

F TPRINTS

THE STRING CHEESE INCIDENT.COM

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CONSCIOUS
CONCERT
COMMUNITY

20 YEARS OF THE STRING CHEESE INCIDENT: A LOOK BACK

20 years and counting... Like many folks, I got my first taste of The String Cheese Incident through the Internet. Back in 1997-98, Internet-based live music trading was going strong, and my friends gave me a copy of some DAT tapes of this crazy young bluegrass-inspired band. The 'Incidentalists' was the place where we got to meet and exchange recordings (old-school B&P style), and talk about the band's live concert exploits and upcoming tours. If you wanted to know more about the band, there was a link to frequently asked questions like, "How exactly did the band get that name anyhow?"... (Did we ever really figure that one out?).

By the time I saw my first live show in late 1998, I had already collected some of the classic recordings. Quonset Hut '98, Mishawaka, The SF Fillmore, as well as recent shows from the current tour. On that night, the band announced from the stage that they would be playing New Year's Eve in Oakland, along with many of my musical heroes, and I quickly made plans to be there. To this day, the "Cryptical Development" 1998-1999 New Year's show is still one of my favorites. I skipped the 1999 Winter Carnival, but my friends came back with tapes and stories of being blown away by the Boulder show with Jerry Douglas, Pete Wernick, and Tim O'Brien. For the next four years, our lives revolved around the tours. Flying to out-of-town shows was going to be a way of life. The Cheese was playing, and we HAD to be there. Spring Tour, Summer Tour, Fall Tour, New Year's, Winter Carnival. The highlights of those years are numerous, and naming them alone really doesn't do them justice. I'm proud to have been part of the taping and trading community and to have helped spread the word.



Here are some of my most vivid moments... The Atlanta Variety Playhouse in '99: I remember thinking that the band was REALLY going places when the tour bus was too large for the neighborhood, and got stuck on the streets surrounding the venue. The Wool Warehouse in Albuquerque - we ran into other people on the airplane who were headed to the shows! An epic weekend to say the least. I got to meet the band for the first time at the New Orleans Saenger Theatre show in May 2000, a night I still look to as being the best performance I've seen the band play. For the fall tour, we travelled to Georgia again for the Athens and Atlanta Tabernacle Incidents. The first night of the Tabernacle was THE night. A month later we celebrated a New Year's String Cheese Odyssey in the Oregon Convention Center. I remember seeing the first 'lot scene' at Austin's Backyard in April. Jazzfest in May was spectacular with not only a great main stage performance, but two incredible Incidents at the Saenger. By 2001, you could see the crowds getting larger. The band was a force to be reckoned with.

Spring Tour 2002 marked the start of the "On The Road" live recording series. I had the honor and privilege of taking photos for the first shows of the OTR series, and a year later, the incredible opportunity to manage the program. Now, ten years later, I still oversee the OTR recordings, and still get a thrill sharing the experience of each Incident with so many amazing people. This is a special community. It's more than just a band playing music and people going to see them. The feedback loop between the band and the fan base is as strong as ever, and something you don't experience at your average concert. It's an Incident, and everyone who is there is a part of the experience. Here's to the next 20 years, the new friends we will meet along the way, and the experiences we will have with The String Cheese Incident!

- Larry Fox, SCI Archivist & OTR Coordinator

SCI NEW YEARS PREVIEW

The String Cheese Incident kicks off their 20th Anniversary with three hometown shows in Colorado!



SPECIAL GUESTS

December 28: Bootsy Collins & the Funk Unity Band

December 29: The Flaming Lips

December 31: The Del McCoury Band

BONUS: Karl Denson & Chris Littlefield (of Karl Denson's Tiny Universe) on the 28th & 29th!

DOORS: 6:30 PM **SHOW:** 7:30 PM

SEATING: General Admission **HULA HOOPS:** Yes

WATER: Factory sealed and empty reusable water bottles are allowed.

PARKING: There are several parking lots and garages located around 1STBANK Center. Parking fees may apply.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: 1STBANK Center is very accessible by public transportation from both Denver and Boulder, with an RTD stop located just feet from the front doors. For more info, please visit www.RTD-Denver.com.

DOWNLOAD THESE SHOWS & MORE AT
LIVECHEESE.COM



JUST ONE STORY

An inside look at one of SCI's biggest fans

"After Jerry died, I was left, as many people were, a fan without a band. A Deadhead friend, John Levene, suggested I go with him to the Fillmore (2/18/00) to see this bluegrass band that he had been taping, named The String Cheese Incident. Not being a huge bluegrass or country music fan, I was skeptical. Upon arriving, I recognized a few people and met a whole lot more. These people turned out to be part of the "jamband" community that I would soon treasure for many years to come. It's the people who surround the band that are the support system for their own survival.

