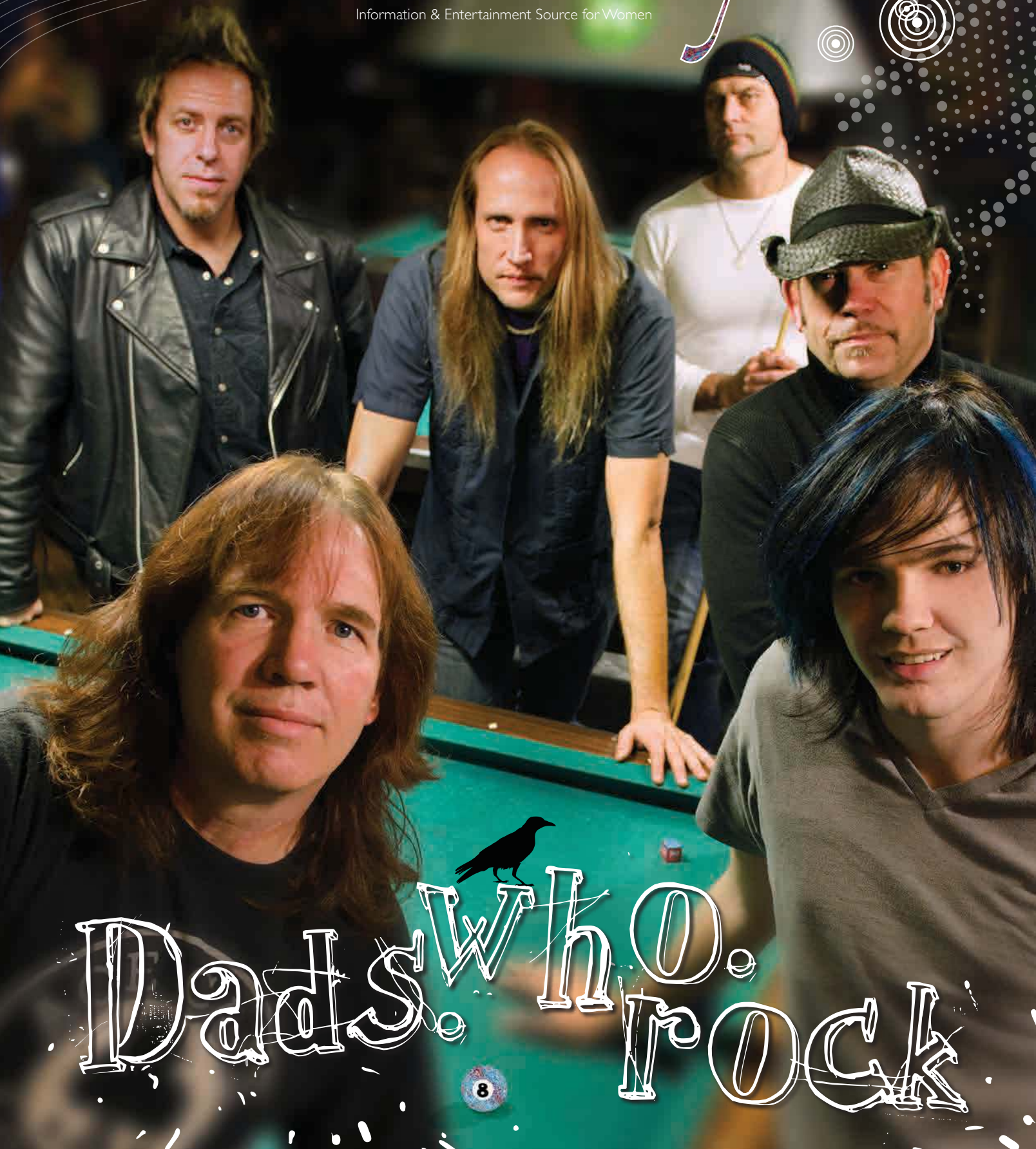


PORTLAND family

february 13

Information & Entertainment Source for Women



Dads Who Rock

© The Song (AND DESIRE TO ROCK)

Remains THE SAME



one of MY biggest regrets

is that I never saw Led Zeppelin live in concert. I was a tad too young during their heyday, and then drummer John Bonham tragically left us too soon. Zeppelin's music magic, both live and recorded, came to an abrupt halt for me at the tender, pre-concert-going age of 13.

