prophet of "hipse-mantic," even without the pith helmet and waxed mustache. Aided by groovy side cat John Keefe and a solid sent band — pianist Derek Yellin, bassist Ryan Feves and drummer Mark Sanfelippo — the gimlet-eyed Broder



STEVEN KLEIN

NAILING IT: Jake Broder channels Lord Buckley, who influenced artists including Lenny Bruce and Bob Dylan.

lays down His Royal Hipness with breathtaking results.

Take his "H-bomb" ditty, which here folds current entities into its Cold War curlicues. Jazzed by "hip news" breaks and beatnik takes on Dickens and Browning, we are stunned when acute comment communes with

our subconscious.

The reconstituted Gettysburg Address, featuring an American flag and Keefe as "Lanky Linc," is a righteous ride. And the deathless accounts of Gandhi ("The Hip Gan") and Jesus ("The Nazz") fly sky high.

Broder's scatting runs and

'Lord Buckley in Los Angeles'

Where: M Bar, 1253 N. Vine St., Hollywood

When: 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4; 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17

Ends: Nov. 17

Price: \$15 plus dinner (\$10 minimum)

Contact: (323) 856-0036

Running time: 1 hour, 55 minutes

sax licks testify to his bebop bona fides. Viewers brought down by a white man affecting Southern black patois might recall that Buckley juiced up with the legends he invokes, a stompin' believer in the human family.

Attuned to the plush supper club venue, this crazy daddy-o and his ace cronies come on like Vesuvius reaching for Pompeii. They totally connect, and it is the coolest act in town.

Best Events Column, 2006

FRIDAY, October 6

Like Tiny Tim and Andy Kaufman, Lord Buckley was a comic oddball impossible to categorize. One of his more famous talents was the retelling of Bible stories, Shakespeare soliloquies and modern poetry in his own brand of hipster slang. Though few people remember Buckley, young Jake Broder has brought the "jazz shaman" to life with his much-acclaimed one-man performance, *Lord Buckley in Los Angeles: An Evening With His Royal Hipness*, a show the publicist rightly brags has been honored by both *The New York Times* and *High Times*. *M Bar*, 1253 N. Vine St., *Hollywood*, Fri., Oct. 6, 8 p.m.; also Sun., Oct. 15; Sat., Oct. 28; Sat., Nov. 4; Fri., Nov. 17, \$15, plus \$10 food minimum. (323) 856-0036.



Praise the Lord. See Friday.

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