

Outrageous

Outrageous started in 1964 when the four original members were in junior high school. Outrageous features 60/70s rock-and-roll at its best with Motown soul thrown in.

During the 60s and 70s, Outrageous was known as Still Rain, a very well-known group at that time. Then and now, the group has a sound unlike any other group in Utah. They feature not only original rock-and-roll but the sounds of such groups as the Rolling Stones, the Beach Boys, The Rascals, Chicago, The Animals, Aretha Franklin, Righteous Brothers, the Temptations, Creedence Clearwater Revival, the Kingsmen, the Shondells, Roy Orbison, the Who and many, many other groups. Outrageous has opened for Three Dog Night, Tommy James and the Shondells, twice for Johnny Rivers, the Grassroots, Paul Revere and the Raiders, the Buckingham, Don McLean, Jan and Dean, the Mamas and the Papas, and Firefall, as well as many other famous rock acts over the last many years. The group was also featured for many years at Lagoon, a Utah amusement park well known for bringing in famous rock groups. Outrageous played for all of the NBA Playoffs from 1998 to present and was featured in a clip televised by TNT. Outrageous also played three times at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City (more than any other band). Not only is their music wonderful and very 60s, their show is fun and very professional. They have headlined many recent concerts with thousands of fans attending, most recently with American Idol Josh Gracin, with a crowd of ten thousand fans.

The members of the band are: Steve Kaufman, bass guitar and lead vocals; Stu Young, keyboard, trombone, and vocals; Warren Trulson, saxophone; Rachelle Stowell, lead vocals; Walt Gregory, lead guitar and vocal; Ron Nichols, drums, percussion, congas and blues harmonica; Scott Jensen, drums, percussion and congas; Andrew Nichols, drums and percussion; Ray Barrios, trumpet and flugelhorn. The band can play all types of music for almost any age group.

Next to the Rolling Stones, Outrageous has been together longer than almost any other rock-and-roll group from the 60s. The group has been featured in many rock-and-roll concerts and has played for almost every night club and in every concert hall in the State of Utah. The group has also played in other states throughout the Western United States.

Outrageous has unsurpassed vocals and an unreal horn section. The sound is akin to Aretha Franklin and Motown meet Chicago and the Rolling Stones. To hear Outrageous is to remember the 60s and all that great rock-and-roll music, but with a contemporary Motown flair with blues blended in. Outrageous is outrageous 60s rock-and-roll!



We've been playing the 60's since the 60's.

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Still Outrageous, after all these years

By LINDA EAST BRADY

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A lot of bands play '60s music. Few, however, have been playing '60s music since the decade itself. The Ogden/Salt Lake City outfit Outrageous has been going at it since 1964.

"We still perform the stuff we actually performed originally," says Steve Kaufman, Ogden lawyer by day and Outrageous frontman/bassist by night. "That is a big difference with what we have to offer. We're playing the same stuff, but better than back then."

"Back then" took place at Mount Ogden Junior High School when Kaufman, Ron Nichols (drums) and Stu Young (arranger/keyboards/trombone) joined forces with another to form Outrageous predecessor Still Rain.

"We'd leave phone numbers on the poster boards and kids would call and request the first five or six songs we knew," said Kaufman.

Besides the three originals, the band now also includes Rachelle Valdez (vocals), Ray Barrios (trumpet), Clint Frohm (trumpet), Warren Trulson (sax), Scott Jensen (drummer/percussionist), Andrew Nichols (son of Ron, also on percussion) and Mike Schoenfeld (guitar).

The lineup is fluid, depending on the stage size, but Kaufman notes, "We love horns. We wanted a big sound. We'll have everyone at



the Layton show, with that big stage."

Both worlds

The band kept at it, helping to pay the bills as some members went on to

higher learning. A fateful night came in 1973, when the guys were playing a club opposite the old Salt Palace. The big venue was booked by Three Dog Night. They came and played with Kaufman and company after their show, far

into the wee hours.