As an adolescent whose phases of personal expression went in as many circles as the vinyl on my record player, music was the center of my teenage angst and longing. Countless hours were spent reading album sleeve liner notes, thumbing through 45s at Tower Records and of course listening to and getting lost in the music. Aside from my almighty favorite, Led Zeppelin, I'd also escape to records from Bon Jovi, Guns N' Roses, Van Halen and AC/DC.

Fast-forward 30 years. Here I am, a middle-aged (albeit youthful) woman with two kids; a single mother and former minivan driver, with emerging lines on my face, bills to pay and 15 pounds to lose. And I still wanna rock—perhaps even more so in an adult escapist sort of way. Luckily for us in Portland, we have access to some pretty amazing tribute bands.

Today's tribute bands are a far cry from the cheesy versions of a generation ago. Some I've recently seen honoring Led Zeppelin (Ramble On), AC/DC (Shoot to Thrill), and Bon Jovi (Steel Horse) really bring music, magic and excitement to the stage in a big way, along with the bonus of nostalgia. Going to see a tribute band is a night of guaranteed fun.

And as John Lennon so eloquently expressed, I'm not the only one. Hordes of soccer moms and sporting dads come out to feel the fire of their youth and absorb the sensation of a band they once worshipped, channeled through a group of guys who love to play and entertain.

The tribute bands these days are polished, professional, talented and excited to be in front of a crowd. It's obvious. Band members also get to relive a semblance of their youth, jam on stage, be creative, revel in the spotlight, take in the adoration of the crowd and set aside, if only for a brief time, the reality of daily life.

They are fathers, husbands and employees with wide-ranging occupations, doing the best they can to balance crazy-busy lives of day jobs and parenting responsibilities. The only difference is that instead of taking a cooking class or belonging to a book club to blow off steam or have personal time, they slip off to band practice and become Robert Plant or Angus Young for a couple of hours.

For music performers and audience members alike, there's a yearning for familiar touchstones of youth, of ourselves or of our lost identities. We search for remembrances of moments when we were free. There's hardly a more tangible way to recreate how we felt than to listen to music.

Portland Family is extremely pleased to present a snapshot of some of Portland's most talented and creative tribute band dads. (You'll even meet a father and son duo, Ted and Evan Berry, who play together in the AC/DC tribute band, Shoot To Thrill.) These men have immense musical talent, passion and ability to entertain. They're also committed fathers who work at a surprising variety of vocations while putting family first. Today, these guys are in a more mature place than they were in their reckless youth, and we'd like to pay tribute to them—for doing a rockin' job of keeping the dream alive, while being dedicated family men as well.



PHOTO: LEFT EYE IMAGES

MAURY, EVAN, TED, KEVIN, RICH AND JEFF

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING MUSIC?

BRYAN ♣ 38 years.
KEVIN ▼ 25 years.
JEFF ♥ 30 years.
MAURY ♣ More than 20 years.
RICH ♣ Since I was 16.

WHO ARE/WERE YOUR MAJOR MUSICAL INFLUENCES?

BRYAN ♣ Jon Lord of Deep Purple, Robert Johnson.
KEVIN ▼ John Bonham, Dan Pred, Stewart Copeland.
JEFF ♥ Iron Maiden, KISS.
MAURY ♣ Led Zeppelin, Rush, Jeff Beck, UFO, Aerosmith, AC/DC.
RICH ♣ Led Zeppelin, Police, Yes, Ween, Metallica, Iron Maiden.

i'd drive all night just to get back home

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE REWARDS AND DRAWBACKS OF PLAYING MUSIC BY FAMOUS BANDS?

BRYAN ♣ The best aspect of playing famous bands' music is that everyone already knows the music. The fan base is already there. The drawbacks are that everyone knows the music and it has to be played perfectly or most people will notice. In a tribute band, there is not a lot of room for creativity. Songs have to be played as the original artists played them.

KEVIN ▼ The crowd response is overwhelmingly awesome. Large groups of soccer moms eager to escape the trappings of mundane life come out in droves, singing along to every song and air-drumming every drum fill. They know all of the songs, buy merchandise and don't mind paying cover charges to hear songs they know and love.

JEFF ♥ It is a different mindset. It is more about stepping back and celebrating a particular artist with the audience. You are there playing the music, but it is about capturing a moment in time, triggering memories and having fun.