I am what is known as a "rail rider". I arrive at the show hours and hours before doors, to wait in line for a coveted front row spot on the rail. There is a large group of rail riders who join me in this pre-show event, sometimes spent sweating profusely in Texas over the 4th of July, other times spent huddling in a EZ Up with a propane heater to stay warm in Colorado. There have been more than one time where we hunkered down in sleeping bags outside the Boulder Theater, waiting for the Holiday Benefit tickets to go on sale.



My connection to String Cheese is simple. I derive huge pleasure from dancing to their music with friends. I look forward to guessing what the next song is going to be, and sharing smiles and love with so many like minded people. No matter where we come from, we are all there to see and hear the music. I enjoy being in the front, not only because I am short, but I like watching the interaction between the band members and the audience. I call it "my own private Idaho". The magnificent light show can be sensory overload for me as well as the 1000's of other fans in attendance. In this position, I only have to focus forward, not having to deal with the crowd behind me. It has also been safest spot in a venue to bring my son Mitch, when he started joining me at a young age. The forward focus makes it feel more private and intimate.

I find that SCI's music and friendships I've made fill my proverbial tank up when I am feeling depleted. I stopped counting how many shows I have been to after 150. I have been living in Melbourne, Australia for the last year and I still managed to attend 14 of the 24 shows Cheese played in 2013. I left from Horning's Hideout for Melbourne and returned to Suwannee for Hulaween, making a HUGE CHEESE SANDWICH!

Thank you String Cheese Incident for 20 years of magical, musical joy. Together, we have experienced new life and have been saddened by death. Together, we have travelled miles and miles to get to the next show. Someday I sure hope to find out who you are and why are you following me?"

- Pam Werthheimer/Rail Rider



CONSCIOUS ALLIANCE

art that feeds

In 2002, Conscious Alliance teamed up with The String Cheese Incident to host their very first "Art That Feeds" Food Drive and since the inception, together we have raised hundreds of thousands of meals to help feed those in need nation wide. This year's NYE run, Conscious Alliance will be offering a limited edition screen printed poster created by artist Christopher Shaw, to all patrons who donate 20 non-perishable food items or a suggested monetary donation. Collection stations with be set up outside the North entrance of the 1STBANK Center as well as inside the lobby of the Aloft Broomfield Denver Hotel, located down the street from the venue. Posters can also be redeemed anytime during or after the show at the Conscious Alliance table, located inside the venue near guest services. All food donations will benefit the Conscious Alliance emergency food pantry on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Thank you for your continued support in feeding the hungry everywhere the music plays!

CONSCIOUSALLIANCE.ORG

NYE FOOD DRIVE
FREE LIMITED-EDITION POSTER
WITH DONATION OF 20 NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS



JELLYFISH

THE JELLYFISH are a group of men and women who choose to experience String Cheese Incident shows without the use of drugs or alcohol. Our primary purpose is to provide a safe environment for clean and sober incidentalists. We are not affiliated with AA, NA, or any other 12 step program. Nor, are we affiliated with The String Cheese Incident. We are a group of people who share the common bond of enjoying musical events while choosing to remain clean and sober "One Incident at a Time".

Keep an eye out for The Jellyfish table inside the 1STBANK CENTER. More info is available at: www.SCIjellyfish.org.



Q+A WITH THE STRING CHEESE INCIDENT YOU ASKED... THEY ANSWERED

Looking back, name one of your favorite or most memorable moments in SCI history from the past 20 years?

BILLY: "When we started touring seriously back in 1995, we weren't making much. We didn't have a crew so everybody in the band had a job. Since I had worked for my brother who ran a moving company in Telluride, I was the one who packed the trailer. Anyway... we had a show at the Georgia Theatre in Athens, where we would meet our new booking agents, Nadia Prescher & Mike Luba from Madison House. After the show, it was time to pack up the gear, so I went outside and walked into a torrential downpour. After jumping in and out of the trailer, packing the gear and trying to stay dry, I soon saw I was losing the battle. I noticed the water near the sidewalk was turning into a river and since I was wearing shorts and sandals, I thought "I can't get any more wet than this". So I layed down in the gutter, completely submerged. Luba came out of the theatre, looked at me like I was crazy, then decided it looked like fun. He stepped into the gutter and we both layed there with only our noses sticking up out of the river... that's when I knew he was one of us."



