

**"A tour de force"** **UCLA Live**  
-Mojo

**SEE** the American premiere of the rogue opera **MIRROR MAN**  
**FEEL** the terrors of **FOYERDROME** **SAVOUR** the flavors of **ALL\*STAR\*COOKOUT**

**Pere Ubu founder DAVID THOMAS presents...**

# DISASTODROME!



**THRILL TO**  
the **ONLY**  
festival with  
**NO SAFETY NET!**

**PERE UBU**  
**FRANK BLACK**  
**THE KIDNEY**  
**BROTHERS**  
**BOB HOLMAN**  
**ROCKET FROM**  
**THE TOMBS**  
**VAN DYKE**  
**PARKS**  
**KEITH MOLINÉ**  
**ANDY DIAGRAM**  
**GEORGIA HUBLEY**  
**& MORE SPECIAL**  
**GUESTS**

**UCLA Freud Playhouse**  
**Fri-Sun Feb 21-23 8pm**

**We call it DISASTO**  
**so nothing can go wrong**

For detailed program info per evening, visit [uclalive.com](http://uclalive.com)  
Tickets UCLA Live 310.825.2101 / [uclalive.com](http://uclalive.com)  
Ticketmaster 213.365.3500

**U.S. Premiere**



# Disastodrome!

## What is Disastodrome?

Disastodrome is a three day festival of voice and vision where the reputations of 18 avant-garage heroes will be collectively tested. These boundary-breakers, forever outside the world of music-by-numbers, are led by Pere Ubu founder, David Thomas.

David Thomas is "one of America's most enigmatic and visionary talents" and a vocalist of genuine originality. His avant-rock group Pere Ubu is a byword for the uncompromising pursuit of musical vision. His improvisational trio, David Thomas and two pale boys, is the latest in a line of pop experiments intent on rewriting the rules of music production. He has collaborated with musicians of all sorts from the steppes of Siberia to the canals of Manchester, lectured at universities and art centers on "The Geography of Sound in the Magnetic Age" and, in 2002, starred in the West End production of "Shockheaded Peter."

Disastodrome 2003, staged at the Freud Playhouse, UCLA, Los Angeles, February 21-23, 2003, and produced by UCLA Live, includes live performances from Pere Ubu, Frank Black, and The Kidney Brothers, as well as the first appearance in 27 years of the legendary Rocket From The Tombs and the American premiere of David Thomas' rogue opera, Mirror Man. The festival will be hosted by Johnny Dromette, creator of the original datapanik range of goods and services, and will feature a variety of lobby events, displays and motivational apparatus items called Foyerdrome, one component of which is the roving Voices From The Fringe, delivered by neo-beat poet Bob Holman.

The early Disastodromes (1977-78) were staged at a radio theater in a broken part of Cleveland and featured burst steam pipes, flaming sofas and voice-of-doom winos lurking in all the dark corners. Plus some good bands. And Steakburgers by Eddie. The first and so far only other modern revival of the event was staged by London's South Bank Centre, England's largest arts complex, April 2-5, 1998.

"The South Bank came to me and said here's a bunch of money, what do you want to do?" David Thomas says. "I thought about the spaces involved – the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and National Film Theatre – and I thought that what these spaces needed was a real mess. Not just that kind of well-conceived, artistic, placed-just-so mess you get a lot of but genuine, good ole confused disorder on a truly amateurish and liberating level. We delivered the goods."

## Why Disasto?

We call it disasto so nothing can go wrong.  
Disasto does not promote disorder. Disasto preserves disorder.

Disastodrome creates a space in which the ordinary citizen can be freed from the burden of anticipation that haunts the data-junkie. "Is this experience meaningful enough?" "Is everything okay?" "Will the neighbors know?" Disasto assures that everything is going absolutely according to plan. It's a mess.

