

Strange Days brings music of The Doors to the Playhouse Bowl

BY MARIA PERRY
For the Record Gazette

Strange Days' passion inspires them to keep the Doors alive in the memories of many both young and old.

Strange Days, a Doors tribute band, has been performing for four years and was formed and based in Los Angeles. It has been described as the ultimate Doors experience.

The original band members of the Doors were lead singer Jim Morrison, keyboardist Ray Manzarek, drummer John Densmore, and guitarist Robby Krieger.

Lead singer, Jason Tosta, guitarist, Robert Carsten, keyboardist, Michael Jacobson, and drummer Derek Smith, come from many different backgrounds and each discovered Strange Days differently.

According to strangedaystribute.com, Carsten had previously toured with the Doors of the 21st Century (also known as The 2000's) as FOH sound engineer from 2003 to 2007. He had also previously worked with Jacobson in another Doors tribute band for five years, after which he left to form Strange Days.

According to the same site, Jacobson has impersonated Manzarek for 12 years and has played in various jazz and original projects, according to the same site.

Tosta became the lead singer of the band after replying to a Craigslist



Strange Days, a tribute band to The Doors, will bring perform at Repplier Park on Thursday, Aug. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

advertisement asking for a singer for a Doors tribute band.

"Well, about four years ago, the key-

board player and the guitar player put out an ad on Craigslist looking for a temporary singer to keep them sharp while

their singer was out of town, and [I], being a giant Doors fan, I answered the ad and I was about the third or fourth guy," said Tosta.

Tosta added that the band wasn't thinking too much of letting him audition since they had some strange experiences with the other guys who auditioned. A few days later, they asked Tosta if he would like to join the band and he agreed.

Smith replaced Chris Lammers, their previous drummer, and is the newest addition to the band.

The band members may have different histories but they all have one thing in common: their love for the Doors.

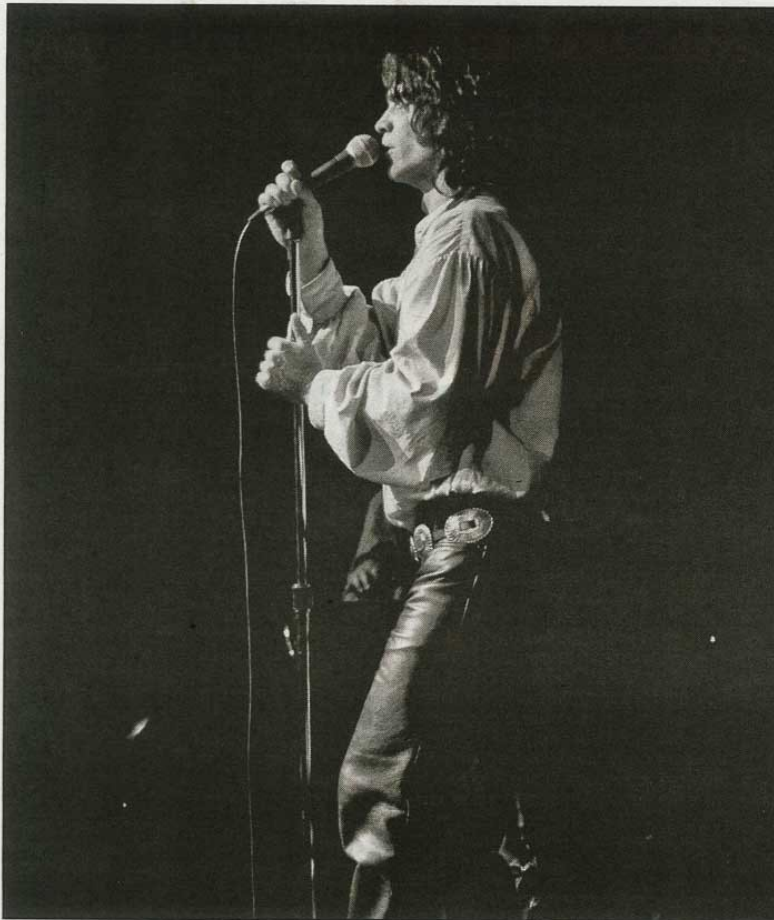
Most of the members had either been in other tribute bands for the Doors before joining Strange Days or diehard fans of the Doors.

"I've been a lifelong fan since I was eight years old. My mother had the LA Woman album and I stole it when I was eight years old. And I had the Mickey Mouse record player and I cut the little tethers on it so I could put a big record on there and I used to play L.A. Woman on it all the time," said Tosta. "I was a big, huge fan of the music before the Jim Morrison side of it and then watching all the Doors video footage, just was a giant fan of him too."

Strange Days is also inspired by their experiences with the band that they tribute.

Tosta said that they have even gotten

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Strange Days lead singer, Jason Tosta, channels Jim Morrison.

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(continued from page 6) to play with Krieger. It is rare for bands to perform with the band that tributes them.

"It's an amazing band and I think what inspires us the most is just trying to keep the Doors in the minds of [people]. Because it has been forty plus years since Jim Morrison died and we just want people to remember that that music is alive and it's not old and it's not uncool," said Tosta. "It's alive and it's

vibrant and we hope that through listening to us people will go out and buy Doors songs and get into the Doors, or remember back when they were young and they were listening to the Doors. That's what inspires us the most, I think."

Each member of the band has a favorite song of their own that they love to perform but Tosta said his favorites to perform are "Light my Fire" and "L.A. Woman."

You can see Tosta and Strange Days for yourself in the Banning Summer Concert Series at Repplier Park on Thursday, Aug. 21 at 7:30 p.m.