

# ROCKOn

MAGAZINE



INSIDE:

# VOLBEAT

CANDLEBOX

INTRODUCING

ACCESS

RENO • TAHOE

Ghost

AYRON JONES

March / April 2022 Issue 62



**VOLBEAT**  
Main Cover/Article



**Gina Adams**  
CEO/New Business



**Dave McCraw**  
CEO/Publisher



**Rob Williams / RKW Designs**  
Graphic Design/Layout

# ROCKOn MAGAZINE

**March / April 2022 Issue 62**

**CANDLEBOX (Kevin Martin)**! A very warm Thank You for your interview with Rock On Magazine. I enjoyed reading the final interview. You have come a long way, and I read you are still moving forward in a fantastic direction—much more success for you personally and Candlebox. - Gina Adams

**VOLBEAT!** A huge thank you for touring into Reno with Ghost. You guys rocked the house; everyone was on their feet, dancing, singing along, and having fun. I hope you come to town again soon. Your music is insane! Congratulation on your success. Thank you again for your time and interview with Rock On Magazine earlier last year. - Gina Adams

**GHOST**, what an amazing show here in Reno, NV. Thank you for playing so long; your fans are very cool, and so are your music and costumes.

**Hey Ayron!** Thanks again for interviewing with Rock On Magazine and your incredible show here in Reno, NV, with Shinedown. You guys sold out the place. Much more success to you and your band. - Gina Adams

**Rick Metz**, Hola! Your story is nothing short of remarkable. I'm happy you landed in Reno. See you around Reno/Tahoe performing soon.

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Jay Luster, Bill Kopp, Tony Contini

**VOLBEAT**

**Ghost**

**CANDLEBOX**

**AYRON JONES**

**RICK METZ**  
**"THE SAXMAN"**

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Tony Contini

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# ROCKON MAGAZINE



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We also have nine online digital platforms, including Rock On Magazine, with a potential reach of 130,000 a month, including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Gina Adams/CEO - Rock On Magazine  
949.337.0246 | gina@rockonmagazine.com

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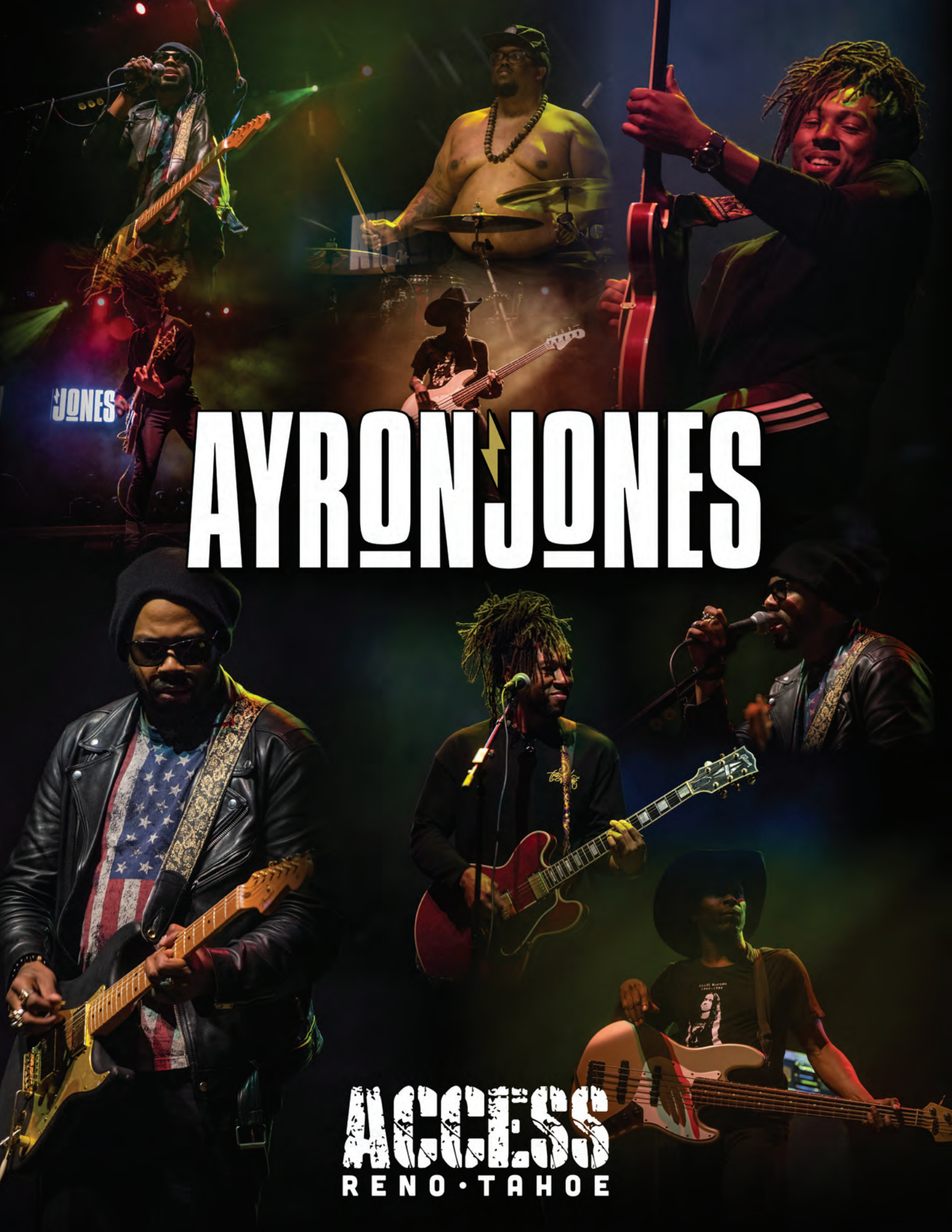
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# CANDLEBOX

