



**THE KISS TRIBUTE SHOW**

# KISS NATION

**PROMO / PRESS KIT**



"These guys have the right spirit and the right detail. I flew in from Vegas just for this." -  
*Paul Stanley of KISS*

"This was great!" - *Gene Simmons of KISS*

# You WANTED the BEST... ...You GOT the BEST

**KISSNATION is one of the world's most renowned KISS tribute bands.**

Based out of New York City, the same city that brought the world KISS, KISSNATION has been on the tribute scene for over a decade. Having worked officially with KISS on a number of events, KISSNATION has been given the official seal of approval on recreating the sound, look and feel of the Hottest Band in The World. KISSNATION is the perfect band for fundraisers, promotions, film & TV extras, private parties and live concerts.

It's our very own way of celebrating the band we love, and sharing and performing the music with KISS fans all over,.. who like us,... **are one big KISSNATION.**

**For Band Info & Bookings:** [www.kissnation.com](http://www.kissnation.com)  
**or email:** [kissnation2000@yahoo.com](mailto:kissnation2000@yahoo.com)



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**Thank you for your interest in KISSNATION; NYC's Tribute To KISS**

KISSNATION is one of the world's most renowned KISS tribute bands. Born and bred on the same NYC streets as KISS, KISSNATION has been on the tribute scene for over a decade and shares the same fiery passion to put on the greatest Rock and Roll show possible. With LIVE concerts, interviews, private parties, conventions and Official KISS related promotional events, this band has done it all. KISSNATION is the perfect band for fundraisers, promotions, film & TV extras, private parties and live concerts.

We hope you will consider KISSNATION for your for a performance/appearance for your special event, occasion, or venue.

Best regards,

**KISSNATION**

kissnation2000@yahoo.com

kissnation.com

# Make Up in the Mirror

## by Tara Shyrock

New York City-based tribute, Kissnation, has played throughout the United States. When they played

The Whiskey on Sunset Strip, they had two guests waiting for them backstage after their scheduled set: Gene and Paul came out of hiding to surprise the band just in time for encores. Kissnation has had a great deal of success because of their musical talent and their no-holds-barred approach to their live shows. "When we started doing this, we asked ourselves, 'how are we going to separate ourselves in a land of clones, when we are clones ourselves?'" recalled Kissnation lead guitarist Ruby Rinekso. They will play any song from any era, without letting the costumes determine the set list. Wearing mainly the Dynasty/Unmasked costumes, they also can perform wearing the costumes from the Alive!, Love Gun, and Creatures of the Night eras. "What people tend to forget is that KISS has been around for thirty years, playing music throughout the MTV glam '80s and the grunge '90s," said Rinekso. "Kissnation doesn't forget that. We play music from the '70s, '80s, and '90s, makeup era or no-makeup era; there are no rules."

When it comes to tribute bands, the burning question is always "Why?" Why a tribute band, and not an original band? Although some people in tribute bands also play in original bands, it's all about wanting to play the music that made them pick up an instrument in the first place. "Doing a tribute thing doesn't necessarily negate the possibility of doing something original," according to Rinekso. "This is a 'just for fun' thing, saluting our heroes." Two former members of Kissnation, Paulie Z.



and Joey Cassata, went on to form ZO2, who opened for KISS and Poison on the Rock the Nation Tour in 2004.



# Tribute band offers Kiss of different eras

By CHRIS WELCH

Times Entertainment Writer  
chrisw@htimes.com

Want to "rock 'n' roll all night and party every day" with Kiss?

Well, the legendary rockers won't make it Friday night, but you'll swear it's the real group when you see the Kiss Nation tribute band on stage at the Whistle Stop Festival and BBQ Cook-off.

"Kiss is the quintessential rock band," Carlos Espada, who plays Simmons' Kiss character, said by phone. "They were four guys like the Beatles who took it a step further with the makeup and the big show."

"There may be guys who sing better in other bands, but these guys sing, play, dance and musically have it all. They've been selling albums for almost 30 years," he said.

Based out of New York City, the same city that brought the world the real Kiss, Kiss Nation has been on the tribute scene for nearly a decade with near-identical costumes, makeup and sound. The band has worked with the Kiss camp on many projects, including Kiss toy lines and promotions, the Kiss box set, Simmons' autobiography and *Tongue* magazine. The guys

have also worked closely with Silvertone guitars in promoting its Paul Stanley guitar line.

