

*I am returning from Richmond, Virginia and the first Gutterball show since 1996. Yeah, I'm as surprised as you and despite my regular insistence that the band was merely in hibernation, I was pretty much doubting that the five of us would ever find ourselves in the same place at the same time, let alone managing to play a show together. But all that changed a few months ago when drummer Johnny Hott wrote an email to me asking if I would come down to Richmond and join the rest of the band (all currently living in Richmond) for a gig benefiting muscular dystrophy. It was a good cause, I was free at the requested time and I am the #1 Gutterball fan in the world so I quickly said 'yes.'*

*Despite having not played together or even played most of the Gutterball songs in many years, it didn't take long to remember the songs. Was it the three solid years of touring, the many hours of van rides, all pickled and preserved by various libations in many countries? Maybe, or maybe it's just the casual ease and familiarity of the songs, fitting like an old shoe (a bowling shoe, I guess, to keep the metaphor) and the other members had obviously found the same to be true since our first (and only) rehearsal went incredibly smoothly and could easily have been a fine gig on its own.*

*Not only did the songs come back easily and quickly but the friendship, band dynamics, old jokes and camaraderie was there as well. I hadn't seen Bryan or Johnny or Armistead in three or four years and hadn't seen Stephen since we played together in Spain (while he was on tour with the Jayhawks) in 2001. None of this 'how have you been?' or 'what have you been doing?' but instead the feeling was more as if we had gone home for a day or two off between gigs and were ready to hop back in the van.*

*The show was a club called 'Have a Nice Day,' a pretty goofy venue with 70s artifacts and disco lights but this made the unexpected event all the more surreal. We opted to go without a set list, choosing to open with 'Transparency' and letting the rest fall as it may. We ended the show with versions of 'Falling from the Sky' and 'Mickey's Big Mouth' before an extended encore version of 'The Days of Wine and Roses'.*

*In between was nearly every song we ever recorded (the show was 27 songs, 140 minutes by the accounts of those who logged such things-- there were fans on hand who had driven from New Jersey, Washington DC, Baltimore and North Carolina). Bryan sang the House of Freaks' "It's a Fucked Up World" and Stephen sang "Angelene." We played "Blessing In Disguise" twice, both slow and fast versions. And the whole show was loose, spontaneous, funny, tight, sloppy, weird and goofy all at the same time. Just like old times.*

*And what's next? Well, for starters, I am about to hit the road in support of my new album 'Static Transmission' and that will keep me and the Miracle 3 busy most of the year but I have a feeling this wasn't the last show that Gutterball will be playing and we very well might make a new album before the year is over. Yes, I have promised that before but after the fun we had this weekend, I would be surprised if it didn't happen rather than the other way around. Stay Tuned.*

*Steve Wynn*

## **Gutterball**

**Bryan Harvey: guitar, vocals**  
**Johnny Hott: drums**  
**Stephen McCarthy: guitar, vocals**  
**Armistead Welford: bass**  
**Steve Wynn: vocals, guitar**