

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy roars into Tahoe

Perennial Harrah's Lake Tahoe favorite, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy brings high-energy, neo-swing to the South Shore Room on Nov. 21.

Mixing 20 years of hits, holiday classics and great music from their new CD "How Big Can You Get? A Tribute to Cab Calloway", BBVD is a cinch to blow the doors off the venerable showroom.

The foundation of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy was built by singer/songwriter Scotty Morris in 1989 in Ventura. Morris and his surfer buddy, drummer Kurt Sodergren, both loved swing music and the "big band" sound. They recruited string bassist Dirk Shumaker and baritone saxophonist Andy Rowley, and immediately began performing in bars and nightclubs along the California coast. They quickly became key players in the rousing revival of swing music.

Over time, the band evolved into the current seven-piece lineup which also features Glen "The Kid" Marhevka on trumpet, Karl Hunter on tenor sax and Joshua Levy on piano.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy helped revive big band music for the '90s. They concentrated on the swinging days of the '30s, '40s and '50s, borrowing some the era's "cool cat" lingo in addition to wing tip shoes, spats, snap-brimmed hats and double-breasted zoot suits. It's no surprise that Morris' favorite singer is Frank Sinatra.

Officially launched in Los Angeles in 1992, the group quickly built up a following on the local lounge circuit, playing to Gen-Xers enamored with the kitschy charm of the original swing era and their perception of it as "cocktail nation." This burgeoning lounge scene was captured in the hit 1996

independent comedy film *Swingers*, which featured the band and their Hollywood hangout, *The Derby*.

As 1997 came to a close, the band had already self-released two albums – “Big Bad Voodoo Daddy” and “Whatchu’ Want for Christmas” – which were big hits and led to a major-label contract with Capitol Records. By this time, through tireless self-promotion efforts and touring, the band had developed a reputation as one of the best, most exciting live bands in the country. In February 1998, Capitol released the group’s major-label debut entitled, “Big Bad Voodoo Daddy”, which was not the same album the group had previously released on their own. “This Beautiful Life”, followed a year later.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy is one of the few neo-swing bands to boast a gold record and alternative radio hit.

Tickets for Big Bad Voodoo Daddy are \$40 plus fees. Show time is 7:30pm. For more information and reservations, call 800.786.8208 or go to www.SouthShoreRoom.com.

Next up, the Mission Mountain Wood Band hit the stage on Nov. 27, followed by the legendary Judy Collins on Nov. 28.