

Asbury Park, NJ
April 16, 2015

The Blues Magoos playing the Brighton Bar



(Photo: Alan Rand)

More than 40 years passed between The Bronx-based garage rock band the Blues Magoos' fifth album, 1970's "Gulf Coast Bound," and its sixth, "Psychedelic Resurrection," which was released on October on Kayos.

But in the intervening decades, the band's legacy has lived on thanks to the efforts of some super-hip Jersey musicians with

impeccable taste.

E Street Band guitarist Steven Van Zandt, formerly of Middletown, has long championed the band, and its classic 1966 single "We Ain't Got Nothin' Yet" was featured in a 2014 episode of Van Zandt's Netflix series "Lillyhammer."

Patti Smith Band guitarist Lenny Kaye, a North Brunswick native, featured the Magoos' 1966 cover of John D. Loudermilk's "Tobacco Road" on his massively influential 1972 "Nuggets" compilation album, and included "We Ain't Got Nothin' Yet" on the album's 1998 re-issue. Smith, a Pitman native, and Kaye have even covered the latter tune live in recent years.

"Steven (Van Zandt), he's the champion, he's the godfather of it," said Blues Magoos singer and guitarist Peppy Castro of the band's enduring popularity. "Every 10 years, there's a new decade and a new generation that discovers the '60s and garage band and psychedelia, whatever you want to call it, and just the intense time that it was. I guess between the flower power and hippies and the Vietnam War and all that, it was a very powerful time in music."



The Blues Magoos released their first album since 1970, "Psychedelic Resurrection," in October. (Photo: Courtesy of Kayos Productions)

The Magoos revisit that powerful time on "Psychedelic Resurrection," presenting re-recorded renditions of "We Ain't Got Nothin' Yet" and "Tobacco Road" alongside a number of new tunes. The band will support the record with a performance Friday night at Long Branch's Brighton Bar.

How does Castro feel about bringing his old band down the Shore to the Brighton Bar?

"(Like I'm) regressing, going back to my childhood," he said with a laugh. "Oh, it's all good. Asbury Park, that's such a great area down there, that whole Jersey Shore area. I haven't been down there in years and years and years, and the Magoos had a little bit of history down there, so it's just fun going back out again. It's like my high school reunion."

Nearly 50 years after it peaked at No. 5 on the Billboard singles chart, Castro discussed the prospect of revisiting his band's signature song.

"When we were really young, I remember thinking to myself I loved a guy like Todd Rundgren who always re-invented himself and always went on to new things," he recalled. "And I said, 'Oh God, please don't let me have to keep playing "We Ain't Got Nothin' Yet" for the next 40 years and beat it to death and become an imitation of myself.'

"Well, due to circumstances beyond my control and the band being a one-hit wonder, that was never the case. So now, going back to it after all of this time and seeing that everybody's relaxed, they've all been through their careers, half of us are retired, things like that, now it's a joy. Because you go back and you listen to that stuff and you go 'Oh my God, we did this almost five decades ago.' And then, you hear the stuff and it's a real trip to go back to that place in time. So for me, it's fun."

THE BLUES MAGOOS

WITH: The Rib-Eye Brothers and Muck & The Mires

WHEN: 8:30 p.m. Friday

WHERE: The Brighton Bar, 121 Brighton Ave., Long Branch

TICKETS: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door

INFO: 732-229-9676, <http://brightonbar.com>