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## Led Zeppelin is not playing Bonnaroo

&gt; Posted by Sean Piccoli at 7:18 PM

... at least not that anybody knows of yet, but the PR firm for a female LZ tribute band, called **Lez Zeppelin**, has amused itself putting out a press release headlined "CONFIRMED: ZEPPELIN TO APPEAR AT BONNAROO! (LEZ, that is...)"

The band's MySpace tagline: "All Girls, All Zeppelin." Text of the press release (from Michael J. Media) as follows:

After rumors following Led Zeppelin's reunion performance at London's O2 Arena in December that Led would headline the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, Bonnaroo promoters have finally confirmed that the 2008 Festival will, indeed, feature an historic performance by Zeppelin - Lez, that is -- the New York City-based, all-girl quartet that has gained international acclaim as one of the world's most exciting and talked about live acts.

Several major news organizations, who mistakenly reported that Led Zeppelin would headline the festival, scurried early this morning to correct the snafu. Said to embody with blazing accuracy the spirit, sound and swagger of the original, Lez Zeppelin is the first "tribute" act ever to be asked to appear at Bonnaroo. The group broke similar barriers last summer with appearances at England's Download Festival, the Voodoo Festival in New Orleans and two major German rock festivals, Rock-Im-Park and Rock-Am-Ring.

Described by SPIN magazine as "the most powerful all female band in rock history," and by Rolling Stone as "the next best thing," Lez Zeppelin formed in 2004 and since then has been touring consistently across the U.S. and Europe to rave reviews. The band recently released a self-titled debut album on Emanation Records / Redeye Distribution produced by the legendary Eddie Kramer, who worked on many of the original Led Zeppelin recordings as well as records by Jimi Hendrix, Kiss, AC/DC and the Beatles among others.

Channeling Robert Plant, Jimmy Page, John Paul Jones and John Bonham are: Sarah McLellan on vocals; Steph Paynes on electric and acoustic guitar and Theremin; Lisa Brigantino on bass, keyboards and mandolin; and Helen Destroy on drums. For skeptics who still dare to ask: can four women pull off the exuberant, powerful and musically intricate performances for which Led Zeppelin are known, a Lez Zeppelin show is nothing short of a revelation.

Or at least a good stopgap. It's worth noting how much torment the prospect of Led Zeppelin reunions has caused music journalists over the years. Here's an item from the *Sun-Sentinel* in July 1990, by one of my predecessors:

But before we all give up on the idea of one last massive speaker blowout at the Orange Bowl -- remember this: Zeppelin is coming. Forget The Beatles, this one's for real. Promoters know that a full-scale Led Zeppelin reunion (with Jason Bonham on drums) is the last sure thing that exists in the business. Count on it in 1991, though we aren't likely to hear any official word until Robert Plant completes his current U.S. tour.

Eerie, huh? As it turned out, Plant and Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page toured together, but not with original bassist John Paul Jones or Jason Bonham, son of late Zepp drummer John. The Page-Plant tour made it to Miami Arena in March 1995, and again in May 1998.

So I say this next thing advisedly: When I interviewed Rod Stewart a couple of weeks ago for a story about his recent concerts at Hard Rock Live, I asked him if he had attended the Dec. 10 Led Zeppelin reunion show in London (with Page, Plant, Jones and Jason Bonham). He hadn't, but Stewart said - and I'm paraphrasing, because my interview notes on this point are sketchy (I think I stopped writing at this moment), but my memory of the conversation is pretty good - that a Led Zeppelin tour was looking likely. That, at any rate, was his understanding of things. I don't know if this was Stewart just passing along British rock-royalty scuttlebutt, or if he's got impeccable sources. But I thought you should know.

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Piccoli joined the *Sun-Sentinel* as pop music writer in 1996. He previously worked in Washington, D.C., covering...

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