



"You guys sound great, just like we did forty years ago."

- **Johnny Cash**, at a Belmont Playboys gig, Charlotte Motor Speedway, 1990

"When the Man in Black speaks like that, you best listen. And when **Little Richard** buttonholes you in the hallway of a New York City club just to tell you how much he likes your sound, you've gotta figure you're doing something right.

The Belmont Playboys come smoking out of Charlotte, North Carolina with twice-pipes and cheater slicks, leaving a trail of rabid fans behind them like Burma-Shave signs. Featuring Mike Hendrix on guitar and vocals, Mark Griffiths on bass, Chipps Baker on guitar, vocals, and sax, and Mark Painter on drums, the Belmont Playboys deliver the goods without confusing the issue with any kind of cornball retro bullshit."

-Chris Pfouts in International Tattoo Art magazine

The Belmont Playboys are probably the single hottest thing to come blazing out of the new punk/rockabilly scene. With chart success (nine weeks on the CMJ Top 200, peaking at #84), national radio play on over 200 stations (both college and commercial), strong national sales of their three independently-released CD's, and a large fan base on both the East and West coasts, the Playboys have established themselves as a powerful musical force poised for even greater future success. They have played almost every major rockabilly festival, including the mammoth Hemsby weekender on the North Sea coast of England, as well as festivals in the States in Pittsburgh, New Jersey/New York, Indianapolis, Atlanta, and New Orleans. Touring constantly, they have supported acts as diverse as **Carl Perkins, Little Richard, Wanda Jackson, the Scofflaws, Reo Speeddealer, Social Distortion, Southern Culture on the Skids, the Pietasters, Royal Crown Revue, Hepcat, and the Mavericks. Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, June Carter, Jessi Colter, and Robert Duvall** joined them onstage for an extended jam session at a private party thrown by actor **Tom Cruise**, who selected the Playboys after reviewing material submitted by over two hundred bands. Strong credentials indeed.

But this ain't your father's rockabilly band. The Belmont Playboys manage to rise far above the run-of-the-mill rockabilly traditionalists and Fifties-cover-band types with strong original material that fuses traditional rockabilly instrumentation (i.e., upright bass, bare-bones drum kit) with punk-era energy and intensity. Their sweat-drenched, over-the-top live shows are the stuff of legend everywhere they've appeared, and the more shows they do, the more their reputation as one of the country's top live acts grows.

**The Playboys have received enthusiastic reviews in literally hundreds of publications, from daily newspapers to Iron Horse magazine. Here's just a small sample of what they're saying:**

*THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1997*

**BELMONT PLAYBOYS**, Rodeo Bar, 375 Third Avenue at 27<sup>th</sup> Street, (212) 683-6500. The Belmont Playboys are rockabilly revivalists: slapping the bass, twanging the guitar, and recapturing the music's reckless good ol'-boy spirit. Music begins at 10P.M.; admission is free.

*JON PARELES*

**THE OCTOPUS ♦ FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1997**  
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

**The Belmont Playboys.** The real deal finally returns in all of their rough and rowdy, tattooed, hell raisin', bowlin' shirt wearin', pomade-smear'd pompadour sportin', authentic glory. Never a dull moment when the guys who were born too late refuse to let the calender drift past 1959. Don't be a "Potsie", Dig?  
Blind Pig (10p.m.)

creative loafing  
5♦10♦97 atlanta

**Belmont Playboys** – One of the hottest rockabilly acts in the South could almost call Atlanta their second home. Some of their recent performances in town have been simply incredible, and the crowd at the Star Bar can definitely dress for them. Relentless touring and constant refinement of their sound have made them one of the best you'll ever hear. authentic, original and entertaining - - a claim few rockabilly bands can make. (Star Bar, May 10) --  
*James Kelly*

creative loafing  
10♦25♦97 atlanta

**Belmont Playboys** – At the last Rockabilly Rumble the Playboys kicked off their incredible set with the theme from "King of the Hill". While that ain't rockabilly it shows that the band is as comfortable with contemporary tags as they with the old ones. They are one of the most powerful and energetic groups on the circuit and always put on a hell of a show. **Star Bar** (Kelly)

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER ♦♦♦ FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1996

## Into The Night

*By Kenneth Johnson*

**BELMONT PLAYBOYS** : Oh, yeah, break out the hair grease, white T-shirts and leather jackets. When it comes to hip-shaking rockabilly, this roots-drenched Charlotte outfit is as real as it gets. Led by the nimble fret work and excellent vocals of Mike Hendrix, the Playboys dish out more fun than Hugh Hefner in his glory days. The sound? Imagine the traditional take of Ronnie Dawson colliding with the grunge-abilly of the Rev. Horton Heat. Ouch, somebody call an ambulance. Saturday at the Double Door. (Note: This show will start late, at about 11 p.m. due to the filming beforehand of a scene at the Double Door for the made-for-TV murder mystery "No Recourse," currently shooting in the region.)

Columbus Ohio

## **GONZO WITH THE WIND**

The Belmont Playboys have a saying: "Live Fast, Never Die."

Gonzo rockabilly specialists from Charlotte, N.C., the Playboys have opened for folks such as Johnny Cash, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Waylon Jennings, Wanda Jackson, Webb Wilder, Ronnie Dawson and Social Distortion. Social Distortion?

