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Ballyhoo! and Tribal Seeds land at Rehab

Artists' blend of reggae and punk rock brings high energy live shows

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Ballyhoo! is a punk rock-reggae band from Baltimore. / Photo courtesy of Brian Clorich

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Staff Writer

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On Sunday Sept. 23, San Diego-based reggae band Tribal Seeds and Baltimore punk-rock, reggae band Ballyhoo! will play at Rehab.

Tribal Seeds is led by brothers Steven Jacobo, who writes lyrics and sings and keyboardist Tony-Ray Jacobo, who writes the music, along with members guitarist Tony Navarro, bassist Victor Navarro, drummer Carlos Verdugo and percussionist Jose Rodriguez.

The band released their self-titled debut in 2006, named a "Best Of" reggae album on iTunes and was awarded "Best World Music" at the San Diego Music Awards in the same year. They have toured with artists from different genres, ranging from the Red Hot Chili Peppers to Skrillex and Cee Lo Green.

Playing alongside Tribal Seeds is Ballyhoo!, comprised of lead singer and guitarist Howi Spangler, drummer Donald "Big D" Spangler, bassist JR Gregory and keyboardist Scott Vandrey, also known as DJ Blaze. They signed with LAW Records in 2011, and released their fourth studio album *Daydreams* that fall. The album reached No. 1 on iTunes' Reggae Chart and No. 4 on Amazon.

"It's been a great year," Ballyhoo! lead singer Howi Spangler said. "People are downloading it and buying it, and it's doing what it's supposed to do."

Spangler has been playing music since he was a 13-year-old.

Together since 1995, Ballyhoo! played in the Spanglers' basement and performed at school and friends' parties. Their first album, *365-Day Weekend* was released in 2000 followed by *Do it for the Money!* in 2006 and *Cheers!* in 2009. Howi Spangler describes their sound as punk rock reggae, a sound that straddles several genres.

"It's music you can go to the beach to," said Spangler. "It's good music to make love to."

Spangler is inspired by musicians like Green



Tribal Seeds is a reggae band from San Diego. / Photo courtesy of Brian Clorich

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Day's Billie Joe Armstrong and Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl. Ballyhoo! has toured with fellow reggae rockers The Dirty Heads, Slightly Stoopid, 311 and Pepper.

They recently ended their first full run with the Vans Warped Tour and played The Bamboozle Festival earlier this year alongside headliners Foo Fighters and Bon Jovi. They performed at the Shoreline Jam Festival in Long Beach, Cal., and the Charm City Music Festival in Baltimore alongside Weezer and Flogging Molly in early September.

Spangler said his favorite aspects of touring are seeing new places and meeting fans.

"Seeing the country and playing live for people who want to hear it, and sing it back to us is a great feeling," said Spangler.

With Ballyhoo's increased airtime on syndicated radio stations like Sirius Faction, and rock stations in Philadelphia and Honolulu, their rising fame is apparent, and the show is anticipated to bring high energy.

"Hopefully there will be a lot of people at the show," said Spangler. "And we'll have a great time together."

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