### Internet resources

David Thomas bio: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/bio.html>

Downloadable photos of David Thomas: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/dtpix.html>

The Disastodrome web site: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/disasto.html>

**Friday, February 21,  
Freud Playhouse,  
Caligari's Diner**



The Disastodrome Festival opens with a chance to see rare solo performances and unique groupings of musicians. Tonight the line-up is:

David Thomas and two pale boys  
The Kidney Brothers  
Frank Black

**Who are David Thomas and two pale boys?**

David Thomas and his wild guitar & trumpet splinter group, the two pale boys, generate strange new shapes, rolling stories and sonic panoramas out of spontaneous deconstructions. The seesawing of a melodeon gives way to cascading electronica and expressionistic soundscapes-- sometimes pulsating and abrasive, sometimes mysterious and exploratory.

Andy Diagram (Diagram Brothers, James, The Honkies, The Spaceheads) plays trumpet through radio receivers, echo machines & delays, layering sound-on-sound cascades of electronica. Keith Moliné (They Came From The Stars I Saw Them, Infidel) manipulates multiple voices, dynamic calamities, delicate whispers, and angular rhythms via a midi-guitar setup.

Time Out says, "A gloriously garrulous, diffidently divine, pumping, wheezy, melodeon-driven, contemporised avant-folk... Twisted and inspired, it is like everything and nothing you've ever heard, [they] are now creating a whole new kind of strange and affecting beauty... It is harrowing and haunting, beautiful and haunted stuff in which to both lose and find yourself." The Sunday Times says, "Ceaselessly inventive." The Financial Times says, "Grown men cried." The latest David Thomas and two pale boys cd is called "Surf's Up" (Thirsty Ear Records).

Expect special guests.

David Thomas: vocals, melodeon  
Keith Moliné: midi-guitar  
Andy Diagram: trumpet, electronics

Internet Resources

David Thomas and two pale boys bio: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/pbs.html>  
David Thomas and two pale boys photo & art: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/pbpix.html>

**Who is Frank Black?**

Back in the late 80's, Black Francis fronted The Pixies, a group that released five hugely acclaimed records, inspiring countless other bands to form in garages worldwide. After the Pixies split in the early 90's, Black Francis began his well-regarded solo career as Frank Black. Over the years he has come to be a champion of 2-track live recording eschewing the technology and gadget-driven multi-tracking that is the standard. "Capture the moment before someone sucks all the heart out of it," he says. At the same time, through a catalog of idiosyncratic cd releases, he has shaped an alternate geography from detritus and debris of his adopted Los Angeles home. For Disastodrome Frank Black is appearing as a singer in the rogue opera *Mirror Man* as well as performing a rare solo acoustic set.

His band is called Frank Black and The Catholics and their two recent cd releases on spinART Records, are "Black Letter Days" and "Devil's Workshop."

Internet Resources

Frank Black materials: [http://www.spinartrecords.com/bands\\_frankblack.html](http://www.spinartrecords.com/bands_frankblack.html)  
Photos of Frank Black: [http://www.spinartrecords.com/art\\_photos/art\\_frankblack.html](http://www.spinartrecords.com/art_photos/art_frankblack.html)

Friday, Feb. 21, continued

### **Who are The Kidney Brothers?**

Robert Kidney is the leader of 15-60-75, a band described by a Dutch writer as "if Defunkt would jam with Captain Beefheart, War and MC5 – a storm." 15-60-75 is a blues band but where the guardians of the form have starved it of innovation, 15-60-75 nurtured abstract evolution; where the priests of Budweiser Blues droned old catechisms by rote, 15-60-75 aspired to vision. They play blues imbued with meaning, purged and purified by flame, and shorn of every superfluous moment, sound or word. Brother Jack Kidney, also of the band, joins Robert to make up The Kidney Brothers duo.

The prestigious Dutch monthly Oor says of The Kidney Brothers, "Their music could be described as Jerry Lee Lewis on Mars, an avant-garde James Brown."

Of 15-60-75, Mojo says, "One of the few outfits to have stamped generic R&B with an original seal... Kidney is a Van Vliet on the distaff side, or a less hung up David Byrne." Spin says, "A tin-walled barrel house of the subconscious." Creem Magazine says, "15-60-75 carries within their music the rhythmic pulse of the blues (Delta, Chicago), the freeform flow of jazz, and the heartbeat of rock and roll."

Their Disastodrome 2003 appearance is a rare chance to see a duo that electrified the Purcell Room in 1998 at the very first Disastodrome.

