

BACON FAT TIME-LINE

12/1997 – W. Johnson got fired at the Bluesfactory for going musically too far away from the ‘real’ blues. W. was getting too much into the psychedelic stuff and that just didn’t fit with the vibes of the band anymore. In the summer of 1999 he’d do a single reunion-show with the Bluesfactory.



The Blues Factory in 1996: mr Beans, Big Mouse, Hilaire Borghs, W. and Fanne

1998 – A few months later W. decides to start writing original songs and practise the combination of singing and guitar-playing. In April he starts to write the first ever Bacon Fat-song (though the name Bacon Fat only showed up a couple of years later) which was only finished by September! That song was “Just as long as we go” which later appeared on the Bacon Fat-demo (2001) and finally made it onto Boogielicious Baby (2004). Later on W. started working on “Pony-tail Daydream” which he finished by early 1999. “Pony-tail” is still in the live-set today.

1999 – Two of the biggest Bacon Fat classics were written that year. While living in Leuven W. met bassplayer Bart De Prins who helped him out with the final arrangements for “Hangin’ Around”. Together with former Bluesfactory drummer Hilaire Borghs and Bart on the bass W. tried to assemble the first line-up for his project. But they didn’t got further than 3 rehearsals doing only “Just as long as we go” and “Hangin’ Around”. Bart couldn’t make it to the rehearsals anymore and left. Back on his own W. proceeded writing more songs such as the up-tempo rocker “In Different Motions” (never released but there’s a good studio recording somewhere) and the other classic BF-tune “Louisa”.

2000 – By June 2000 W. met Luke Lammenzo at the local pub. Luke told him they (Luke and his best pal Kris/mr Nasty) were looking for a guitar-player/singer. Two weeks later on July, 18th the first rehearsal of what eventually became the first solid Bacon Fat line-up was a fact. The focus of the band was preparing to go and play live as soon as possible with only one condition: the music should always be bursting of feeling and energy. That’s why the band didn’t appear on any stage that year. Instead they were writing more material and they refined the already complex structures of the majority of the songs. Meanwhile W. finally found the name for the new band. After attending a 3-hour killer-show from Andre Williams in Brussels he just knew it. The very last song of the extremely long set was “Bacon Fat” and in a big way the band’s name is an ode to Andre himself. With a band-name in the pocket the boys started the preparation for their first demo.

This year's new tracks included "She got it in her eyes", "You shake me wild" and the long time live favourite "Nasty Boy" which hasn't been performed since Mr Nasty left the band.

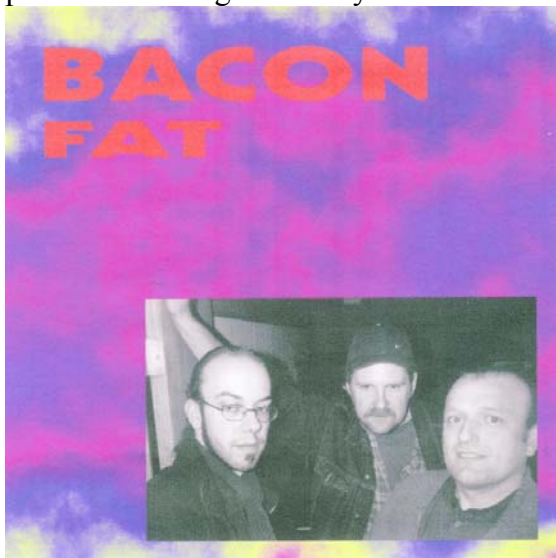


Bacon Fat: mr Nasty, W. and Luke in fall 2000

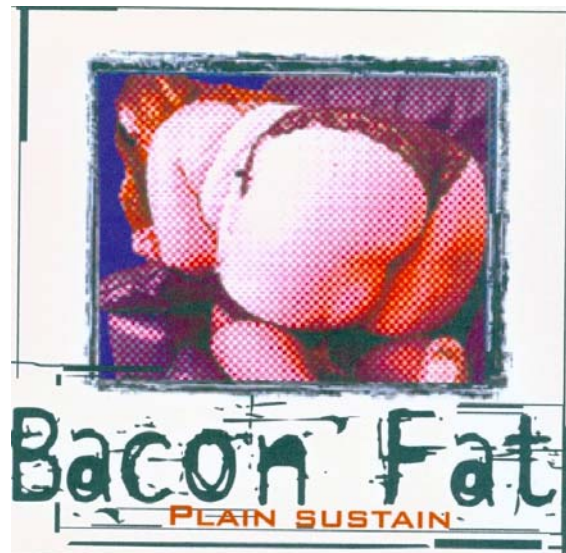
2001 – On January 28th the first demo was recorded. The band recorded for nearly 12 hours and put 12 tracks on tape. All the above mentioned songs were recorded as well as covers of ZZ Top ('La Grange') and Andre Williams ('I wanna be Your favourite Pair of Pajamas' and 'Shake a Tail Feather'). The old times opening anthem 'Bacon Fat Revisited' was also put on tape. This was rather a mix-up of Andre's 'Hallelujah' (which Bacon Fat opens with regularly nowadays) and 'Bacon Fat' itself.

