

Rolling Stone

Savage Republic Pass Customs

Art rock pioneers return to stage after thirteen years



Reunited figures

Legendary Los Angeles underground art rockers Savage Republic have lined up a five-date tour, which will be the band's first public performances together in almost fourteen years.

Founding member Bruce Licher and other Republic members -- Tho Fuhrmann, Ethan Port, Greg Gunke and Robert Loveless -- will be backed by Bastard Noise drummer Joel Connell for the outing, the group's first stage appearance since February 1989. The group is celebrating the release of *Complete Studio Box Set*, a four-CD compilation that collects all of the band's studio albums -- *Tragic Figures* (1983), *Ceremonial* (1985), *Jamajiriya* (1988) and *Customs* (1989).

Unlike the hardcore scene that coincided with their beginnings, Savage Republic sprung less from that genre's rejection of rhythm and blues structures than from the experimental sounds of avant garde composer Karlheinz Stockhausen. The group's droning vocals also owed more to the Dream Syndicate sounds of Lamonte Young and Tony Conrad, but Savage Republic featured varied forms of prominent percussion to the mix.

"Savage Republic is a band that has always worked outside of the mainstream," said guitarist/percussionist Port, who said that assembling the box set was the catalyst in bringing the band back together. "We discovered that there was not only willingness to play live again, but there was also a genuine need to play alongside one another again. However, this is a time only event and we have no plans to reform."

Each performance will have a different opener. Mike Watt and the Secondmen, the Urinals, the Human Hands and DJ Bre Mullen will open in Los Angeles. In San Francisco, Savage Republic will headline the Beyond the Pale Festival, with Neuro: Jarbow, Low, Steel Polie Bathtub and others also on the bill. The Wharton Tiers Ensemble and Tone will open in Brooklyn. Openers for the other shows will be announced at a later date.

Savage Republic tour dates:

11/13: Los Angeles, Knitting Factory
 11/14: Portland, OR, Satyricon
 11/15: San Francisco, DNA Lounge
 11/16: Brooklyn, NY, Southpaw
 11/17: Chicago, Double Door

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