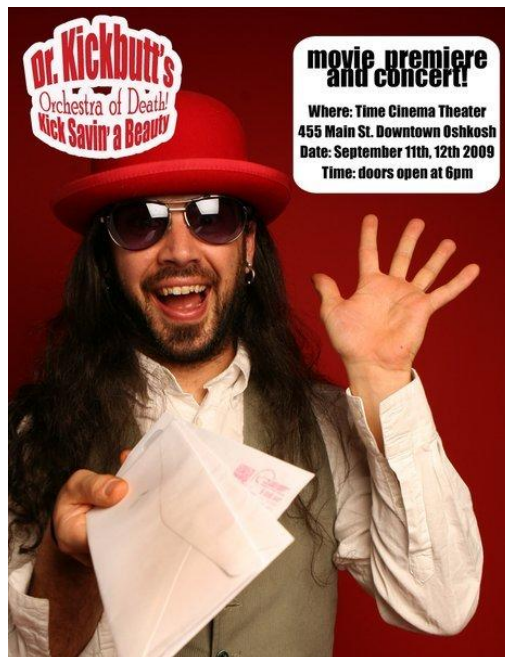


Dr. Kickbutt: The Movie



If your car stereo pumps the hardcore compositions of May Aufderheide, Zez Confrey, or Wilbur Sweatman and you've been kickin' out the ukulele jams Tiny Tim style, then you are familiar with the Oshkosh outfit Dr. Kickbutt's Orchestra of Death and their on-the-Ragtime revival.

Descending upon such venues as the Shawano Folk Festival and Oshkosh Farmer's Market, the band parlays a joyful filthy brand of polyrhythmic stomp representing that sweet spot of music between 1898 and 1912 which was ultimately supplanted by classy sophisticated jazz.

A nod to Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band" is mixed in with an homage to the typical Wisconsin suitor in "You Can't Keep a Good Drunk Down." Dr. Kickbutt, in red bowler and blazer, shouts out the vocals as his band keeps pace via cello, horns, washboard, cocktail drums, musical saw*, and the sort of organ your granny uses to play her Jesus songs.

The group is comprised of Jackie Greasehound, L. Foot, Lady Baltimore, Sister Phillis McGee, Country Road Freddie, Otis Miller, Camper, and Harry Stones. In dilapidated suits, shaggy beards, and bloodshot eyes, their style is reminiscent of bordello parlor players who, by fault of the grape, become Bowery Bums setting up kit outside the Salvation Army. Fully aware of their musical history, an unironic cover of "Sunny" Cunha's "Hula Girl" is interpreted in a New Orleans via New London, Wisconsin hoedown style. If you swear you heard the lyrics "fell in love with a chocolate dove," you are correct.

The Midwestern flair of the music is eloquently echoed in a little spontaneous scattling where the “ing” is clearly enunciated as Dr. Kickbutt asserts “We are cookING!” Mix that with some “Swanee River,” and the flavor of the orchestra emerges.

It is without reservation that *Scene* recommends the first Dr. Kickbutt cinematic celebration entitled *Kick Savin’ a Beauty*. This Beanpole Studios comedy will debut at the Time Community Theatre in Downtown Oshkosh September 11th and 12th. The show starts at 7pm and for a measly ten bucks viewers are treated to a rare piece of homespun filmmaking magic and a live musical performance by Dr. Kickbutt’s Orchestra of Death with other local acts. As you leave, you are presented with a complimentary copy of *Kick Savin’ a Beauty* so you may relive this night over and over again.

Written, directed, and produced by Leif Larson and Aaron Baer, the film promises to be an action-packed adventure about a lone man attempting to fulfill his musical odyssey in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

The official movie trailer “approved for all audiences by Some Guy From the North Woods” boasts acclaim from falsified critics who have previewed the masterpiece. One smitten writer crowed, “I didn’t even want to have to get up to go to the bathroom” while *Taco Magazine* lavished unadulterated praise, “This is the best comedy that’s been written in the 21st century. It’s spellbinding!”

An arresting composite of images forecasts a film that asks the quintessential questions about man and his place in the universe: Goons in catsup and mustard colored suits engage in gangland warfare, a taxidermy piranha bares its ominous teeth, laser guns are fired, gratuitous topless male nudity flashes across the screen, a vicious cream colored lap dog attacks the camera, and in perhaps the most sad and disturbing scene, a man eats what appears to be a microwave burrito while symbolic toilet shots create a unifying theme of consumption and decay.

Visit Dr. Kickbutt’s Orchestra of Death music page to view clips of live performances, check out their concert schedule, and enjoy a preview of *Kick Savin’ a Beauty*:
<http://www.myspace.com/drickbuttsorchestraofdeath>.

**Full disclosure: As a former saw player, all bands that feature the woeful moan of a functional tool bowed to create despairing music get a four star rating from this reviewer.*