However, the 'Bacon Fat'-demo was released as a 6-track CD-R. The band only wanted original songs on it and 'In Different Motions' and 'Louisa' didn't make the selection. The latter would of course return later and become a classic.

March, 9th marked the official world-premiere of Bacon Fat on stage. 21 shows were performed during this first year.



Bacon Fat demo



Plain Sustain demo

2002 – January 13th marked the recording of the 'Plain Sustain'-demo with its notorious artwork. Using a more bluesy approach this second CD-R sounded more compact than its predecessor. Five new songs were presented while 2 live-tracks completed the track-list. Highlights were 'Bad Ass Lowdown 'n Dirty Blues' and the title-track which still is a highlight in the live-set today. Both songs later reappeared on the Boogielicious Baby album.

The Plain Sustain tour 2002 clocked at 23 shows. In the meantime the band found time to write a bunch of new material and recorded it on November 17th.



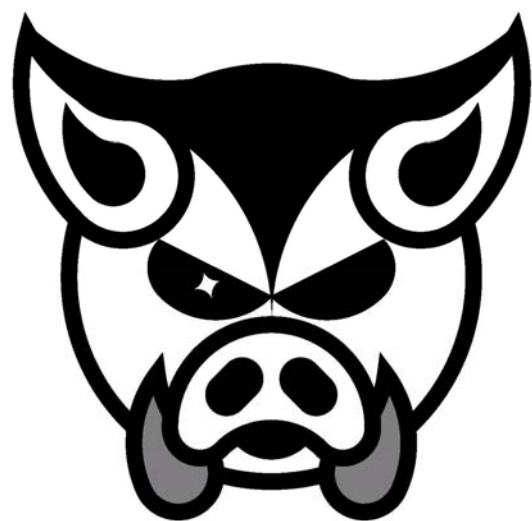
1st live pic: Antwerp, April 29th, 2001 Live at the Bierstube, Leuven, October 12th, 2002

2003 – ‘Show some Steel’ was the title of the third demo. Again a 7-track CD-R, this time with 6 totally new tracks and the first appearance on CD of ‘Louisa’, which was enriched with a new, more powerful bass-line. Another highlight was ‘Pretty Little Thang’ which would become the ultimate set-closer for the next six years. Both songs were re-recorded for Reinventing the Mojo (2007). With ‘Miles Dewey III’ (part 1 if you like) the first instrumental song surfaced. It was the first time one could hear a glimpse of new musical directions entering the solid sound of the band. ‘Show some Steel’ showed Bacon Fat was more than just a blues-band. Stonerrock, fusion and psychedelic stuff were added to the blues base and thus it all sounded heavier and more rock ‘n roll than the ‘Plain Sustain’ material.

To this day the Show Some Steel tour is the most successful one, considering the amount of dates. The band did 31 shows in Belgium and the Netherlands.



Show Some Steel demo



Boogielicious Benny

2004 – It was time to come up with an official album in order to let the band grow further. By summertime the band hit a real studio for the first time. Under guidance of JP Gerard at the

NoHype Studio in Liège the boys recorded Boogielicious Baby in about 3 weeks. To catch the live-sound of the band no overdubs were recorded, except for one rhythm-guitar track during the solo on 'Ponytail Daydream'. The album consisted of 5 new songs and 6 re-recorded tracks previously appearing on the first two demo's. New tracks included 'Motorcycle Hotel', 'Kick the Boogiemán', 'Strip Down', 'Rub Top Shuffle' and 'Red Pussycat'. The Kick the Boogiemán tour saw the band performing 25 shows all over the Lowlands and the album was presented at the very last show on December 17th, notably W.'s 29th birthday. This was also the year Boogielicious Benny –the band logo- appeared for the first time.



2005 – The accompanying Boogielicious tour started and went very well until the gig at the Fiesta du Rock festival in June. Bacon Fat was to close on Saturday-evening and it can be called a miracle the show went on. Suddenly mr Nasty wasn't feeling very comfortable at all and even wanted to quit it all. The rest of the band managed to talk him over to do the show and eventually he did. Though this would be the start of a constant tension between the trio. Meanwhile the first shows in Luxembourg were also done.

