

Shake It All Up!

The Stirring Collaboration Between Beej Chaney and Robby Vee

A rare but satisfying alignment between two distinctive artists from different backgrounds occurs on *Shake It All Up!* (Vee Entertainment/Paramour Records), the new, tasty seven-song collaboration between Robby Vee and Beej Chaney. Strap in, 'cuz the songs deliver memorable rock 'n roll moments and an historical benchmark in the storied careers of both Beej and Robby.

On *Shake It All Up*, the neo-rockabilly style of Robby Vee – the son and namesake of the legendary '60s pop star Bobby Vee – meets the wild card antics of Beej Chaney, the explosive guitarist and propulsive frontman for the popular and punkish “new wave” band *The Suburbs* who emerged from the flood of phenomenal Twin Cities rock groups in the '80s. The new disc is a fitting follow up to Vee's critically acclaimed last album, *Double Spin*, and a welcome return to form for Chaney.

Pop Rock Songs of Longing, Losing, Loss – And Celebration

Through just a handful of songs, the two seasoned rockers combine to deliver pop rock songs about longing (“Vacant” and “Give Me Your Heart”), losing (“Straight On”) and loss (“Small Town”). They also manage to cast some serious shade on the LA/Hollywood scenes both witnessed firsthand (“We're Open All Night”). Dig also the two guitar slingers hard at it, with Robby playing more solos than normal and Beej wielding his signature Beejtar sound on most every song! But it's the album's catchy horn-driven title track that celebrates the good, no matter which way you shake it all up – or down! It will remind many of Beej's former band *The Suburbs*. What's surprising about the entire set is how musically accessible and listener-friendly it really is given the edgy, maverick sensibilities of both artists.

While *Shake It All Up!* is a first successful meeting of minds, it's also the last. The project's high points are overshadowed by the tragic loss of Beej who passed away early in 2025 while doing what he loved best, taking his ritualist swim in the Pacific Ocean. Call these new songs Chaney's last testament to his singular talents and rock 'n' roll legacy.

In the End, A Triumph of Songwriting

“Beej and I both come from raw, energy-fueled roots music-- Rockabilly and Punk,” notes Robby. “Emotionally they are very similar. But we both have a wide

appreciation for pop music, so Shake It All Up! is ultimately a celebration of pop songwriting – and a fond farewell to an old friend.”

The two formed a lasting bond when Robby was dragged from LA after his family moved to a small town west of the Twin Cities when he was in his teens. A chance meeting with Beej while he was playing in St. Cloud with The Suburbs provided him with “a hopeful path forward and a lifelong friendship: He really inspired me to be myself – to find my musical journey. I’d left a very rich and high octane musical scene in LA for a Midwest musical landscape that was completely different than the one I had come from.

“But Beej had an explosive familiarity and a realness to him that was reminiscent of many of the legends of rock ‘n roll I grew up with and the music world I left out west. The thing about him was that he had an expansive soul and a persona of being on the edge, which is what music should be: Music isn’t safe -- it should expand you and make you strive!

“Beej had this beautiful aura and original ways to express himself. He was the real deal, and I miss him terribly. But now we’ll always have this record between us to share with fans, family and friends.”

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