

**Chequered Past**  
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 EMI/Capitol

review by Don Teplyske

Chequered Past is a band dedicated to the memory of the New York Dolls. The members of Chequered Past have their musical roots embedded in the bands begat by the 'Dolls in the early seventies: Guitarist Steve Jones is a former Sex Pistol; Nigel Harrison and Clem Burke were Blondie's rhythm section; Tony Fox Sales gigger alongside Iggy Pop for several years.

Despite the band members' histories, do not seek out Chequered Past expecting Pistols' anarchy or Blondie's dance rhythms — these guys play hard. Like the New York Dolls, they play hard rock the way it should be played, no blood, fire or satanic references — just honest, sweat-soaked rock 'n' roll.

The primal scream which opens "A World Gone Wild" sets the tone for the album — loud and abrasive with no apologies. "Never

in a Million Years" is among the more fast paced songs on the album, incorporating blistering solos from the dual lead guitars of Jone and Fox Sales.

One song on the album could easily be subtitled "Ode to the Dolls" — stylistically and lyrically the track "How Much is Too Much" captures much of the spirit possessed by the New York Dolls.

Other strong cuts include "Only the Strong (will Survive)" and "No Knife," in which singer Michael Des Barres pays tribute to Rod Stewart circa "Mandolin Wind."

However, perhaps the highlight song of this debut album is a well chosen cover of Waylon's "Are Your Sure Hank Done it This Way." In Chequered Past's hands, the lyrics consider the loss of punk ideals; it is great to declare "We're goona do it our way" but

reality dictates that everyone (and every band) compromise a little — even it if means wearing rhinestone suits!

Another impressive feature of *Chequered Past* is the wild abandon displayed by drummer Clem Burke. Chequered Past's philosophy of rock'n'roll for the pure sake of rock'n'roll demands that Burke let loose on every track. And Burke, The Man Who Would Be Keith Moon, meets the challenge cymbals crashing, literally stealing the album away from his frontmen.

Chequered Past have made a full throttled assault on trendy bands who have better hair styles than music. They pull no punches with their debut album of high energy hard rock; its intent is (to use an over used, but appropriate cliché) Kickass — and they do.

Sylvain Sylvain must be proud.



The Album Playlist is based on Airplay — a combination of programmer preference and listeners' requests. Tune in every Sunday at 12:00 for the **Alternative Countdown** - the favorite albums, EP's, singles and tapes.

**TOP 15 ALBUM PLAYLIST**

1. **Carmel** — The Drum is Everything (London/Polygram)
2. **Pekka Pohjola** Everyman (Breakthru')
3. **Various Artists** — Ten From Texas — Herd it Through the Grapevine (Elektra/WEA)
4. **Jay McShann** Just a Lucky So and So (Sackville)
5. **Rainy Day** Rainy Day (Rough Trade)
6. **Bobby McFerrin** The Voice (Elektra/WEA)
7. **Sonny Terry** Whoopin' (Alligator/WEA)
8. **Hugh Masekala** Techno Bush (Jive/Quality)
9. **Linton Kwesi Johnson** Making History (Island/MCA)
10. **K.D. Lang and the Reclines** A Truly Western Experience (Bumstead)
11. **Yo** Good Tidings (Deadbeat)
12. **Chico Freeman** Tangents (Elektra/WEA)
13. **Battlefield Band** - Anthem for the Common Man (Temple/Celtic)

14. **Fred Frith & Henry Kaiser** Who Needs Enemies (Metalinguage)
15. **Romeo Void** Instincts (415/CBS)

**EP's, SINGLES & TAPES**

1. **Bolero Lava** Bolero Lava (Mo Da Mu)
2. **U-men** U-Men (Bomb Shelter)
3. **The Sound** Shock of Daylight (A&M)
4. **Direktive 17** Direktive 17 (Macbeth)
5. **Screaming Bamboo** — World of Tomorrow (Dad's Favorite Records)
6. **This Fear** Dreaming of a Nation (Tape)
7. **US** Pride (Island)
8. **The Ripchords** Final Step (Tape)
9. **Jim Basnight and the Moberlys** Jim Basnight (Precedent)
10. **Wax Theatricks** Wax Theatricks (Multiphase)

**Dreamquest - the ultimate escape**

If you've ever longed to escape the pressures of 20th Century life for the pressures of medieval life then *Dreamquest* is the event for you.

Scheduled for the weekend of September 28 and 29, the adventure, fantasy game offers its players the opportunity to battle for treasure in the guises of warriors, healers, wizards, enchantresses and thieves.

Buses will pick up participants at the Four Season Hotel on Friday the 28th, and whisk them off to a secret 55 acre location just outside Edmonton. There, after the troops have been mobilized, they will

receive an adventurer's kit and will attempt to capture a treasure by solving riddles and utilizing their character's unique traits.

However, the game is not easy; the player's progress will be impeded by monsters and ghouls (played by experienced actors hired by the organizers of *Dreamquest*).

The game is non-violent fun and organizer Sheree Zielke is confident Edmonton will take up the challenge.

The cost for the game and transportation is \$55 and \$83 if the player attends the medieval feast held the evening of Saturday, September 29.

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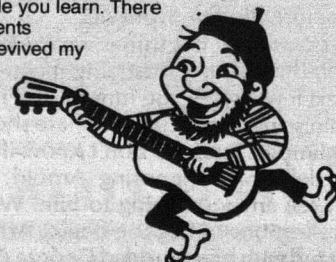
**DATES:** Saturday & weeknight courses begin the week of September 17.  
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**COST:** \$85 for each course.

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Another Scheme-a-Dream production in association with Sir Unicorn Enterprises.