

Buckethead rocks the Orange Peel in Asheville

by Zack Harding
Staff Writer

The giant, mask-wearing, KFC-bucket topped, guitar wielding, virtuoso Buckethead played at the Orangepeel in Asheville on Sunday, Oct. 23, and it was awe-inspiring.

The crowd gathered outside of the venue was a diverse one, featuring patrons from age 18 to well beyond 40, an eclectic crowd for a definitely eclectic musician. Buckethead was accompanied by an insane, wacky drummer called Pinchface and bass player, Dan Monti, but occasionally Buckethead played along with some pre-recorded material.

The band came onstage around 10:00 p.m. It is a completely surreal experience when you first see Buckethead. He is roughly around 6' 6" and has hands that could engulf a basketball. You don't see a man; you see some kind of alien guitar god or something.

They opened with a powerful rendition of "Welcome to Buckethead Land", an appropriate tune to start with. Watching Buckethead's hands move about the fretboard is something spectacular. He seems to be connected to the guitar, rather than just playing it.

Most of the show featured some very loud and rocking material; if you don't like loud music, you wouldn't have liked this. The thing about Buckethead's songs though, is that they are



The weird guitar virtuoso Buckethead rocked the Orange Peel October 23
photo by Michael O'Shea

always inherently funky. You will find your head bobbing along to everything that he does.

Early on in the show the band played "Whitewash" off of Buckethead's album *Colma*. Whitewash is a laid back, soft spoken song that has some jazz influence. The crowd, which was rocking diligently one song earlier, was swaying back and

forth gently to the smooth sounds of this song.

Buckethead is extremely proficient in many different genres and, on top of his electric guitar playing, there was a lot of beautiful acoustic playing and even a little bit of a Doc Watson tune on a six string banjo. Buckethead teased many different songs, including "Pure

Imagination" from *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and the original *Star Wars* themes.

The Acoustic section featured some of Buckethead's best playing of the night. He played "For Mom" from *Colma*, and also played a version of "Wonderboy" by Tenacious D.

A lot of the show featured material from Buckethead's 1999 album *Monsters and Robots*. The Encore started off with a bit of Hendrix and then launched into an excellent jammed out version of Buckethead's "Nottingham Lace."

Of course what a lot of people know Buckethead for is his mastery of guitar "shredding." There was a lot of lead work to be heard, and it was done well, but never without a good sense of context to the song.

What puts Buckethead above all of the other guitar virtuosos out there is his masterful stage persona. As he is playing he will move like a robot and make the strangest gestures. His guitar strap can stretch and he would push his guitar away from him and continue playing with one hand. He would completely take his guitar off and play it in the air or rest it atop his foot and play. He also performed the robot dance a couple of times and used some nunchaku once.

The show was magnificent for musicians and non-musicians alike. Buckethead is somewhat weird, but definitely worth a listen if you get the chance.

New BC Art Exhibit

On Nov. 18, the Spiers Gallery begins showing a senior exhibition "Windows," a mixed media, sculpture and ceramics exhibition. It will feature works by Sara Cole, Mario Filotei, and Susan Kobesky.

The exhibit is open through December 14. An opening reception and "gallery talk" will take Nov. 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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