"Three Dog Night was literally the biggest rock band in the world then," said Kaufman. "The next day, we got a call from their management, offering a five-year contract to go on the

PREVIEW

● WHO: Outrageous
● WHEN: 8 p.m. Monday
● WHERE: Kenley Amphitheater, 403 N. Wasatch Drive, Layton
● TICKETS: Reserved, \$18/adults, \$15/ages 3-11 and seniors. Lawn, \$12/adults, \$10/ages 3-11 and seniors. Free/under age 3; no babes in arms. Available from Davis Arts Council, 546-8575.

road with them. At the same time, virtually, I got offered law school and Ron, the drummer, was completing a criminal science degree. He had to become a police officer in order not to be forced to pay back his scholarship money.

"I picked up a law degree and Ron did his police thing and the rest is history. We had the best of both worlds."

Big little time

When Lagoon had a large concert venue in the '60s and '70s, the band played several dates there, including opening for acts like Johnny Rivers, Jan and Dean, and Tommy James and the Shondells.

"If it was a big show, we opened for it," said Kaufman. All members of the band hold professional jobs as well as playing music. "We even have four lawyers in the band. Nobody doesn't pay us," Kaufman said, laughing.

"We call what we have achieved the big little time. In Utah, at least, most everybody knows us."



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Kenny Amphitheater 2006

Outrageous turns 50, plays on

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014 - 12:08 PM



Members of the Rock band "Outrageous" having been playing together for 50 years. (TIM GURRISTER/Standard-Examiner)

Tim Gurrister

OGDEN — Local rock group Outrageous turns 50 this year. Those early years started out innocently enough. Now it's all lawyers and insurance types in the band.

But in 1964 The Beatles had invaded, male hair was growing, cultural shocks coming, and Steve Kaufman, Ron Nichols and some of their 12- and 13-year-old Mount Ogden Middle School buddies started a rock band.

Lots of teens formed garage bands back then. So The Livin' End, as they first called themselves, tried something to set the band apart — a request line.

They put up a poster at school with a phone number and their song list. When a call came in, they'd just set the phone down and play.

"It worked," says Kaufman 50 years later.

"We got a lot of gigs that way, met a lot of girls."

Remarkably, irrepressibly, the band is still intact since those 1964 beginnings, membership subject to change while going through a slew of different names over the years.

The Livin' End became The Rogues, The Young Lads, then The Lads, Flesh, Ginger Blue, Rain, then Still Rain, and, finally, Outrageous.

During the tenure as Flesh, their Jim Morrison and the Doors incarnation, they got kicked out of Ben Lomond High school. More on that later.

When the band was Rain, they experimented by adding horns to the ensemble. Fans wondered if the name had changed, asking "Is it still Rain? Yes, they said.

But since 1985 the name "Outrageous" has stuck, and today describes a bunch of mostly 60-year-olds still playing their rock and roll.

"We played it then, we play it now," Kaufman says proudly, just short of pumping his fist in the air.

"We've been playing the same songs for 50 years, but never play them the same way twice," Nichols adds. "It's called improvisation."

Back in the day, while still in school at Ogden High, the band was earning \$600 per performance by the end of the 60s. "That was when minimum wage was \$1 an hour and gas was 25 cents a gallon," Nichols remembers. A regular job would have meant a pay cut.

Kaufman et al went on to play in a number of Western states, as far away as Washington, spent a summer at Lagoon as the opening act for some of the biggest names in the business, the Mamas and the Papas for one. That's when Lagoon was a major concert venue.

The list of names they opened for are well known to anyone over the age of 30.

The rest of you, if curious, can ask your parents: Jan and Dean, The Grass Roots, The Buckingham, The Monkees, Don McLean, Firefall, plus Tommy James and the Shondells. Still no word on what a Shondell is, say Kaufman and Nichols.