## Simple Lessons:

**Candlebox learns from experience and builds on its successes**

by Bill Kopp

**In** the life of a rock band, ups and downs are inevitable. High expectations are often placed on a band when it scores a monster hit with its debut. And if subsequent albums don't measure up, both the business and the listening public can lose interest. Often, that spells the end for a group. But Candlebox endured those peaks and valleys, took some time off to grow up and improve, and returned stronger than ever. With a healthy second wind, the Seattle group has been on a creative winning streak that's entering its 15th year. Candlebox is currently touring in support of *Wolves*, its sixth album of new material. Candlebox came out of the Pacific Northwest in the early 1990s, a time when grunge rock was in its ascendancy. Bands like Green River and Alice in Chains were beginning to gain a foothold outside the region, and Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Soundgarden and others wouldn't be far behind. But Candlebox would stand somewhat apart from their Northwest compatriots; their sound wasn't as deeply rooted in the then-trendy grunge style.

"We were younger than the guys in Alice in Chains and Pearl Jam and Soundgarden," says Candlebox lead singer and founding member Kevin Martin. "We didn't grow up in that [musical] community." He says that from the band's start, Candlebox drew more influence from blues-based rock 'n' roll of groups like The Who, Aerosmith and Led Zeppelin. But Martin and his bandmates weren't isolated from alternative rock. He recalls his older sister turning him on to bands like The Clash and Blondie when he was all of six years old. "I grew up in San Antonio," he says. "There was a great punk movement going on there from 1978 all the way to about '86." When his family moved to Seattle in the mid '80s, Martin brought that background with him. And he was surprised by what he found. He says that the Seattle scene of that time "was so different. It was more inspired by the tuned-down, Black Sabbath dark side of rock 'n' roll." When he and three other musicians formed Candlebox in 1990, they followed a path that was informed by punk but with a firm foundation in the melodic side of things. "We didn't really connect with Seattle early on," he admits. Candlebox self-financed the recording of an EP, *The Red Demo Tape*.

"It cost us five grand," Martin recalls. And he believes that the comparatively raw recording is a true document of the band's sound at that point. "We were firing on all cylinders then," he says. In the space of a 12-hour "lock-in" session, the band cut eight songs, including vocal overdubs and mixing. "Two of the songs didn't even have finished lyrics," he notes. He completed the lyrics during that session.

Things took off quickly for Candlebox when the band was signed by Maverick Records, a brand-new label co-founded by Madonna. "We were the first band they signed," Martin says. It was a successful alliance. "They got lucky with us, and we with them," Martin observes. The runaway success of Candlebox's self-titled debut album in 1993 paved the way for Maverick to sign other up-and-coming artists like Alanis Morissette and The Deftones.