KYLE: "I still have fond memories of those early Quonset Hut shows in Telluride. I remember one year I got my first Hammond B3 Organ delivered from Seattle to Telluride just for the concert. Some fans received free tickets for driving the beast across the country for me. I sat and played on that new keyboard all day prior to the gigs. And the shows were always off the hook there. People sneaking in, crawling through vents and rushing the doors just to be part of these special incidents. The band played great and the energy was super high. Plus, after the shows, people skated around the venue in a roller-skating stupor. Crazy times!"



JASON: "Well, I'm remembering the first time I saw/met anyone from SCI. In 1996, I was playing with my band Zoo People at High Sierra Music Festival. We were a rock band, at that point, recently signed to Atlantic Records and were making the festival rounds. I remember from the minute we arrived, everyone was talking about The String Cheese Incident. We played our set that afternoon and were happy to get in front of people in the "jam" scene. Travis ended up introducing himself to me afterward and told me he was from SCI, and invited me to play hand drums with him over at "Bussy" with another percussionist, Jarod Kaplan. It was a really great time, being in that atmosphere, playing those rhythms and diving into the weekend. That initial camaraderie made me even more interested in checking out SCI's performance. I think their first song they played that night was "Rhum n Zouc." It was so refreshing to hear a western band play African music that good at a rock festival and seeing people get off on it. It felt like SCI was taking a game changing approach to how you played music, presented it, and toured as a band. I watched the rest of the set with all of it's variety of musical tastes within one performance, thinking it would be great to join them onstage if I got the chance :)"



KEITH: "Our first trip to Japan back in 2002 was a total mind blower. I remember after all the exhausting travel, checking in to our tiny rooms at Mt. Naeba Ski Resort and promptly "getting as high as possible" by hiking all the way to the top of the ski mountain. Fuji Rock Fest was just incredible. A state of the art international festival in a completely foreign culture. Wow!"



KANG: "Back in 1997 or 1998, we played High Sierra Music Festival back when they were still at Bear Valley. Somehow, we got signed up to do a poolside workshop Q&A. Most of the questions were along the lines of..."How do you guys like being on the road? or "What's your favorite place to play?". However, one of our good friends, Woody Carroll from Santa Cruz, got up there and said..."all this stuff about music is good and everything, but when are you guys gonna take off your clothes and jump in the pool?" Well, not being one to back down from a good challenge, we got butt naked and jumped in the pool, and the rest was part of early SCI lore. Still the only gig we ever played fully naked!"



TRAVIS: "I remember our first time playing the Oregon Country Fair... we were so excited to be on the West Coast. Our set was on the Blue Moon stage and it became known that Vince Herman was in the audience, and next thing we knew he jumped on stage! Leftover Salmon were our ultimate heroes at that point. We talked about what we could play together and someone suggested "Zombie Jamboree". And we all knew it of course, cause they were our heroes. We lit into it and everyone was in full meltdown mode. Very powerful."



HELP KEEP THE SCENE CLEAN!

Please be respectful to your fellow fans & venue employees by picking up after yourself inside the show. Thank you!



A FOOTPRINTS FAN SUBMISSION...

As we boldly enter into 2014 together in Colorado and around the country we can take advantage of the turning of the New Year to set an intention that will carry us through to 2015. String Cheese is entering its 20th year, 20 years of making us all into our truest, most beautiful, and engaged selves. What can we do in return? We can choose to make one small change in our lives in honor of the band we've love so dearly. Whether we set an intention to compost our food waste or only carpool to shows or to stop using disposable water bottles or plastic bags, we can have an impact. So let's choose to make a difference for our environment this year in honor of SCI's 20th.

- Russell Wood (Green MBA)

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? SUBMISSIONS?

SEND AN EMAIL TO: FOOTPRINTS@STRINGCHEESEINCIDENT.COM

> E-mail us those questions you've always wanted to ask the band. We'll publish a few answers in future issues of the FOOTPRINTS Newsletter.

> If you feel inclined to write a cohesive and captivating story about your most memorable experience with SCI and would like to be featured in our "Just One Story" section, please send us an email and we'll consider printing it in our next issue.

By submitting your writing, you give the SCI Organization permission to publish your work in the FOOTPRINTS Newsletter, both online and printed copy. FOOTPRINTS Newsletter is published by The String Cheese Incident and Madison House Inc. with the help of Conscious Alliance.