MAURY ♣ The best thing is you're performing music that has strong appeal. If AC/DC isn't in town or you can't afford to go see them, seeing a tribute (band) is the next best thing. Because the songs are so well known, you as the performer really have to try and pay tribute to the artist the best you can. I love learning each and every nuance.

If there's a drawback, it's that playing one artist over and over can make you desire to play other forms of music. But, most all of those involved in tribute (bands) have other musical outlets to allow that to happen.

RICH ♣ At best, it allows me to pay homage to bands that played a significant role in my life, and gives me a fun outlet for performing songs that are near and dear to my heart. The only drawback I can think of is that some people view tribute bands as nothing better than a novelty, and don't appreciate the hard work and skill that goes into crafting a band that truly pays tribute to a particular band or artist.

HOW DOES PLAYING IN A BAND IMPACT YOUR FAMILY LIFE, EITHER POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY?

BRYAN ♣ Playing and performing with other musicians provides me an escape from the day job, which can be extremely stressful. When I am playing, I don't think of anything else; it clears the mind and all the clutter that accumulates there throughout the day. It helps to give my life balance in both a spiritual and physical manner. A better-balanced Bryan gives my wife a better husband. Individual practice, band rehearsals, and performances all demand quite a bit of time, but my wife is very supportive and understands the importance of balancing my love of music and playing music with work and family.

KEVIN ▼ It's a tough juggling act for time — that's the most challenging. I love that my kids can see me following something I absolutely love to do, though. I'm hoping they take inspiration to pursue their passions, no matter what they are.

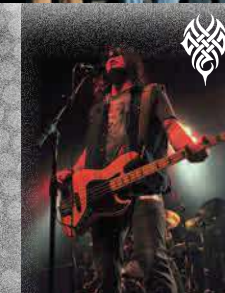
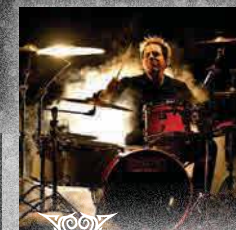
JEFF ♥ It really doesn't impact negatively at all, outside of a few schedule conflicts. That's like assuming that work has a negative impact on family life. It's just at a different time of day. Playing music, I think, is the best way to show your children that it is okay to follow your passion, to utilize what creativity is instilled in you and share it with people.

MAURY ♣ Music is a great equalizer. Few, if any, dislike it, and most cherish it. So, when performing, for that brief period of time, you're providing this outlet that is, at its heart, passion. The people that both play and watch live music have that common bond, and it's what has always made performing one of the most joyous things I do.

But, when you become a parent, your children are the most important thing, and therefore, living life with balance has to come with it. My youngest son is autistic and my eldest son is involved in sports, so those things come first. Many a night I've come home at 3 a.m. after playing to find my youngest up — a side-effect of the autism. So, that will sometimes see me not going to sleep after a gig, but staying up all night. And many a weekend has been spent at various baseball diamonds throughout the city watching my eldest, with my ears ringing from the gig the night before. The best thing about kids is they couldn't care less if you've been playing to a packed house the night before. What they want is a dad, not a musician.

RICH ♣ I think this depends on the particular spouse/partner you are paired with. In my case, I can say that playing in bands eventually had a negative impact on my family life as my former spouse saw it as a distraction from family life, whereas I saw it as an important form of personal expression and a way to connect with a larger community in this amazing city we live in.

STEEL HORSE



WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT PLAYING ROCK 'N' ROLL?

BRYAN ✨ The best thing is connecting with people without saying a word. The sounds we make individually come together and create a universal medium that can make huge audiences dance and sing in rhythm.

KEVIN ▼ It gives me a physical outlet to channel joy, anger, stress ... whatever's going on in my life on a given day.

JEFF ♥ I love it. Period. I really don't think there is a "most". Being a part of a great group of similar-minded people who have mutual respect for one another, the people who come to listen and watch and the overall vibe is what I love.

MAURY ✨ There is an energy on stage that is almost indescribable. That loud, raw, powerful roar of rock is something that will never die.

RICH ♥ It's visceral, challenging and fun! It's like sex, except maybe not quite as messy (sometimes!).

IF YOU COULD MEET ANYONE IN MUSIC, WHO WOULD IT BE?

BRYAN ✨ Hendrix — awesome talent and gifted writer. I'd love to hear some of his stories.

KEVIN ▼ There are a handful of music icons that seem like they'd be great to hang out with. The one drummer I always wanted to meet, but never did before he died of cancer, was Eric Carr, the drummer from KISS. He inspired me to become a drummer as a teenager, and he died before I ever had a chance to sit down with the guy over drinks.