And Maverick took a hands-off approach to the music, allowing Candlebox to make music the way they wanted to. The 4X Platinum-selling album spawned two hit singles, "You" and "Far Behind." Music videos for those tracks plus "Change" were popular on MTV as well. Martin says that he was thrilled at the band's success, but admits that he saw it coming. "We knew that if the songs were given the chance and there was an opportunity for people to hear them, they would take us where we wanted to go: to have a career and be a touring band."

Winter 1993 represented a turning point for Candlebox. "We had already sold 250,000 records," Martin recalls.





“We came back to Seattle and sold out three nights at the Paramount.” With the creative winds at their backs – and three million copies of the debut sold – the band returned to the studio in 1995 to record a follow-up album. Released in October 1995, *Lucy* was a comparative commercial disappointment. The album explored different styles than its predecessor, and fans of the early hit singles weren’t as impressed. “By going the direction we did,” Martin allows, “we alienated a lot of the people who loved us for ‘Far Behind.’” But success is relative: *Lucy* would eventually go Platinum. “It only sold a million records,” Martin says with a chuckle.

In the wake of the second album’s modest showing, Maverick did what record companies often do: they assigned a producer to work with the band, one with a proven track record of delivering hits.





In this case it was Ron Nevison, best known for his work with both hard rockers (Michael Schenker, Ozzy Osbourne) and mainstream pop acts like Chicago. “We wanted Jeff Lynne or Roger Waters,” Martin says.

Martin acknowledges Nevison’s talents and skill, but in retrospect thinks his approach wasn’t right for Candlebox. “He had a history of taking rock bands and crossing them over into the pop world,” he says. “We were just not interested in that, so it was a bit of a battle.” The resulting album, *Happy Pills*, repeated a pattern, selling fewer copies than the record before it.

Maverick was going through changes at the top, and the members of Candlebox weren’t fans of the new management. “We broke up the band to get out of the contract,” Martin says. A key-man clause in the group’s contract meant that Martin was forced to remain with the label; he would produce demos under duress. “I was writing songs that I knew they wouldn’t accept,” he says with a laugh. In 2002 he finally gained his freedom from Maverick; the label ceased operations a few years thereafter. By 2006, the Maverick catalog was owned by Warner Brothers Records. When that label decided to compile a Candlebox best-of, the band members were inspired to reunite. “We got in touch and said, ‘Let’s go back on the road and support *The Best of Candlebox* and maybe make a new record,’” Martin recalls. They did just that, and 2008’s *Into the Sun* represented a return to form, a new beginning for the group.

Martin ascribes some of that record’s creative success to the time the members spent away from the group. “We had become better songwriters and better friends, getting to know each other,” he says. The creative streak has continued unabated since then. As solid as Candlebox’s early releases are, *Into the Sun* and 2012’s *Love Stories & Other Musings* showcase a band that sounds more comfortable in its collective skin.

*Disappearing in Airports* would follow in 2016. Candlebox’s most recent – and quite possibly best-ever – album, *Wolves*, was released in September 2021.



Working with producer Dean Dichoso, the band adopted a live-in-the-studio approach that effectively captures the power, energy and passion of the band. "It feels the aggression, it feels the sadness, it feels the tension," Martin says, explaining that the group took its time to write and refine the songs before going into the studio.

Future plans call for more touring in support of *Wolves*, and then sessions for a follow-up record to commence in late '22. And next year will mark the 30th anniversary of Candlebox's smash debut. "We'll probably do something special for that," Martin teases. "Making records is fun, but it's really about getting out there and playing those songs." And with the 1990s receding into the distant past, whatever tenuous connections Candlebox might have had with the grunge movement are largely forgotten now: the band is measured on its own terms. And Martin says that opposed to groups that are built around one prominent member, his band has a different character. "I think people love us because of the whole," he suggests. "They don't know us as individuals. The majority of people know and love us because of the songs. That's why we're still here. And we still write some pretty great music."