VH1 filmed a documentary on the band entitled "Mock Rock" in which the VH1 cameras followed the band in and out of the Kiss world, leading up to the band playing a show for Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley, Tommy Thayer and Doc McGhee.

"I've worked with Gene Simmons on many occasions," Espada said. "We've helped with the Kiss dolls, other Kiss products, helped Gene promote his book and their box set. We're on good terms with the band."

"VH1 shot the documentary two years ago and we were the only Kiss tribute band they used. It was neat to have the real band come to our show."

Espada started the Kiss tribute band in late 1996. But the inspiration for the group came decades earlier.

"When I was 4 years old I was watching television and a commercial came on for a Kiss album," Espada said. "They were drooling and spitting blood and fire and I thought they were live-action superheroes. On my fifth birthday, my brother bought me 'Kiss Alive' and it changed my life around."

Espada is joined in the band by Benny Doro as the Starchild, Gerard as the Fox and Cat and Ruby as Space Ace. Espada says Kiss Nation is much different from the other 100-odd Kiss tribute bands around the country.

"We do a no-holds-barred show of hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s and also use the Fox character," said Espada. Peter Criss, the Cat character, left Kiss in 1980 and was replaced by Eric Carr as the Fox.

"We're basically the poor man's Kiss show. Some people can't afford to go to a real Kiss show, so we give them a Kiss show and do everything that goes on."





# LOCAL NOISE: KISSNATION



by Criss Carr

Let's face it, though their legacy lives on eternally etched in the annals—excuse me—annals of rock history, the real living, (fire)breathing KISS are trying very hard to rain on their loyal legion's parade. Because of a strange twist of irony, I think it's time for the Army to revolt (and judging by recent ticket sales, it already seems many of their soldiers have gone AWOL).

In this case the irony rests in that it's the original band showing all the greed and lack of artistry cover bands are slammed for, and it's KISSNATION in this case, that is doing it for fun and—get this—with a twist of originality (they're the only KISS tribute boasting the Eric Carr *Creatures Of The Night* show).

Say for example, like, you can't afford to fork over the \$129.95 to go see the real KISS's 34th (and this time it's Fi-Fi-Fi-naaaaauuu-uh!) Farewell Tour, you can go see the next closest thing, KISSNATION, for just a fraction of the price. Let's face it, the real KISS isn't even real anymore. Ace Frehley is not really alive and moving. It's just sophisticated lighting and pyro that makes him appear alive. Otherwise, it's *Weekend At Ace's*, boys!

So save yourself the expensive risk of totally harboring nothing but shame and pity for what the ravages of age have stricken upon on the once ravenous beasts of rock. It's more convincing seeing young guys playing young KISS, than the old guys playing young KISS (and there's a hell of a lot more money left to get loaded in the process). Like for instance, take this Saturday's (Oct. 14) Aquarian night at The Stanley Cup in Linden. It's a trip back to the '70s with KISSNATION, Sack Blabbath and Romeo's Delight (VH covers), while downstairs at Tremors it's a Studio 54 dance party with prizes and giveaways—and it won't cost a c-note to enter!

I spoke with KISSNATION's Ace recently as he awaited his inevitable invite to replace his speculatively deceased counterpart.

**How do you respond to the criticism that cover/tribute bands are a scourge on existing original music scenes?**

We've never really faced a bad sense of criticism. It's just kind of hard being a tribute band. We're not doing this for the sake of getting signed, to get famous. We do this basically for fun to tribute the band we love the most. And a lot of that costs a pretty penny sometimes. Would you agree that there are more KISS tribute bands than any other?

That's the charisma KISS have. There's something about them that just clicks with people. We've been doing this for a while, and you'd have to be blind not to see all these other bands doing exactly the same shows.

**Is that why you went on to re-create the *Creatures Of The Night*-era KISS?**

Exactly. It started as a goof. Our drummer, who is much more of a fan of Eric Carr, came out in full Eric Carr regalia, so we started playing songs from that era and people just flipped. From then on we've been doing shows from *Creatures Of The Night*-era KISS. So we've been re-creating the stage set from that tour. The drum riser is a miniature tank that shoots pyro out of the cannon—y'know, it's silly like that,

but people go nuts for it because people just never see it.

In New York alone I can count three KISS bands, and they all do the same show. We just went to the Trenton KISS show yesterday. We were hired to do an appearance at a pre-show party across the street from the arena. And people just flipped simply because of what we do. Everyone said the same thing: 'nobody does this! Nobody does Eric Carr; why not?' We could go out and do a Peter Criss show, but why bother? Everyone else does it.

