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Bill and Andy: Too much fun on LBI

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By **CRYSTAL FREEMAN**
Staff Writer

Are you looking for something different from local bands this summer? Do you want more than just a set list? Are you ready to listen to great music and start a conga line? Then look no further because The Bill and Andy Show is here.

What exactly is The Bill and Andy Show, you ask?

“We can tell you what it’s intended to be,” said Bill Hadam and Andy Hladek. “It’s a fun time, but in general people should follow the instruction of our slogan, ‘the more you drink the better we sound.’”

In short, expect to be entertained, Hadam explained.

“We love to interact with the crowd,” he said. “We walk all over the bar with our wireless system. We just get to have a lot of fun doing this.”

Donning their Hawaiian shirts and crowd-amusing props these days, this duo didn’t always perform together — they were once rivals in



(PHOTOS: CRYSTAL FREEMAN)

Willing to attempt any request, Bill Hadam and Andy Hladek’s Bill and Andy Show operates with a let’s-get-the-party-started attitude. Offering kazoos and T-shirts, these guys encourage conga lines, crowd participation and an unpredictably good time.

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other bands before they came together to form The Bill and Andy Show.

“We’ve known each other since high school,” Hladek said. “But prior to this year, we have never performed together. Somehow we were always in rival bands. A few years ago Bill started doing a duo thing with a (great) sax player. When the sax player left to head out on the road, Bill asked me if he was interested in filling it. I was flattered, rusty and figured my good looks couldn’t hurt. History, from there.”

Their humor and lets-get-the-party-started attitude is enough to make you want to start a conga line even if they aren’t giving you a free T-shirt for it. The Bill and Andy Show is far different from any other experience you will have with bands on Long Beach Island.

According to Hadam and Hladek, there are three things that make them different from any other band on the Island right now.

“First off, we’re probably not as good as most of the other bands,” they said. “Second, while we work from a set list, our shows constantly change as requests come in from the audience. Third, we’re not ashamed to play a song with little or no practice. We like to call it ‘flying without a net.’”

Practice or no practice, these guys know how to play more than 225 songs. From the popular Shrek favorite “Accidentally in Love” by the Counting Crows to the ’80s hit “You Shook Me All Night Long” by AC/DC and a little bit of the Beatles thrown in here and there, Bill and Andy are ready to fill any request a person might have.

“You can be totally surprised by some requests,” they said.

They both said they were in shock the time a young group of girls requested America and then another time when an older woman was dancing to every song they played with every guy in the bar.

“We appeal to all age groups really,” Hadam and Hladek said. “We also get a nice blend of vacationers and locals when we play.”

Both Hadam and Hladek agreed that there is one thing that fans don’t know about them.

“... How much work it takes to look so relaxed,” they said. “But seriously, probably that we both have real jobs during the week and that this is what we do to relieve the stress of our daily grinds.”

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Calling carrying in their own equipment the worst part of their stress-relieving side job, they say “The best thing about being in the Bill and Andy show is having fun, making new friends and putting a smile of people’s faces.”

But who cannot help but smile when you enter the world of The Bill and Andy show? With conga lines, kazoos and free T-shirts, it’s hard not to have fun.

“We are 100 percent certified fun,” they said. “We are silly, unpredictable and intended to be a good time.”

To join in on the fun, go to the Surf City Beach Club any Sunday in August or go to the Grapevine on Aug. 25. For more information on the Bill and Andy Show, check out their Web site at <http://www.billandandyshow.com/>.

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