JEFF ♥ Steve Harris and Nikki Sixx. They are both bass players, writers and businessmen. They know how to pull it all together and turn a dollar in a positive way. I missed meeting Steve Harris by a day last summer when I played at Rockfest in Cadott, Wisconsin with Dilana. We opened the festival for Buckcherry and Shinedown. Iron Maiden played a day or two later — a nice roster to be a part of, but I didn't get to meet Steve Harris.

MAURY ✨ Geddy Lee of Rush. As a musician, I've always been amazed at his ability as a bassist. As a baseball journalist, I'd like to meet him because of his love of baseball.

RICH ♥ Definitely Robert Plant, for fairly obvious reasons. He's the singer I've probably emulated the most in my life as a performer, and I have a great deal of respect for him not only as an artist, but as a person.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ABOUT GUYS IN BANDS?

KEVIN ▼ They're a bunch of lazy, irresponsible, untrustworthy drunks and addicts.

JEFF ♥ None. All of the stereotypes are true. (laughs)

MAURY ✨ That they're lazy, uneducated, irresponsible partiers. Most of those that have been performing for a considerable time are exactly the opposite.

RICH ♥ They're all obsessed with partying and chasing women.



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DOES BEING IN A BAND IMPACT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR WIFE/GIRLFRIEND?

BRYAN ✨ I think it strengthens our relationship. We each have our own individual hobbies and interests that we pursue. As we advance ourselves individually, we are healthier as a couple. I think we all have to be healthy individuals first to be a good partner to someone we love.

KEVIN ▼ My wife is unnaturally supportive and generous about sharing her life with music. Most of my married friends lost their families if they were as involved musically as I am, or they quit playing. My wife has paid dues for decades, playing second fiddle to my drums and music more times than I can count. I'm a very lucky husband.

JEFF ♥ It takes a secure person to be with anyone in any field where there is separation and public attention. Co-dependency doesn't work in this scenario at all. It seems that the relationships that do work out are the interdependent ones where both people have their own thing going on and they choose to mutually share their life with the other person. They create their relationship; their relationship doesn't create them.

MAURY ✨ My wife is a saint. She knows how much music means to me, and with the stresses of raising an autistic child, performing provides an outlet. That said, it takes special people to be involved in relationships with musicians. We're passionate about our craft, which means it often takes time away from the relationship.

RICH ♥ My growing interest in music came after I got married and the appreciation for that interest was not exactly mutual. When I enter any relationship from now on, it will be important that my partner respects and appreciates how important a part of my life performing is, for as long as I can, at least.

HOW DOES BEING IN A BAND AND PLAYING MUSIC INFLUENCE OR SHAPE YOUR IDENTITY?

BRYAN ✨ It has helped me to not take life so seriously.

KEVIN ▼ Most times, it IS my identity. I'm known more for being Kevvy Metal in communities than I am a dad, husband, Web designer, or youth counselor (past career). I haven't quite hit the point of being known as Tico outside of the tribute band scene yet, thank goodness.

JEFF ♥ Music has always been a part of my identity. I can't think of a time in my life when music wasn't part of my identity.

MAURY ✨ It makes me part of a great community of passionate people. When I was young I thought playing music would make me cooler, but at its essence, when you're performing, you're an entertainer. If you do that right, you're bringing a smile to people's faces. That's a nice thing to be associated with.

RICH ♥ I definitely identify myself at least in part as a musician. Though that is not the whole story of who I am, it's a very important part of me and one that I plan on continuing to develop.

WHAT DOES A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOMEONE IN A BAND AND A PARTNER/WIFE/SPOUSE REQUIRE?

BRYAN ✨ Trust, support and earplugs.

KEVIN ▼ Tolerance, patience, putting your ego in check, and plenty of independence.

JEFF ♥ See above.

MAURY ✨ Patience. That and balance. Being a musician is great, but if you're in a relationship and locked in your room practicing or rehearsing all the time, it's not really a relationship.

RICH ♥ I think it takes a mutual understanding that being in a band does mean a certain amount of time away from home, and that doesn't have to mean you have any less love or desire for your partner.

RAMMBIE ON



gotta find the
QUEEN of an
my dreams.

ARE THE TRAPPINGS/TEMPTATIONS/ OPPORTUNITIES DIFFERENT, BEING OLDER VS. YOUNGER AND IN A BAND?