**From what places do you guys garner the best response?**

Clubs that cater to us are outside of New York. New Jersey and Long Island area. Bigger stages, better promotion than New York. We get a better response right from the get-go. In New York we get the hesitant, 'aaah, we've never dealt with that before... I don't know... We only do the original acts...'

**Do people respond to you like you really are Ace and ask you shit as if you were him? How weird is that?**

(laughs) Being called by the characters' names happens all the time, only because people just don't know our real names, yeah; but there have been times, perhaps due to the alcohol level of the crowd, people get into the whole worship thing sometimes. The amount of e-mail, it's just—we get—we get really weird mail. And people will comment, 'You look just like Ace.' And I'll respond jokingly, 'I don't know how to take that, he's the ugliest guy in the group!' Or they'll say, 'You play just like Ace!' Well, I don't know how to take that either because he's a really sloppy guitar player.

**Do you ever watch the real KISS and wonder, 'y'know what, if I was up there...' I can do Ace better than Ace is doing Ace.**

Not only me, but any other Ace tribute KISS guy could basically blow Ace away right now. We were at the show last night sitting right up front and we were just cringing at every mistake they made. It was like, 'Oh my God!'

**What does it take to be the best tribute band out there?**

Everyone can say—and I've heard it before—we've been guilty of it ourselves, saying 'the best KISS tribute band ever!' That's all fine and good. There are a lot of bands that are great. But they're all basically playing the same thing: the same era. We take pride in knowing that it may be debatable that we're the best, but we know that we are the most different, and we know we stand out the most.

**One last question: Has any of KISS's notorious female fan base rubbed off on you guys after shows?**

I've got to be honest with you, I guess it is just like the real KISS. The most attention from the females is definitely directed to the Gene and Paul guys. Ace and Eric... I'm famous for getting the drunk guys mumbly. 'You fuckin' rule Ace! You rock!' Just because I don't have a long tongue, I can't play Gene. It's very funny though; I've had female friends tell me they have major crushes on the bass player, and I'm like 'you know what that guy looks like without make-up?'

Catch KISSNATION's *Creatures Of The Night* show at The Stanley Cup in Linden (908) 486-8925, on Saturday, Oct. 14 and on Friday, Oct. 20 at The Wreck Room in Wallington (973) 471-7905. Lick it up at [www.kissnation.com](http://www.kissnation.com)



# Cover by Mike Pizzuta The World

## Kiss Nation

Kiss: One of the most theatrical rock bands of all time, as well as great songwriters. Tons of devoted Kiss fans seek tribute bands to experience as close to the real deal as possible. Kiss Nation are a killer Kiss tribute act that will make you "love it loud!" I recently caught them at the Wreck Room in Wallington, NJ.

The stage show is just as important as the music when it comes to Kiss Nation, and these guys tore it up. They began the show with a huge pyrotechnic blast from two flashpots. Each member was wearing the platform shoes, costume, and proper face make-up of their respective Kiss character.

One of the most popular Kiss members is Gene Simmons. Carlos does an excellent impression of the Demon. During

the performance he breathed fire, spit up blood, and shot flames from his bass. He sung Gene-style vocals and he even pulled out the "axe bass" for "God Of Thunder." He played accurately, as heard in the moving bass lines in songs like "Love Gun," and "Detroit Rock City."

The congeniality and skills of Paulie make him an excellent Paul Stanley impersonator. He teased the crowd a bit by throwing on a fire helmet and asking the crowd what song they wanted to hear. Instead of playing "Firehouse" they went into "Heaven's On Fire." Paulie sounded just like Paul, both vocally and musically, and he kept the crowd alive with his antics. He and the band did the famous extended version of "Rock-

N-Roll All Nite," making the crowd repeat the chorus.

Appearing as the Space Ace was Ruby. He, Carlos and Paul synchronized a lot of cool moves on rockin' tunes like "Deuce." All through the show, Ruby jammed out some burning Ace Frehley leads on his Les Paul. It was literally smoking (with pyrotechnic assistance) when he went into his solo after he sung lead vocals on "Rip It Out."

Representing the late great Fox (Eric Carr) was Joey. At some shows he appears as the Cat (Peter Chris). Joey has mastered that solid grooving Kiss drumming, as evidenced in songs like "Dr. Love" and "Rocket Ride." He even sang "Beth," and handed roses to a few girls.

