

## METAL BAND'S SUCCESS SURPRISES CRITICS

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Some said it couldn't be done. Others said look at the economy, you're crazy to try.

"But we decided to go out and headline our first tour anyway," said singer Jani Lane of the hard rock/metal band Warrant. "And we surprised all of them.

"We did 20,000 in Milwaukee, 18,000 in Chicago, 19,000 in Indianapolis," he said. "And now we get to headline in my own home territory, at Blossom Music Center."

The Los Angeles sextet with two local players (Lane is from Kent, and drummer Steven Sweet is from Warrant headlines Blossom Music Center tomorrow at 8 p.m. Trixter and Firehouse are special guests. Both pavilion and lawn seats are \$12.99, available through Ticketmaster (241-5555) and the Blossom box office, 1145 W. Steels Corners Rd., Cuyahoga Falls. Wadsworth) heads a triple play tonight at Blossom, along with Trixter and Firehouse.

Not bad for a band that some critics have called a "no substance hair band more concerned with Aquanet than the quality of music," Lane said. Those were very conservative critics, he points out.

"I don't care what critics call us, though. We're a fun band, but we have serious thoughts in our songs, too. You need both sides," he said.

Lane graduated from Field High School in Mogadore. On July 27, he will wed actress/model Bobbie Brown, who appeared in the video for Warrant's current Columbia Record title track, "Cherry Pie." Sweet will be best man.

"She was the one in those cute little red cowboy boots," Lane said of his fiance. "But actually I spotted her before when she was a spokesperson for 'Star Search,' and invited her to be in our video."

The "Cherry Pie" single broke into the Top 10 slot on Billboard's Hot 100 single list. However, it's "Heaven" song from its double platinum first album, "Dirty, Rotten, Filthy, Stinking Rich," reached No. 3.

Warrant had opened for such bands as Motley Crue, Guns N' Roses and Poison in Los Angeles, then became the "speed kings of the hill" when the earlier bands became national artists.

"Steve and I hooked up together back in Ohio," said Lane. "I had been in a band with Steve's older brother, David, which had broken up. When Steve and I went to Los Angeles we joined a group called Plain Jane, whose singer and drummer had left. That band became Warrant."

The other Warrant members are guitarists Erik Turner and Joey Allen and bassist Jerry Dixon.

Los Angeles was a tough town to crack, Lane found. The members lived in two apartments in Van Nuys in the San Fernando Valley and just scraped by, but had a lot of fun, too, he said.

"Funny, but in a way we're going backwards," he said. "Most metal bands get a little mellower with more melody as they go along. But our second album is actually heavier than our first one. That just seems to be our natural direction."

The one current album song that has kicked up controversy is "Ode to Tipper Gore," a song about one of the founders of the Parents Music Resource Center. Asked about the four letter expletives, Lane has said that sometimes you have to exaggerate to make a point.

This interview almost didn't take place. Lane had forgotten to tell reporters that he had signed in at his Springfield, Ill., hotel under a fake name, Bud Light.

"You have to have an assumed name for your health's sake," he said. "You get to a new city dead tired and need a little uninterrupted sleep."

- Caption: PHOTO: Warrant (from left, Steven Sweet, Jani Lane, Erik Turner, Joey Allen and Jerry Dixon) headlines Blossom Music Center tomorrow.

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