**Candlebox will be appearing at Harrahs South Shore Showroom  
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Gina Adams - CEO/Managing Editor - Rock On Magazine





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# ROCKOn MAGAZINE

## VOLBEAT

& Ghost

By Tony Contini

Danish rockers Volbeat and the almighty Ghost from Sweden debuted their co-headlining arena tour in Reno, Nevada at the Reno Events Center. Both bands played huge sets and premiered new songs for the biggest little city.

Openers Twin Temple started to wake the crowd up and set the stage for two huge rock acts.

Volbeat's frontman and guitarist Michael Poulsen puts on quite the show. After a few driving tunes, an acoustic guitar and stand came out. Poulsen dipped into his best Elvis impersonation. Poulsen ripped into a cover of Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire", still hanging on to a touch of the Presley influence. It slowly transformed into their song "Sad Man's Tongue" off their sophomore record *Rock the Rebel/Metal the Devil* which references Cash a couple times.

Going through the concert photographs later, I saw his in-ear microphone had a little image of The King on it.

Lead guitarist Rob Caggiano, formerly of Anthrax, had a contagious smile and his guitar work held attention. You can tell he loved every minute of it.

ACCESS  
RENO • TAHOE

Volbeat plays an approachable type of harder rock that unites all ages of fans. It seemed like everyone in attendance was singing along to "Last Day Under the Sun", with a chorus catchier than the omicron variant.

During "Wait a Minute My Girl" two gentlemen that could've passed as ZZ Top, came out for a saxophone and piano interlude. I think they came out from the floor.

Volbeat played a live premiere of "The Devil Rages On" for Reno's virgin ears.

"So you like the devil's stuff, huh?" Poulsen said.

A great segue to occult-prog-arena-black-metal-Grammy-winning group Ghost.

Just like Ghost, Volbeat is a hybrid, a cocktail of sound and inspirations. Throughout the 16 song set they played Metallica-like tunes, chugging on low strings, but Volbeat sounds best when they introduce the rockabilly vibe. When I looked behind me and saw a sweet elderly couple swing-dancing, I realized why my mom, who's normally not a metal head, is such a big fan.

Volbeat played six songs off their eighth and newest release *Servant of the Mind* (which dropped December of 2021), including three singles; "Wait a Minute My Girl", "Shotgun Blues", and another live premiere of "Becoming". They also played a few lighter tracks from their previous album *Rewind, Replay, Rebound*.

When he's not revving up the crowd, Poulsen also produces Volbeat's albums alongside Jacob Hansen. Outside of work with Volbeat on live and studio releases, Hansen has worked with The Black Dahlia Murder, Anvil, and Dutch metal pioneers Pestilence.



Co-headlining situations can be a little odd. The first band acts like the closer too. After a big ole set Volbeat played their final number "Thank you, Reno" where they walked around exchanging hands in the air, guitar picks and drum parts for cheers.

Usually, between bands, the house lights come on and some high-energy rock music follows to keep the crowd's energy peaked... that's not the way Ghost works. Instead, there was some sort of ambient, one-note Gregorian chant for a sobering amount of time. If Ghost were adored any less, the crowd would've turned on the show. But they knew what was in store.

Ghost didn't just play a huge set, 19 songs spanning their entire career (including "Ritual" and "Satan Prayer" from their debut black metal album *Opus Eponymous*). They also came bearing gifts after the two year gap since they've rocked the Reno Events Center.

Ghost performed their new singles "Call Me Little Sunshine" and "Hunter's Moon", their slamming cover of Metallica's "Enter Sandman", and the world premiere of unreleased track "Kaisarion" from their forthcoming album *Impera*.

The gifts weren't merely sonic, there were also visual treats. Ghost revealed the new Nameless Ghoul look (each member of the band wears face-concealing masks) and lead singer Tobias Forge unveiled the new Papa Emeritus IV character.

A majority of the setlist was pulled from their two most recent albums *Meliora* and *Prequelle*. They started the set with "Ashes" and "Rats", a creepy bubonic intro and radio single from *Prequelle*, an album steeped in references to The Black Plague of 14th century Europe, often comparing those times to the political and social landscape of present-day.



Though Ghost almost always deals with Satan and the darker side of life, their dips into pop and their conviction, sexual jokes, and showmanship always keep the mood light and exalted.

