

# THE HAWAIIAN ASTRO BOYS

## BIOGRAPHY



The Hawaiian Astro Boys are a pure instrumental surfband from the Flemish part of Belgium (Ghent and Eeklo). They have been together as a band for approximately five years (since January 2000) and have managed to climb up in the strong Flemish surf scene. Up until now, they played in many small bars, youthcentres and professional music clubs all over the country. They even played as a support act of Slacktone (probably America's best surf trio), The Tijuana Bibles, Pollo del Mar, The Coffin Daggers and The Nebulas on their European tour. Belgian bands The Hawaiian Astro Boys played with are The Seatsniffers, The Whodads, The Kids, Belgian Associativity and Speedball Junior. A first great breakthrough for the Hawaiian Astro Boys was their strong gig at the semi-finals of the Oost-Vlaams Rockconcoors (autumn 2000) where they enchanted a rather calm public into an enthusiastic crowd of partying people. Headlines in the newspapers expressed their dismay when they reported the fact that the Boys didn't go to the finals. The beginning of a neat career?

The Hawaiian Astro Boys are: Jelle Veirman on lead guitar (stardate 13.11.1978), Stefan Steyaert on rhythm guitar (stardate 08.04.1974), Francis De Smet on base guitar (stardate 07.10.1975). The band first rehearsed with another drummer but decided very soon to invite Jan-Frans Dellaert (stardate 31.03.1982) to play the go go drums.

Back in the summer of 2000, The Hawaiian Astro Boys were already invited to play one of their songs accompanied by a little interview live on the Belgian national radio Studio Brussel. A privilege which can't be told by many other Belgian surf bands. Thanks a lot Bram Vandendriessche and Thomas De Soete for giving us some airplay at your fantastic Stereokienie summer broadcast programme. At least one more person was delighted to hear our music on the radio ... like a gift from heaven. His name ... Roel Mondelaers, film director of the Belgian short-film <<Blind Date>>. He immediately took contact with the Astro Boys and asked them to compose the soundtrack of his short-film project (spring 2001). The film and his soundtrack received favourable reviews. A reason for the Astro Boys, driven by natural enthusiasm, to continue building what became their first studio album recorded in November 2001 at the Yellow Tape Studio in Ghent. Entitled "The Hawaiian Astro Boys", it's a non-mastered low budget limited edition album which completely sold out in about three years. It got very good critics by surfmusic specialist (eg. the legendary Phill Dirt who qualified the album with four stars). The album covers six self-written tracks and four traditional surf covers. The songs go from typical surf to laidback instrumentals with some exotic influences.

Continuing their musical career the Boys built up a strong live reputation. Little by little (2002-2003) they searched for what they liked most and ended up by creating their own style of surf music. The Astro Boys attach great importance to the quality of their live sound. Everywhere the Hawaiian Astro Boys play, the temperature always increases. They always manage to turn the stiffest wallflowers into a wild crowd of fun having people. The music brought by The Hawaiian Astro Boys nowadays can be best described as pure traditional surf

music mixed up with some strong neo surf influences. Musical influences are Satan's Pilgrims, Slacktone, John and The Nightriders (some booking managers describe us as the European John and The Nightriders), Dick Dale, and why not The Shadows and The Ventures. A concert of The Hawaiian Astro Boys normally is an uninterrupted chain of up-tempo songs. No mercy for their muscles ... bang bang ... twang twang. The raison why a lot of summer festival organizers booked The Hawaiian Astro Boys to play on their stages.

From september 2003 untill july 2004, Jan-Frans left the band to go studying in Spain. Bangin' Mr. Pepe (Pedro Pisonier, former drummer of The Wildcats and friend of the band) stood in for Jan-Frans and made it possible for The Hawaiian Astro Boys to continue their live shows. After he came back, the Astro Boys played at a lot of festivals during the summer of 2004 (Lokerse Feesten, Kattekermis, Diezelrock). Highlight in their international career (Belgium, Holland) that year certainly was their apparition on the International Wipe Out Surf Festival in Barcelona (september 2004) where they pleasantly surprised the international crème de la crème of surfmusic.

The Hawaiian Astro Boys have recently released their second album entitled "Thank U Sir, may I have another" (february 2005). It's a self recorded (recorded by the Boys in december 2004 in club N9 - Eeklo) and self mixed cd which covers ten own written songs. This time it's a professionally mastered album which offers a better sound quality than the first album. The songs sound nice. It's a real rock and roll album that has to be listened by high volume. The Hawaiian Astro Boys hope to set up a lot of concerts to promote their new album.

Check out the website [www.hawaiianastroboys.com](http://www.hawaiianastroboys.com) for more updates, concert and album news.

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