Memorable are the encounters with rock icons Johnny Rivers and Three Dog Night, the latter one of their favorite collections of stories.

"Steve has never hit the high notes he did with Chuck Negron that night," said Nichols of their session with Three Dog Night. "Their bass player's belt buckle scratched Steve's bass, which he still has."

They never did open for the supergroup. But they knew the band liked to visit a certain club, the Winery, after hours following their Salt Lake concerts.

So Still Rain landed a show date there. And waited.

"They locked the doors at The Winery," Kaufman recalled. "It was after hours and they told the patrons a special guest was coming and they could stay if they wanted. But the doors would be locked."

"We had equipment lined up for them and asked them to jam," Nichols said. "The crowd went wild. We got an hour and 20 minutes with them."

Three Dog Night was very supportive, even remembered them when Kaufman and Nichols and a few other members said hello in the 1990s at the Wendover casino that books re-united 1960s and 1970s groups.

But the band found contemporary icon Johnny Rivers a bit distant. "He never talked to us," Kaufman said. "We're not used to that."

They were set to open for Rivers at Lagoon, and Rivers' contract apparently required he be paid before he performed.

Lagoon found they couldn't do that, planning to cover his full fee out of the gate. So Rivers was not going to play. "I couldn't believe it," Kaufman said. "All our friends were there, ready to watch us play, and watch him play." So Kaufman et al somehow came up with the up-front \$7,500, later reimbursed by Lagoon.

The year the band spent as Flesh had its moments. "We just did Doors songs," Kaufman said.

Their lead singer at the time was a devotee of lead singer Jim Morrison, possibly more than he needed to be.

Shortly after Morrison's arrest at a Miami concert in 1969 on lewdness charges (charges posthumously pardoned a few years ago by the Florida governor), Kaufman's singer made the mistake of talking about the Miami incident, even mimicking it on stage at Ben Lomond High School.

"We were asked not to come back," said Kaufman. "I think we were banned from the entire Ogden School District for a while."

They never toyed in the drug scene, they say, but there was alcohol. "Early on when we played in clubs, sometimes we were paid in beer.," Kaufman said.

By 1974 the group actually had a record company contract offer, in the Still Rain days. But the contract gave most of the money to the record company, Three Dog Night's label, Kaufman and Nichols recall.

Plus band members at the time were entertaining better offers: falling in love, marriage and families.

Nichols and another near-50-year member, Scott Jensen, both percussionists, eventually joined Kaufman's now 35-year-old Ogden law firm. Kaufman is a former Utah State Bar president as well as bass player and vocalist.

The 8-member band today is a combination of working professionals and music diehards.

Stu Young, an Ogden insurance executive on trombone, guitar and vocals, has been a member 45 years. Ray Barrios, a Salt Lake lawyer, has played trumpet with the group since 1970, often joined by his father, the late Ray Sr., also on trumpet.

Guitarist Mike Schoenfeld, a professional photographer from Salt Lake, has been a member since 1980.

Lead singer Rachelle Valdez, Centerville, is a regional insurance administrator, joining the band 15 years ago, shortly after they played at her wedding.

Insurance broker and saxophone player Cy Schmidt, Salt Lake, is the newest member, with a year in. But his ties go back decades as his high school band teacher was the late Clint Frohm, who spent 40 years with the band.

They say sometimes it's hard to sort which, the band or the day job, is what they do "on the side."

The music is there when the day job doesn't satisfy, Schmidt said, or vice versa.

"It's a total distraction when you play," Barrios said. "You can't think of anything else."

"But we were smart enough not to give up our day jobs," said Jensen, while admitting he likes to claim the band paid for his house.

Mortgages do get paid off early, Young added during the general discussion on dual careers.

"The band was money to go to college," Barrios summed up.

They remain unconcerned they never hit the so-called big time.

"The thrill of playing before 10,000 people is enough," Nichols concluded. "And we did that."

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