During downtime, Forge (Papa) has fantastic banter. He always finds a way to be hilarious, charming, and a little naughty.

They also highlighted their popular EP *Seven Inches of Satanic Panic* (what a name!) by playing both "Mary on a Cross" and "Kiss the Go-Goat", two extremely catchy tunes that continue Ghost down a path from genre to genre.

Ghost dips between devilish metal (with often uplifting and passionate messages) to a mix of pop and arena rock. They keep shifting, but the music is still honest, entertaining, and enthralling.

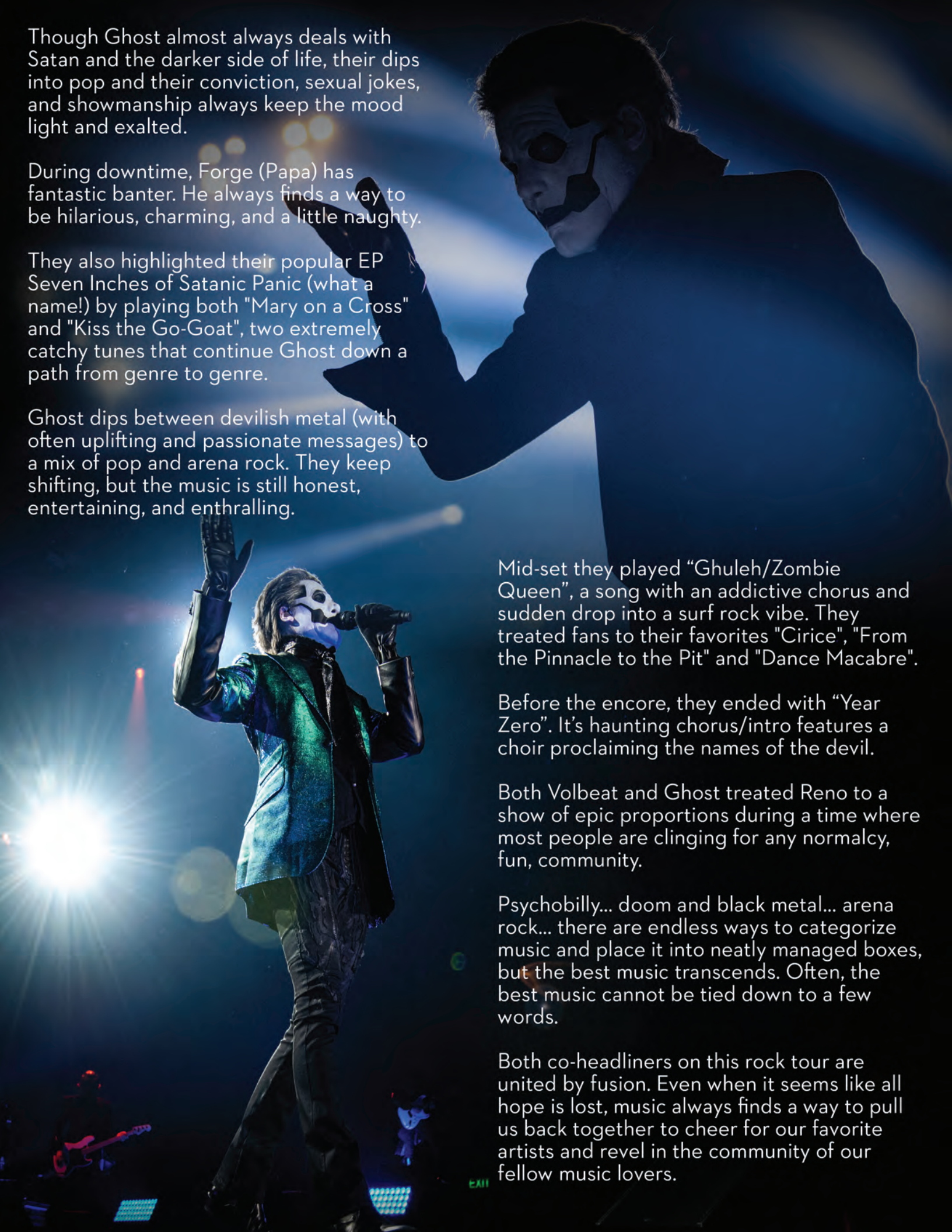
Mid-set they played "Ghuleh/Zombie Queen", a song with an addictive chorus and sudden drop into a surf rock vibe. They treated fans to their favorites "Cirice", "From the Pinnacle to the Pit" and "Dance Macabre".