A highlight for the explosive show was when they had about six girls come onto the stage and dance for the tune "Take It Off."

Find out more about Kiss Nation at [www.KissNation.com](http://www.KissNation.com)

My e-mail: [MikeZuteCTW@yahoo.com](mailto:MikeZuteCTW@yahoo.com)

# NIGHTLIFE

## Party for Plastic 'til the Sun Comes Up

Geeks can dance. Geeks can boogie. Geeks can fool around.

Okay, two out of three ain't bad. But geeks can also drink, and the action figure companies threw some major shindigs for us.

**JAKKS Pacific** (WWF New York in Times Square) This party was all about one thing: meat.

Big tubs of ribs, slathered with Jim "J.R." Ross' barbecue sauce, were picked at by the industry and WWF superstars Jerry "The King" Lawler, Al Snow, Terri Runnels, Tazz and Kurt Angle. Free booze and cover band Nik and the Nice Guys helped round

out the introduction of JAKKS' new WWF line.

**Yu-Gi-Oh!** (AZ Restaurant) The food was great, the beer was free and we all got Yu-Gi-Oh! T-shirts. This party spared no expense, had Yu-Gi-Oh! video games set up and had a three-hour open bar (Yu-Gi Oh yeah...). *ToyFare* stayed until they kicked us out.

**Art Asylum** (Hard Rock Cafe) The most rockin'-est bash

of the year made up for lack of beer (the open bar lasted only an hour) with Kiss Nation, an awesome KISS tribute band complete with spitting blood. Hot chicks were aplenty, the place was packed and the Asylum's new *Star Trek* line was blasted on TV screens surrounding the bar.

**Mezco** (Studio 450, overlooking the Hudson River) Run DMC reportedly showed up to celebrate their new figures and chill amidst the all-night open bar, trays of meats and cheeses and hip-hop music. We wouldn't know since we passed out at 10 p.m. from too much O'Douls.

■ Bill Jenson





www.musicfinder.yahoo.com



Eric Singer, aquí junto a Travis Barker, de Blink-182, también compartirá en el evento.



KISSNATION, compuesto por Paulie Z, Joey Cassada, el puertorriqueño Carlos Espada y Ruby Rinekso, amenizará la Kiss Expo en Hard Rock Café.

## KISSNATION con un boricua en su gesta

CON CASI 30 años de historia musical, no es pura casualidad que entre 30 a 50 bandas se dediquen a rendirle tributo a la mundialmente famosa agrupación de rock pesado KISS. Y esta noche en Hard Rock Café en el Viejo San Juan, los amantes del legendario cuarteto tendrán la oportunidad de disfrutar de KISSNATION, una banda especializada en esta música que continúa un ejército de seguidores alrededor del mundo.

Carlos Espada, nacido en Ponce pero criado en Nueva York, ha estado ligado a KISS desde los cuatro años, cuando tuvo la oportunidad de observar a la banda original en la pantalla chica.

"La primera vez que los vi fue en un programa de televisión. Pensé que eran unos superhéroes, pero mi hermano me aclaró que se trataba de una banda de rock", relató Espada, quien además se dedica a diseñar varias líneas de muñecos de Gene Simmons —a quien representa—, Paul Stanley, Ace Frehley y Peter Criss, integrantes del conjunto original.

"Nos invitaron para participar en el segundo KISS Expo. Es toda una celebración de una agrupación que ha estado activa en la música por casi 30 años. Es difícil para nosotros concentrarnos en una época de KISS, ya que tienen tantas buenas canciones, pero trataremos de complacer a todos", comentó.

Además de Espada, KISS-

NATION está compuesto por Paulie Z, Joey Cassada y Ruby Rinekso.

La Expo se vestirá de gala con la visita de Eric Singer, actual baterista de KISS, quien también trabaja con Alice Cooper.

"Será la primera vez que visite a Puerto Rico y estoy deseoso de ver a las mundialmente famosas mujeres puertorriqueñas. En estos tipos de reuniones, los fanáticos tienen la oportunidad de vender y comprar artículos de KISS. Además, demuestran su amor por una banda que ha tocado generaciones", manifestó Singer a **PRIMERA HORA** desde Los Angeles.

El músico confesó que a pesar de formar parte de KISS, en un momento dado era poseedor de una extensa colección de artículos, pero decidió disponer de éstos.

