



HEAVY LOAD

Directed by Jerry Rothwell
Produced by Al Morrow,
Jonny Persey and Jerry Rothwell

Winner of the Audience Award at BritDoc 2008

Heavy Load release their first UK single on
16th March 2009

Released on DVD 30th March 2009

“A Delightful
Odyssey”
EMPIRE

MAIL ON SUNDAY



“Funny and
Touching”
GUARDIAN



HEAVY LOAD is East Sussex’s answer to the Ramones, a punk outfit subject to the inflammatory mix of ego, fantasy, and desire that fuels any emerging band. They’re also, uniquely, made up of musicians, of whom three of the five members have learning disabilities, which makes the band’s survival a precarious negotiation between two different worlds: on the one hand the institutional timetable of day centres, work placements and social workers; on the other the chaotic slacker life of rehearsal rooms, studios and gigs.

Specialising in thrash covers of late 70’s punk – or punk versions of recent pop, Heavy Load is unlikely to have a top ten hit. ‘We like to take a classic song’ says guitarist Mick, ‘and crucify it’. Their cacophonous reinterpretation of Kylie’s *Can’t Get You Out Of My Head* possesses a frenzied anarchy that bears no resemblance to the disco original. Their howled version of the Troggs’ *Wild Thing* adds a psychotic menace that makes you forget that this was once a love song. On stage the band fizz with an energy that belies the expectations the world has of the ‘spaz’ or the ‘moron’ or the ‘idiot’. They survive through a combination of raucous energy, attitude and sheer volume.

Shot over two years, as their STAY UP LATE campaign begins to gain momentum, the film is a comedy of conflicting ambitions capturing the sweat and romance of playing in a band, as they move out of the ghetto of disability club nights to test whether their dreams can survive in the mainstream.

EXTRAS

Unseen Heavy Load songs: “Frank Butcher” and “Farty Animals”
Behind-the-Scenes
Audio Description
Theatrical Trailer
Photo Gallery

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Website: www.heavyloadthemovie.com

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**Heavy Load and director, Jerry Rothwell (*Deep Water*)
are available for interview.**

Heavy Load DVDs are available for competition.

For review copies, interview requests and competition opportunities please contact
Hannah Wilkinson on hannah.wilkinson@organic-marketing.co.uk or 0207 927 6591

Notes to the Editor:

Heavy Load are:



Simon Barker

On vocals, Simon Barker has a voice that's a cross between Johnny Rotten and Marvin Gaye. His best Heavy Load moment was when the band received a letter from Kylie but his biggest influence has always been George Michael, recently he wrote a tribute to George called, 'George Michael he's gay at the weekends... and in the week to.' A charismatic front man, Simon's number 1 fan is his girlfriend Nicole who loves everything about Heavy Load apart from the noise.



Jimmy Nichols

On rhythm guitar is Jimmy Nichols, the band's founder. Jimmy loves hanging out with the boys and enjoys all the gigs. When he's not on tour Jimmy can usually be found in the great outdoors. He's an enthusiastic walker and a keen gardener as well as a hardened rock 'n' roller.



Mick Williams

On lead guitar is Mick Williams with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Clash. His favourite Heavy Load song is 'We're all going to the USA' and he hopes that with a feature film coming out about the band next year the USA is exactly where he'll be headed. Mick's influences include Paul Weller and Suzi Quatro and his celebrity crushes are Kylie and Michelle Pfeiffer.



Michael White

On drums is Michael White, who first found a drum kit in a back room at his school when he was thirteen. Michael's main influences are his parents who encouraged his talent from an early age. If he had to choose only one song that he enjoys performing more than any others it would be Wipe Out which requires some serious drumming. In the future Michael would like to combine his career in Heavy Load with being a solo singer or maybe just be a solo singer.



Paul Richards

On bass is Paul Richards who joined Heavy Load when the original bass player – also called Paul broke his arm in a barstool related incident and he was drafted in as a temporary cover. Paul's biggest influences include The Pixies and Tom Waits and his favourite Heavy Load track is Farty Animals. Paul is looking forward to the bands first Wedding gig in 2008.

Stay Up Late



Heavy Load started the 'Stay Up Late' campaign after years of getting fed up with playing to half-empty halls because people with learning disabilities often have to leave early because their staff finish shifts at 10pm. The filming of the band really gave the momentum needed to kick off an energetic campaign.

The 'Stay Up Late' aims to make managers and support workers aware that people with learning disabilities want more control over how they structure their lives and to be consulted when staff draw up rotas which affect things like how late they can stay out at gigs and club nights.

'Stay Up Late' has been awarded £5,000 by the Lottery Fund, which it is using to put pressure on service providers and councils and raising awareness by producing leaflets, tee-shirts and posters, signing petitions and organising showcase events.

Heavy Load says:

We want to stay up late ... we want to have some fun!

For more information go to www.heavyload.org.uk

About Kaleidoscope Home Entertainment:

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