KEVIN ▼ We're all human, and it's nice to be desired. That said, it's a great confidence booster to have someone interested, but to walk away and know that you have a great partner at home that knows who you really are.

JEFF ♥ With experience comes wisdom. Your ability to make good choices are shaped by past experiences.

MAURY ✨ It's completely different now. When you're younger, that "let's live the rock and roll lifestyle" is kind of your mantra. I don't need to chase girls anymore, as I have my wife. The hardest drug I'm tempted to take is Centrum Silver.

RICH ♥ I think for most of us older musicians, it means a bit less freedom to just do whatever you want or where the wind takes you. I have a serious job and a committed relationship with my daughter that I need to prioritize over other things, so I can't just drop everything and go on tour anytime I feel like it, for instance. Even scheduling local rehearsals and shows can be much more of a challenge than before I had a child.

WHAT WERE YOUR FIRST THOUGHTS WHEN YOU LEARNED YOU WERE GOING TO BE A **FATHER**?

BRYAN ✨ Excitement followed immediately by terror.

KEVIN ▼ I was a little nervous to know I'd have to share my life and attention, but I was ready and had kind of planned out the timeline to have touring behind me.

JEFF ♥ First thought: wow! Second thoughts: responsible, thankful and humbled.

MAURY ✨ Joy. Utter joy. We had planned both of our children and I wanted to be a father. It's the greatest experience of my life.

RICH ♥ In order: shock, fear and joy!

DOES BEING A FATHER PLAY INTO YOUR **MUSICAL** CREATIVITY?

KEVIN ▼ Absolutely.

JEFF ♥ Yes.

MAURY ✨ It does, but not in the tribute (band). Parenthood is a grounding, mellowing experience, and that has made me explore different styles of music that I hadn't, prior.

RICH ♥ Absolutely. My daughter gives me endless inspiration to create and express myself on stage.

WHAT ARE **SOME** OF THE GREATEST JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF PARENTHOOD?

KEVIN ▼ Watching your kids succeed (and fail, at times, knowing that they'll get back up). Sharing life's experiences with them, and guiding them through the rough times. I love traveling to new places with them, seeing their response to new environments.

JEFF ♥ I have two boys, Logan and Seth. Logan is now in the US Navy in Japan, soon to be in San Diego. Seth is a freshman in high school. I will never forget either of their births, and the feeling of gratitude that overwhelmed me. I am thankful to have the privilege of helping shape the lives of these two amazing boys. It is easy to let the responsibilities of life overwhelm what is important, and that to me is being a present father. I have coached both of them in Little League and made choices that have kept me closer to home. Sometimes being present means to press in and be totally engaged, while at other times it requires the discipline of parenting from the peripheral. Allowing children to make mistakes, though hard to watch sometimes, teaches them valuable life skills that ultimately make them "think" before they "do".

MAURY ✨ I would be lying if I said my youngest with autism has been a cakewalk. It is difficult in ways I could not imagine. But, I've also completely reevaluated what is truly important. He's taught me that the simplest of victories can sometimes be the largest. In that, I've become far happier for smaller things.

RICH ♥ Being present for your child when you have a lot of other things on your plate. This has been more of a challenge in the wake of my divorce. It's been a learning curve, to say the least!

DO YOU INCORPORATE YOUR **KIDS** INTO YOUR MUSIC LIFE?

KEVIN ▼ My oldest son is a great drummer; bound to kick my butt out of the drumming chair soon!

JEFF ♥ I try to let them do their own thing. They both love music, but neither has a dedicated musical instrument at this point.

MAURY ✨ My eldest son has been gifted with long fingers, so he's trying guitar. But, like every kid, he wants to give drums a try. Either way, having him involved in something I love makes for a great bonding experience.

RICH ♥ Maybe not as much as some (for example, the Shoot To Thrill tribute band), but I make sure my daughter knows about my life as a performer, and I share pics and video with her of shows I've done. We also sing a lot and listen to music together.

WHAT'S SOMETHING YOUR **CHILDREN** HAVE TAUGHT YOU?

KEVIN ▼ Patience. Still working on that lesson.

JEFF ♥ Children keep you in check. They are always watching.

MAURY ✨ To be a good parent, it means giving up one's sense of self. I don't see that as a bad thing, but rather something that helps you mature. What we think are important matters in terms of social stature all go away when your kid is just happy to play catch.