"Ya no tenía espacio en mi casa. Tenía tantas cosas, en especial de la década del 70, que tuve que salir de ellas. Conservé artículos míos tales como los instrumentos. Compartiré con los fanáticos, así que espero que lleven todos sus artículos y recordatorios para firmarlos", indicó.

Los boletos para el evento están disponibles en Discomanía de Plaza del Caribe en Ponce, La Gran Discoteca del Mayagüez Mall y Plaza del Norte en Hatillo.

Para más información, llame al (787) 753-1185.

CARLOS GONZÁLEZ  
**PRIMERA HORA**



# Tributo a Kiss en el Hard Rock Café

Por José R. Pagán Sánchez  
End.jpagan@elnuevodia.com

**“P**uerto Rico Kiss Expo II-Un tributo a Kiss”, el evento musical con el que se reconocerá a la afamada agrupación de rock norteamericana, se llevará a cabo mañana, en el Hard Rock Café, con la banda tributo Kissnation.

Con un espectáculo que se extenderá por dos horas, el grupo neoyorquino interpretará los clásicos de Kiss ataviados con los disfraces y maquillajes que caracterizó a los intérpretes de *Drive Me Wild* en la década de los 70 y principios de los 80.

“Es la primera vez que estamos aquí y queremos que los fanáticos vean lo que hemos estado haciendo juntos. Verán un *show* muy completo con más de 20 canciones”, explicó ayer, vía telefónica, el integrante de ascendencia boricua Carlos Espada.

“Nací en Puerto Rico y antes de cumplir el primer año me moví a Nueva York”, añadió el joven, quien representa en la banda la figura de Gene Simmons.

Kissnation reúne también a Paulie Z As, Ruby Rinekso y Joey Cassata.

Tal es el fanatismo de este grupo por Kiss, que han lanzado una línea de juguetes y productos alusivos a la banda junto a la compañía Art Assylum.

Los productos, que incluyen figuras de acción y libros de tirillas cómicas, podrían llegar a la Isla, según Espada, este verano.

El músico, quien conoce personalmente a los integrantes de la banda original, participó recientemente de la promoción de *Kiss & Make Up*, una biografía de Gene Simmons.

## Presente Eric Singer

Cabe destacar que durante la actividad de mañana participará Eric Singer, actual baterista de Kiss y quien partirá con sus fanáticos. Además, viajarán desde Estados Unidos varios coleccionistas para vender sus artículos.

Los boletos para la presentación de Kissnation, quienes permanecerán en la Isla por cuatro días, están disponibles en Discomanía de Plaza Las Américas y Plaza del Caribe, en Ponce.



Foto suministrada

La banda Kissnation se presentará mañana en Hard Rock Café.





THE KISS TRIBUTE SHOW

# KISS NATION

[WWW.KISSNATION.COM](http://WWW.KISSNATION.COM)





**THE KISS TRIBUTE SHOW**  
**KISS**  
**NATION**  
**TESTIMONIALS**

**"These guys have the right spirit and the right detail. I flew in from Vegas just for this." -**

***Paul Stanley of KISS***

**"This was great!" - *Gene Simmons of KISS***

***"I haven't seen many of the current contenders lately, but I'd have to say that  
KISSNATION will blow the doors off the house."***

***Tommy Thayer of KISS***

**"KISSNATION is a must-see. The song selection and diversity is impressive, appealing to every generation of KISS fans. They sound great, look great and dare I say, can energize any audience and leave them begging for more!**

**What a great group of guys!"**

***Eric Martin, webmaster of TOMMERTHAYER.COM***

**"You guys are so great. It really is the best I have every heard."**

***STACY E. WALKER, KISS fantasy model***

**"Kissnation is one of the best tributes around to those made-up, flamboyant hard rockers from the days when big hair on men was cool."**

***The Long Island Ear***

**"KISSNATION is lots of fun and very entertaining... I like them because they are one of the coolest bands around, they're coolness by association and they wear more makeup than I do!"**

***Joanie Laurer, The former WWF wrestler known as CHYNA***

**"Let me just say I've seen plenty of Kiss tribute bands and KISSNATION are the new reigning kings. "**

***Mark Aungst, kisstoybox.com***

**"...KISSNATION are a very curious prospect..."**

***The Village Voice, NYC***

**"See KISSNATION, because It's more convincing seeing young guys playing young KISS, than old KISS playing young KISS"**

***The Aquarian, NJ***

**"We watched intently as the band rocked out and spit blood. Fans banged their heads and lip synched the words to every song..."**

***Shout Magazine, NYC***