



MUSIC

MONSTER'S BALL WHO WORE IT BEST?

BY CHRIS COLLINGWOOD

IT'S the October issue, and that can only mean one thing: Halloween party, right here on the music page! I'll be your host as we celebrate musical acts known to dress in costumes for our entertainment. Were these fashion statements successful? Did it help the artists convey their visions? Let's find out!

Please welcome: KISS

Dressed as: Monsters. A demon, a cat, a space man, and whatever the fuck Paul Stanley is supposed to be.

Does it work? Sure, if the goal is to distract the audience from your sophomoric songs about hot nurses. (See also: pyrotechnics.) What do monsters need from sexy girls anyway? Like you just escaped from hell and you're breathing fire and spitting blood but you also want to party? It makes no sense.

Say hello to: The Upper Crust

Dressed as: Eighteenth-century aristocrats
Does it work? Undoubtedly. They've been wearing powdered wigs and knee breeches since 1995, in a steadfast, impeccable commitment to a one-note gag. As any true nobility would, they insult their bourgeois audience between songs. Their classic "Let Them Eat Rock" is a masterpiece of patrician punk.

And now: Insane Clown Posse

Dressed as: Insane clowns

Does it work? Aren't these the dudes who were outsmarted by magnets? And somehow they ended up with a traveling circus of thousands of people who also dress up like insane clowns. But these clowns seem to get along pretty well, and a strong sense of community may help keep them off the meth...or use it less. All in all, without caring to hear their music, I'd say a net positive.

All hail: GWAR

Dressed as: Monsters

Does it work? Better than Kiss because they never tried to be sexy. GWAR behave like proper monsters and as a result put on a far more convincing act. GWAR members don't believe in outdated human musical concepts like "notes" or "pitch." Their stage act, which includes lots of blood, phallic prostheses, and ritual beheadings, is like a shitty live-action horror movie. And I love shitty horror movies (see Film on page 26).

Give it up for: Lady Gaga

Dressed as: Beef carcass

Does it work? I'm not shocked. Are you? Didn't the Beatles do this in 1966? That was shocking, because pre-Vietnam

America was naive and not yet ready for pop stars wearing meat. Least of all the Beatles, who hadn't even grown their hair out yet.

And here comes: Buckethead

Dressed as: Family-size chicken dinner from my nightmares

Does it work? Well, yes, it's truly terrifying. Get him the fuck out of here, quick. That masked devil spawn has put me off both fried food and live music forever.

Hands together for: Alice Cooper

Dressed as: Adolescent goth

Does it work? I saw Alice Cooper in concert and he, too, performed a ritual decapitation. It was loud and I don't know who the victim was supposed to be but the crowd seemed to love it.

And finally: Michael Jackson

Dressed as: Michael Jackson action figure that got left out in the sun

Does it work? Google "uncanny valley" to find out for yourself. ☹️

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