

SUPERTROUT

Not Just A Concert, But An Experience

The bus is ready. The “Experience” starts with the “Elvis” bus.

SuperTrout will soon pack up the band, the lights, the gear, and everything else needed for a spring tour and the upcoming summer festival schedule. For booking information, please email to swan31@efn.org.

To listen to Supertrout music examples and for more information, please visit <http://www.myspace.com/supertroutjams>.

From Canada to Argentina, Supertrout travels to every gig in Elvis Presley’s used touring bus, unless the concert is in Fiji or Hawaii, as was the case in late January 2009 when the band traveled to Maui for a popular tour.

.SuperTrout, known for creating a concert “Experience,” featuring musical spaces in which sound blends with light that combines with the audience to create a safe, inviting space, travels to every gig in Elvis Presley’s used touring bus.

Band leader, vocalist and rhythm guitarist John Swan (a.k.a Swani), purchased the 1959 GM Motor Coach 4104 on Ebay in 1999.

“I was told Elvis used it to get from Hollywood to Las Vegas during filming in the early sixties,” Swan said.

“Elvis gave the bus to a band he worked with during filming. The band broke up and later sold it to a truck brokerage in Eastern Oregon, where I found and bought it,” Swan said.

“The bus has no speedometer, no fuel gage, no tachometer, custom blue metallic paint on the outside with an interior of purple velvet. Every time the bus pulls up to a venue, a crowd gathers,” Swan said.

Initially conjured by John, SuperTrout is a Eugene, Ore.-based group of musicians that deliver the highest quality sound, visual, lyrical and ritual experience by combining psycho-acoustics with light.

“Nothing can raise your spirits more than a ritual event where the lighting and music and people and energy just builds into a magical place to eject us from the ordinary,” John says. “SuperTrout is not just the music, but the culture of a common environment, a safe place for enchantment and experimentation.”

Of course, everything first begins with the fish, a symbol of life, spiritual change and motion: Fish were considered sacred to the Greeks and Romans. The first Christians represented trinity by three fishes. The fish is also one of the eight sacred symbols of the Buddha.

The fish moves freely through water - a symbol of life which is honored in many cultures. Water is constantly flowing and the fish totem is an excellent teacher of transitions through life.

“We are all really connected to the land and the indigenous spirit of the fish, which is very important to the Pacific Northwest Native Americans, and leads us to the fertile grounds of the mystical SuperTrout,” John said.

Known as “Swani,” John first discovered his appreciation of unique spaces after meeting Ken Kesey and becoming a second generation Merry Prankster. Traveling throughout the United States and to Europe on Furthur II, the second generation bus based on Further, the bus used by Kesey during a cross-country trip detailed in Tom Wolfe's “The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test,” John learned a lot from Kesey about creating magical spaces during their long friendship.

In SuperTrout, John is the lead vocalist and plays lead/rhythm guitar, as he has for years in various bands, including the Magic Swan Band, The Dreamers, The High Rollers, The Revelators and The Thunder Machine Band, which toured with Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters during the performances of a musical play Kesey wrote about the millennium called “Twister: A Ritual Reality.”

John also owns Smartlites, a company that provides professional lighting event services. His experience with casting light during a wide variety of events and concerts enhanced in him the importance of combining light space with music.

SuperTrout enjoyed all the healthy trips in 2008, with the bus roaming the highways with the band ready for the next “Experience,” such as the Merry Prankster July 4th Party. when the band jammed with Bruce Hornsby, who happened to be in town for the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Ore.

Another cornerstone of SuperTrout, Joe “Spouse” Croce, plays a vintage Alembic Series One bass and assists with creating the necessary pscho-acoustic spaces. Joe moved to Eugene from the East Coast after years of generating sound based on quality tone and the technical aspects of refining instrumental output.

“The music and space of SuperTrout works on a sub-sonic level where there is more going on that’s sublime and impossible to explain, where some listeners can feel the sound and others can hear the sound,” Joe said. “We use technology to create music that’s inviting and doesn’t assault the listener.”

Living and playing music for years in upstate New York, Joe lived in Woodstock, moving from jam to jam, including some famous events at the “Cloud House” in New Palz. He moved for awhile deep in the Santa Cruz mountains and lived in Bodhi Pacific, a commune located at the highest peak.

Joe moved to Eugene to participate in the unique culture of the area, where creativity is multi-dimensional and defined by the environment as much as the participants.

Rich Sellars and Paul Biondi are now both “On The Bus.”

Born in Philadelphia, Paul Biondi was introduced to the saxophone when only eight years old by his older brother, a professional jazz drummer. Paul’s teacher and mentor was Robert “Boysie” Lowery, who taught and motivated musicians such as Clifford Brown and Ernie Watts. Paul also studied at the Berklee School of Music.

Known throughout the Pacific Northwest as a signature saxophone voice, as well as a stellar musician, Paul has backed such stars as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Mel Torme, Ella Fitzgerald, Barbra Streisand, Ray Charles, and Lena Horne.

Paul also toured for several years with Gladys Knight, Aretha Franklin, and Ike and Tina Turner, as well as Smokey Robinson.

In the summer of 1992, Paul visited Florence, Oregon and immediately fell in love with the strong sense of community evident throughout Oregon. Paul moved to Florence from Los Angeles in December 1998. Paul produced and/or played in benefit concerts to support such area non-profits as Concert By The Lake For The Relief Child Care Program, Relay for Life, and Blues for H.U.E.S. Paul has also participated in benefits for The Siuslaw Women's Center and Florence Food Share.

Since moving to Eugene in 2004, Paul, a member of both The Rainy Days Blues Society and The Willamette Jazz Society, has been playing music in a variety of bands.

Paul is also the founder of MEMA, the Musicians Emergency Medical Association, a non-profit organization that provides resources to musicians to help with medical emergencies.

Rich Sellars currently plays drums as well as provides percussion and vocals for the Floydian Slips. Rich also performed with Shelley James musicbox, Satin Love Orchestra, NRG, Palace, Isor Wallobee, and Reeotch and Tricky P.

Raised in traditional Scottish snare precision, Sellars exemplifies the solid fundamentals crucial to being an highly skilled musician by quickly adapting to a wide variety of musical styles, such as rock, pop, and rhythm and blues, while singing backup or lead vocals.

Sellers has honed his chops as a true old school, hard working musician typical of successful drummers in which the years of experience playing in such bands as NRG, Palace, and Isor Wallobee increased his range, solidified his tone and added to his abilities.

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