

humor, news + nightlife

boston's weekly dig



[music]

STEPH PAYNES OF LEZ ZEPPELIN
MICHAEL BRODEUR

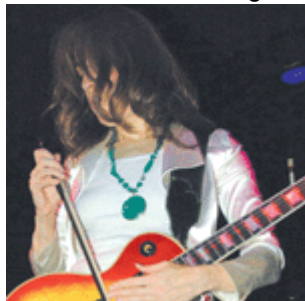
Led Zeppelin were OK. The main problem with them was that they weren't hot, potentially lesbian chicks. Consider that problem decisively solved by Lez Zeppelin, the sickest all-girl Zeppelin tribute act ever to moan that uncomfortable section of "Whole Lotta Love." I was granted a chance to chat with guitarist Steph Paynes (aka "the chick in the dragon suit") about the intricacies of their unique approach to Zeppelin's music.

SO ... ARE YOU ALL LESBIANS?

I don't remember.

YOU DON'T REMEMBER? WHEN DID YOU LOSE TRACK OF THAT?

About five minutes ago.



IS THERE SOMETHING UNIQUE THAT YOU BRING TO LED ZEPPELIN'S OUEVRE?

Estrogen. You'd be surprised at the amount of fury and passion that women can bring to traditionally male-based music.

ROBERT PLANT ALWAYS SOUNDED LIKE A CHICK TO ME.

Indeed. That's our theory. Led Zeppelin actually had a lot more estrogen than they're given credit for.

WHAT WAS THE MOST ORGANICALLY LESBIAN POINT OF LED ZEPPELIN'S CAREER?

From the moment they exploded into the world, *Led Zeppelin I*, song 1, first line: "In the days of my youth, I was told what it was to be a man"—this is their quintessential lesbian moment.

DO YOU DO ANYTHING TO REPLICATE ROBERT PLANT'S BULGE? THAT WAS AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF THEIR APPEAL.

We do have packages, but they're in the wrong places. Sometimes they're tightly bound, sometimes they fly free.

IS THAT WHY YOUR ONLINE GUESTBOOK IS SIGNED ENTIRELY BY DUDES?

Exactly. It just sticks to my theory that the feminization of Led Zeppelin was really sort of there all the time. I don't want to be accused of calling them gay or anything. I think they're well documented as being prolifically heterosexual.

WELL, EXCEPT FOR THAT NASTY MAKING-THE-GROUPIE-HAVE-SEX-WITH-A-MUDSHARK INCIDENT. DO YOU GUYS DO FUCKED-UP THINGS WITH

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MUDSHARKS?

No. Goldfish. On occasion. None of us fish. Besides, it was mostly members of Vanilla Fudge involved in that.

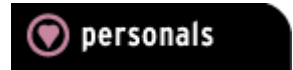
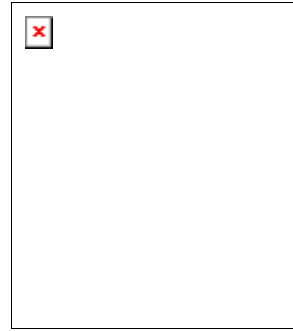
OH. SO WHAT'S YOUR GROUPIE SITUATION LIKE?

It's ... mounting.

HA! WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE SHOULD COME TO YOUR SHOW?

They will be catapulted into Led Zeppelin mania after seeing us. They won't want to talk about it after they leave. It will take them several days to feel like themselves again.

[Lez Zeppelin, with Sirsy, The Scam and The Vital Might. Saturday, 9.24.05 at the Middle East Downstairs. 480 Mass. Ave., Central Sq., Cambridge. 617.864.EAST. 8pm/18+/\$15. www.lezzeppelin.com, www.mideastclub.com] [MB]



funpants
"Most humbling moment:
"Being depantsed during
karaoke. Double
whammy, right?" "

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