RICH ♥ My daughter has actually helped me rediscover the beauty and joy of current pop music, something I haven't appreciated as much since I was a kid myself through the late '70s and early '80s.

I truly believe that it's possible to be a musician and a great father at the same time, with the right kind of support at home. I've seen multiple examples of it within the Portland community of musicians, and I'm always striving to achieve a good balance as a father and a musician.

all you women who want a man of the street
 SHOOT TO THRILL



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family PlayTime



© Left Eye Images

father and son TED AND EVAN BERRY DON'T JUST PLAY IN TRIBUTE BANDS. THEY PLAY IN THE SAME TRIBUTE BAND, SHOOT TO THRILL, WHICH COVERS AC/DC SONGS. WE ASKED HOW THAT DYNAMIC FACTORS INTO THEIR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIVES.

DESCRIBE WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING ONSTAGE WITH EACH OTHER.

TED 🌸 It's something I never thought would happen. It makes me proud to have him up there with me. Growing up, he was a baseball player—I never knew he could sing until I caught him singing into a video game! From then on he was part of the band. It's been a great experience. I'm just glad to be there with him, it means a lot to me.

EVAN 🌸 It's awesome! It can be embarrassing at times, but there's nothing better than looking over and watching my dad rock out next to me onstage. I never thought I would sing in a band. He's very honest about how I sound and how I need to improve, and definitely deserves most of the credit for getting me to the level I am now. Not many people get to have this much fun playing music with their father.

DO YOUR PEERS THINK IT'S PRETTY COOL TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO JAM ONSTAGE WITH YOUR FATHER/SON?

TED 🌸 Sam our drummer always talks about it, how he wants to have his son play with him someday. Our bass player Jeff really likes it because he and Evan have become such good friends. People I've known for over 25 years in the music industry are amazed by it.

EVAN 🌸 I hear it from everyone! (laughs) Every gig, someone finds out that crazy guy jumping around and playing guitar is my dad, and they love it. I get to meet people my dad played music with before I was born and there's no shortage of stories—stuff he would NEVER tell me himself!

DOES YOUR ONSTAGE RELATIONSHIP CARRY OVER AT HOME?

TED 🌸 Pretty much the same onstage and off. We're able to communicate better because we are family. We don't need to hold back with each other. It can get tense, but that can happen with any band member. It comes with the job.

EVAN 🌸 We don't act any differently. I think that helps a lot, we're not afraid to say what's on our minds. He can be stubborn; he's one of the greatest guitar players I've ever seen, plus he's my dad on top of that, so we do tend to have some arguments over little stuff.

DO YOU HANG OUT TOGETHER AFTER A GIG?

TED 🌸 Yeah, we usually go to our bass player's (Jeff's) house to eat and hang out. We get to joke around and relax, go over what went well and what could have been better, and of course give each other a hard time. Then there's the ride home; we live in Welches. We usually go over the gig again and then turn the radio up. Sometimes when there's nothing on the radio, he'll just start singing at the top of his lungs to bug me. He's good at bugging me.

EVAN 🌸 It's one of my favorite parts, getting to hang out and joke around with these guys. We also go to other shows when our friends are playing—got to support local music!

HOW DO THE TYPICAL FATHER/SON ROLES CHANGE WHEN YOU'RE IN A BAND TOGETHER?

TED 🌸 It takes a backseat to giving a great performance. We're on more equal ground because we have to focus on getting better rather than being father and son. I still don't let him get away with anything and he still likes to give me a hard time, even onstage sometimes, but it's all part of the fun.

EVAN 🌸 I definitely feel more like I'm an equal. I mean, don't get me wrong, I'm still the young guy with the least experience and that plays a role in the band's decision-making. We talk about band issues all the time, and it definitely has become a big part of the relationship between us, but it doesn't get in the way of family events. Plus, he's my dad—nothing that happens in the band is going to change that.

WHO WINS WHEN THERE IS A MUSICAL DISAGREEMENT?

TED 🌸 I let Evan win most of the time. I want him to have a lot of say because this is just the beginning of his musical career and I want him to do well. I've been through it all, now it's his turn. Sometimes I get to win, though. (laughs)

EVAN 🌸 I'd say it goes both ways. My dad is a great guitar player with a great ear for music. We do have disagreements, but there's usually someone who is clearly right. Then again, there are times when there can't be a winner. He is my dad, so even when I'm wrong I have to make it seem like I'm right just to keep him on his toes!