Before the encore, they ended with "Year Zero". It's haunting chorus/intro features a choir proclaiming the names of the devil.

Both Volbeat and Ghost treated Reno to a show of epic proportions during a time where most people are clinging for any normalcy, fun, community.

Psychobilly... doom and black metal... arena rock... there are endless ways to categorize music and place it into neatly managed boxes, but the best music transcends. Often, the best music cannot be tied down to a few words.

Both co-headliners on this rock tour are united by fusion. Even when it seems like all hope is lost, music always finds a way to pull us back together to cheer for our favorite artists and revel in the community of our fellow music lovers.





# VOLBEAT



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# Ghost



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## **RICK METZ** **"THE SAXMAN"**



Rick Metz is first and foremost a saxophonist with extensive experience in the music business. Born in Brooklyn, NY and schooled in Albuquerque, NM, he's the "Road Warrior" of most groups, having played music in almost every state in the Union and most of Canada.

His extensive recording/performance credits include Mic Gillette (Tower Of Power/Cold Blood/Sons Of Champlin/Mic Gillette Band), Jimmy Z (Rod Stewart/Eurythmics), Sal Valentino (Beau Brummels/Stoneground), Sha Na Na, Chubby Checker, Otis Day & The Knights, Sam Butera/Keely Smith (Louie Prima), The Temptations, Barney Kessel, Ben E King, Tim Barnes (Stoneground), Bo Diddley, Louie Bellson, Ornette Coleman, Anthony Braxton, Steel Breeze, Harvey Mandel (Canned Heat), Al Hurricane, Larry Knechtel (Bread/Doors), (Jazz B3 legend) Jimmy Smith, (Leon "Pops" Hughes') Coasters, Sonny Geraci (The Outsiders/Climax), Little Richard and Little Anthony & The Imperials, while his many top-notch bands over the years have worked with many entertainment notables including Johnny Cash, -





- Tower Of Power, Taj Mahal, Eddie Money, David LaFlamme (It's A Beautiful Day), Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, Bob Marley's Wailers, David Allen Coe and Bad Company.

Rick has been a fixture in the area music scene since the first time he played here in 1985 and then moved to Reno in 1991. He's been involved with numerous bands/projects around the area as one the top requested Sax players in the area.

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---

Here is Rock On Magazines exclusive interview with Rick Metz, "The Saxman" for ACCESS Reno • Tahoe.

*RO: What got you into music?*

My parents! Even though they have no musical talents of their own, they're huge lovers of all styles of music and exposed me to many different genres at an early age.

*RO: If you didn't become a musician, what would you do now?*

I'd be a dancer. I have 2 cousins that danced on Broadway in the 50s-60s in all the major productions. My cousin, Florence Baum, met her first husband, Mel Brooks, when he spotted her in a chorus line in a Broadway musical. I'm also a HUGE fan of tap dancing, including the legends, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Sammy Davis Jr, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, the Nicholas Brothers, Gregory Hines, Sandman Sims, Ray Bolger, Savion Glover and many more.

*RO: What do you think is your best song and why?*

That's a totally subjective question without a clear answer! Every song I play is my "best" song at the moment I play it...

*RO: Which musician would you like to collaborate with and why?*

The two I would have loved to have collaborated with are now both deceased, but I would have loved to have performed with Frank Sinatra and Frank Zappa.

*RO: How did you get the title of your latest release, and what does it mean to you?*

I have no releases...it's on my bucket list, but has been financially unfeasible as of yet. I have had the pleasure of recording with many varied artists in a wide variety of genres on their projects.





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# FOREVER GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

## Eddie Van Halen

January 26, 1955 - October 6, 2020

Eddie was an American musician and songwriter. He was the main songwriter and guitarist of the American rock band Van Halen, which he co-founded in 1972 with his brother, drummer Alex Van Halen, bassist Mark Stone, and singer David Lee Roth. He is regarded as one of the all-time greatest guitar players in rock history and was well known for popularizing the tapping guitar solo technique, allowing rapid arpeggios to be played with two hands on the fretboard. He will be extremely missed by all who knew him.