By October the trouble became that big W. decided it was time to act before the band was completely torn down. So he assembled a new line-up, just to be ready to take over when the time-bomb with Luke and mr Nasty would explode. The new line-up starts rehearsing in November.



*High Chapparral Festival, Godbrange,
Luxembourg, July 15th, 2005*



Genk on Stage Festival, June 26th, 2005

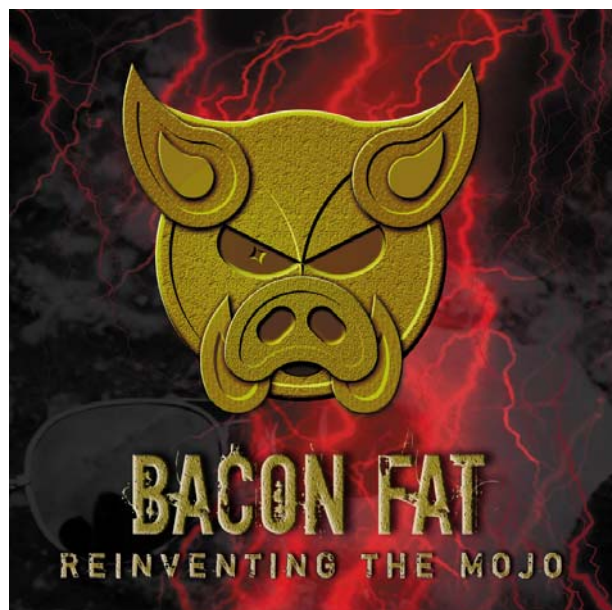


Live at the Acosse Rock & Blues Festival, May 26th, 2005

2006 – The 23rd show of the Boogielicious tour on April 29th was the day the bomb actually exploded. After a super-tight show (probably one of the best by the old line-up) heavy disagreements between W. and the rest lead to the split of the band. The remaining shows of the tour would be handled by the new line-up. So two weeks later on May 13th, 20-year old Benjamin and Enrique enter the stage to headline the Rotarock festival in Landen. The audience as well as the president of the festival couldn't believe this was happening. It was a big risk W. took, but the show the new Bacon Fat brought was in every way what people expected. And so the band could survive this inner-crisis without losing the touch with the fans. By the end of the year Bacon Fat was back in the studio to record the drums and bass for the second album.



Enrique, W. and Benjamin in 2006



Second album

2007 – W. hits the studio to record the guitar-tracks for the new album. With the production completely in his hands he can take his time to built up the guitars. In opposite to the first album it's multi-tracking all around here. 'Dig it Up' has even seven guitar-tracks and the average would be 4 or 5. Again this album is a mix of new and old songs. 6 new ones by the new line-up (including the reggae-rocker 'Raggafari Jack'), 4 songs by the old line-up, two re-recorded tracks from Show Some Steel and Hendrix' 'Red House'. Reinventing the Mojo was released in June.

Meanwhile the band already started writing new material. The first one was 'Liberty Bell' which took about 10 months to finish, due to the very complex structure of this latin-stonerrocker. In between the boys found the time to write the fantastic 'She's Cocaine'. The year ends with a memorable 3-hour show at the famous blues-shack d'Oude Wasserij in Wetteren.



May 5th, 2007, Spixhe, (Theux) with Quotation (HOL)

2008 – The year of the MOJO-tour saw the band performing again on a more regular base. Those 19 shows brought the boys for the first time in Germany. Other highlights were (again) the Fiesta du Rock festival near Liège where Bacon Fat actually played after Peter Pan Speedrock on this awesome double-headliner bill. There was the KotsHovenRock festival in Kortesseem where a professional DVD was recorded with 5 cameras.



Candy for Eardrums festival, August 23rd, 2008



Bacon Fat 2008



Live at KotsHovenRock, Kortesseem, August 30th, 2008

These shows finally brought the two new tracks into the set. Then there was the Grease it up Rock Rally, the exhausting straight 3-hour set at Maison du Peuple in Flémalle and finally the show at JC Elektra in Holland. Meanwhile a third newly penned song entered the set: 'Live 'n Die for Rock 'n Roll'.

2009 – Despite the ongoing crisis Bacon Fat manages to get together a good calendar with gigs in Bruges, Antwerp, Aachen, Tienen, Leuven and so on. Of course the home-gigs in Sint-Truiden remain. The highlight though was the appearance of the band at the famous Blues at the Attic festival in the Leuven area where they showed no signs of slowing down.

New songs have been written and are under construction. By the end of 2010 the new material will be recorded in order to present you the new Bacon Fat album by early 2011.



*W. in action at the Blues at the Attic Festival in Herent, November 7th, 2009
Photo by Lady Blue*