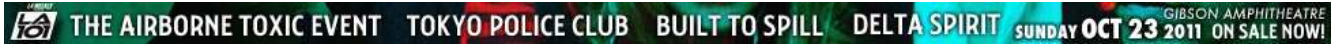


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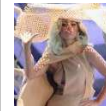
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By Jason Roche Wed., Sep. 14 2011 at 7:00 AM
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When it comes to our musical preferences, we pretend that we value artistic integrity, strong musicianship, and meaningful lyrics above all else. But in truth we often fall for a good gimmick. Whether it's a made-up backstory, bizarre characters for each band member, or strange inspirations for lyrics, it's easy to dig a good gimmick band.



Oderous Urungus of GWAR

And metal has perhaps more gimmicks than any other genre. In fact, some of the best and most unusual of these bands are coming through town in the coming months, including Alestorm, The Iron Maidens, Powerglove, Brujeria, and GWAR. The details of the shows are below.

But, the question remains: Who are the top ten gimmick bands? Read on.

Necrotic Apologues-The County Medical Ex



10. The County Medical Examiners

Gimmick: *Physicians-Turned-Goregrinders*

The story goes like this: Three doctors were purportedly so inspired by the medically-

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themed lyrics of early Carcass records that they decided to moonlight from their day jobs and record similar sounding gore-grind albums. In reality, they are probably just some dudes, but the idea that a 60-year old physician named Dr. Guy Radcliffe would suddenly decide to play on an album like 2007's *Olidious Operettas* is fun.



9. Fozzy

Gimmick: Obscure Band Ripped Off By Bigger, More Popular Bands

While this band led by ex-WWE performer Chris Jericho has evolved over the last decade into a solid hard rock outfit, their self-titled 2000 debut consisted mostly of covers. The band fronted an insanely hilarious (and completely made up) back story. Led by singer "Moongoose McQueen," they had signed a sketchy deal in the early 1980's with a Japanese record label, which then sold off the songs to other bands (such as Iron Maiden and Judas Priest), who went on to popularity while Fozzy toiled in obscurity until they were free from their contract.



8. Battlelore

Gimmick: Hobbit Metal

The work of J.R.R. Tolkien has inspired many heavy metal bands over the years, but Finnish folk-metal band Battlelore takes that inspiration to new levels. Over six albums -- most recently this year's *Doombound* -- every song in the band's career has been inspired by the Tolkien universe. You know these guys are for real, since they started along this path before the *Lord of the Rings* movies came out.

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