## Dusty Hill

May 19, 1949 - July 28, 2021

Joe Michael "Dusty" Hill (May 19, 1949 - July 28, 2021) was an American musician who was the bassist of the rock band ZZ Top. He also sang lead and backing vocals, and played keyboards. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of ZZ Top in 2004. Hill played with the band for over 50 years.



## Kobe Bryant

August 23, 1978 - January 26, 2020

Kobe was an American professional basketball player. A shooting-guard, he spent his entire 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers in the National Basketball Association (NBA). Regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, Bryant won five NBA championships and was an 18-time All-Star, a 15-time member of the All-NBA Team, a 12-time member of the All-Defensive Team, the 2008 NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP), and a two-time NBA final MVP. Bryant also led the NBA in scoring twice and ranks fourth on the league's all-time regular-season scoring and all-time postseason scoring lists.



## Charlie Watts

June 2, 1941 - August 24, 2021

Charlie Watts was an English drummer, best known as one of the members of the famous and ageless rock 'n' roll band, the Rolling Stones. He started playing drums with several blues and rock bands in London before joining the Rolling Stones in 1963.



## Dustin Neil Diamond

January 7, 1977 - February 1, 2021

Dustin Neil Diamond was an American actor, director, stand-up comedian, musician, and occasional professional wrestler, best known for his role as Samuel "Screech" Powers throughout the *Saved by the Bell* franchise.



## Ned Beatty

July 6, 1937 - June 13, 2021

Ned Thomas Beatty was an American actor. He appeared in more than 160 films, including *Deliverance* (1972), *All the President's Men* (1976), *Network* (1976), *Superman* (1978), *Back to School* (1985), *Rudy* (1993), *Shooter* (2007), and *Toy Story 3* (2010).



## Christopher Plummer

December 13, 1929 - February 5, 2021

Christopher Plummer was a Canadian actor who acquired global recognition following his portrayal of Baron von Trapp in the superhit musical film *The Sound of Music*. In the later stage of his career, Plummer found more success, as his films became mainstream hits and received rave reviews. With an illustrious career spanning over five decades, Plummer won numerous awards, including an Oscar, several Tony awards, and a BAFTA award.



## John McAfee

September 18, 1945 - June 23, 2021

John McAfee was a British-American information security pioneer who founded the global computer security software company McAfee. A highly influential figure in the field of computer security, he was a world renowned expert on internet surveillance, global hacking scandals and threats, and personal privacy.



## Marvelous Marvin Hagler

May 23, 1954 - March 13, 2021

Marvelous Marvin Hagler was an American professional boxer and film actor who competed in boxing from 1973 to 1987.



## Jackie Mason

June 9, 1928 - July 24, 2021

Widely regarded as one of the greatest stand-up comedians of all time, Jackie Mason was known for his impeccable comic timing and political satire that left audiences awe-struck and amused.



## Neil Peart

September 12, 1952 - January 7, 2020

Neil Ellwood Peart was a Canadian musician, songwriter, and author, best known as the drummer and primary lyricist of the rock band Rush. Peart earned numerous awards for his musical performances, including an induction into the Modern Drummer Readers Poll Hall of Fame in 1983, making him the youngest person ever so honoured.



## Prince Philip

June 10, 1921 - April 9, 2021

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was the husband of Queen Elizabeth II. He was the oldest male member of the British royal family and the longest-serving consort of a reigning British monarch.



## Norm Macdonald

October 17, 1959 - September 14, 2021

Norman Gene Macdonald was a Canadian stand-up comedian, writer, and actor who was known for his deadpan style, subversive joke-telling, and archaic turns of phrase. Throughout his career, he appeared in numerous films and was a regular favorite comedian panelist of talk show hosts, with many considering him to be the ultimate late night comedy guest.



## Ed Asner

November 15, 1929 - August 29, 2021

Eddie Asner was an American actor and president of the Screen Actors Guild. He is best remembered for playing Lou Grant during the 1970s and early 1980s, on both *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and its spin-off series *Lou Grant*, making him one of the few television actors to portray the same character in both a comedy and a drama.





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