*Hot Rod Heart* (Teen Rebel Records) takes rockabilly's obsessive cliches to their logical extreme, resulting in an atavistic kick in the pants. Fast cars, fast women. Alcohol and Link Wray rule the day on a pretty hot set.

The Belmont Playboys will perform Friday in Oldfield's on High, 2590 N. High St. Doors open at 9p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door, Call 657-1056.

From the **Alibi, Albuquerque NM** , Sept 99 – “The Belmont Playboys...put the ‘rock’ back in rockabilly...they blast through snappy roots numbers without a hint of smug, retro pretentiousness. What you see is what you get, which means a whole lotta supercharged punkabilly, the likes of which haven’t been around much since the early days of Horton Heat...Mike Hendrix is a gifted axe-slinger...one of the most powerful rhythm sections in rockabilly...some of the most refreshing punkabilly numbers to come along in quite a while...”

CREATIVE LOAFING/CLT / JULY 3, 1999 PAGE 54

## REVIEWS



### Belmont Playboys: **One Nite of Sin...Live!**

The sticker on the wrapper labeled the disc as the "definitive collection" of the Belmont Playboys and nothing could be more accurate. A few years back, the BP's, who are known for their loud and rowdy live shows, threw a party at one of their recording sessions in an effort on to capture the true spirit of their music. Well, this time around, they decided to take the recording studio to the party (at The Point in Atlanta) and the end result is 71 minutes of hard rockin' punkabilly. Most of the 24 tracks (yes, *twenty-four* tracks) featured on the disc are a compilation of the band's greatest hits, including set list staples like the raucous "Playboy Party," the swingin' "Darlene" and the erotic instrumental "Chaparral." There are a few numbers that were previously unavailable including "Northbound Train," "Evil" and the instrumental "Aardvark." Not a second is wasted either, with each fast and furious track averaging around three minutes. *One Nite* could be the most fun you'll ever have listening to a record. - *Lynn Farris*

## A few internet reviews...

THE BELMONT PLAYBOYS: Hot Rod Heart (Teen Rebel Records)

Third release from these guys. Previous two CD's were great, but this one is the best of their career so far!! Brilliant Rock'n'Roll / Rockabilly. Musically very strong, Mike Hendrix is an outstanding guitar player and his vocals are excellent too. Original tunes mostly, but there are a few clever covers as well, like Billy Lee Riley's "Troublebound", Lynn Pratt's "Eager Boy" or old jazz/swing number "Istanbul". Planet Rockers' Sonny George wrote "Have Wheels Gotta Roll" to them, and it's a great piece of Southern style Rock'n'Roll. This is the real deal, no lame ass shit here!

THE BELMONT PLAYBOYS: One Nite Of Sin...Live (Rich Buttery Goodness Records)

This band has been around quite a long time by now. They have released several CD's and now there is this live recording. OK, you know it, they can rock. And on this CD they prove it. Rock'n'roll, rockabilly, instrumentals, a bit of rhythm'n'blues and that's it!! Brilliant rock'n'roll record!!

### From the Memphis Flyer Online...

"What kind of music do they play?" a pretty blonde preppy wants to know before the band starts playing and, more importantly, before she pays the cover.

"Rock-a-what?" she asks again before eventually forking over the money.

Cordell Jackson ("Guitar Granny" from the Budweiser commercial) is here on this particular night, and there's a buzz around the room about whether or not she'll do some guitar slinging of her own before the night is over. She doesn't, but the band, the Belmont Playboys from Charlotte, North Carolina, dedicate a song called "Hillbilly Doll" to her. "They're the best band I know of in America playing this kind of music," Jackson says. And she should know, since the Playboys play her kind of music -- rockabilly.

### **WWW.SPARECHANGEMAGAZINE.COM**

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Show Review: Hepcat with the Belmont Playboys

The only thing I can say was wrong with this concert is that it was too early. I had to go there straight from work, as doors were at 6 pm, and I wasn't feeling quite as fabulous as I usually do. So I arrived, and while waiting for Lady K, had a beer. I felt a little better. Then the Belmont Playboys went onstage. Then I felt much better. The four piece rockabilly band from (okay I just brain farted - they're from a Carolina, but I can't remember which one, North or South. If anyone knows, please tell me. Maybe I'd had a few more beers than I thought before they went on). Anyway. Back to me gushing about how good they were. Wow. Um, wow. (And that upright bass player- double wow on the tattoos and the body underneath that wife-beater.) Do I need to say anymore? Seriously, the Belmont Playboys are worth the price of a ticket; even the price of a Hepcat ticket. Their set included a couple of older cover songs, but most of it was original, and it rocked. The Belmont Playboys are loud and fast, and slightly offensive, which I have to say is how I like my rockabilly bands. But due to the early show time and the fact that most of the audience were ska kids that were there to see Hepcat, they didn't get as good of a response as I would have liked them to. (The next night in Philadelphia they got

great crowd reactions.) Hepcat's set was equally as fun. So when the Hepcat tour comes through your town, scrounge up your SpareChange and head out for a thoroughly enjoyable night. *-tankgyrl*