15-60-75's first album, "Jimmy Bell's Still In Town," has recently been re-released by Glitterhouse (Europe) and Bomba (Japan). A Kidney Brothers album is in the works. Robert Kidney has also recorded with Anton Fier's The Golden Palominos.

Robert Kidney: vocals, guitar

Jack Kidney: harmonica, guitar, tenor sax, vocals

### Internet Resources

The 15-60-75 website: <http://www.numbersband.com>

The "Jimmy Bell's Still In Town" release: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/hearpen/jbell.html>

Downloadable photo of The Kidney Brothers <http://www.numbersband.com/david1.jpg>

**Saturday, February 22,  
Freud Playhouse,  
Mirror Man**

The improvisational, "rogue opera" Mirror Man, which gets its American premiere here with an exceptional cast of boundary breakers, is a startlingly original neo-beat event. Written and compiled by David Thomas, it is set against an extraordinary backdrop comprised of the flotsam and jetsam of a lost America where ghostly characters tell their stories in a reworking of Edgar Lee Master's "Spoon River Anthology."

"A tour de force," says Mojo.

"It evokes the restless hobo spirit of Harry Partch," says Time Out.

"A contemporary update of the Kerouac era," says The Guardian.

"Suddenly you want to leave the house and get in the car and see if you can find the same country this company is finding," says Greil Marcus.

Mirror Man was specially commissioned for the first Disastodrome, April 2-5 1998, and was staged at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London. It was re-staged for the FIMAV improvisational festival in Victoriaville, Quebec, Canada, May 21, 2000, and, in May 2001, toured 7 cities in Great Britain sponsored by the Contemporary Music Network.

The first act of Mirror Man, as an original cast recording, was released as a cd on Cooking Vinyl and Thirsty Ear in 1999. The cast for the UCLA performance is:

David Thomas: narrator, singer, melodeon, composer  
Bob Holman: radio voice  
Robert Kidney: singer  
Syd Straw: singer  
Frank Black: singer  
Van Dyke Parks: singer  
George Wendt: singer  
Keith Moliné: midi-guitar, composer  
Andy Diagram: trumpet, electronics, composer  
Jack Kidney: tenor sax, harmonica  
Georgia Hubley: drums

Internet resources

The Mirror Man page: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/synopsis.html>

Mirror Man cd page: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/mm.html>

**Who is Keith Moliné?**

Keith Moliné refracts shivery vibrato guitar through synthesizer and sampler technology to create beguiling sonic vistas punctuated by off-kilter effects and random interjections. This approach results from a careful cross-pollination of high-art avant-garde and low-art prog. In addition to six years as a Pale Boy, he has performed in the group Infidel, recorded solo as Mesmerist, and is currently playing electric violin with kosmische absurdists They Came From The Stars I Saw Them.



*Saturday, Feb. 22, continued*

### **Who is Andy Diagram?**

Andy Diagram has been a unique voice on the trumpet for more than 18 years. He developed his own style over that time in a variety of very different projects. Creating large soundscapes of brass with the use of electronics, looping his trumpet in multiple echo machines, and with the ingenious use of harmonizers he builds not just luscious washes of sound but also pulsating and infectious rhythms. Spending much of the 1980s in Manchester, he recorded and toured with a range of bands on the rock, pop and jazz scenes, from Diagram Brothers and Dislocation Dance to James. Moving to London in 1992 he became a founder member of The Honkies which stormed the London improvised music scene of the early 90s. He now records and tours the world with his own, much acclaimed band The Spaceheads, where his unique sound and melodic sense are complimented by the emotive rhythms of drummer Richard Harrison. He has also been recording and touring with David Thomas as a regular member of the two pale boys for the last six years.

#### Internet Resources

The Spaceheads website: <http://www.spaceheads.co.uk>

### **Who is Georgia Hubley?**

Drummer Georgia Hubley has been a member of Yo La Tengo since its inception in 1986 and is one of the group's principal songwriters. The group's most recent release is a single which cover's Sun Ra's epic "Nuclear War."

### **Who is Bob Holman?**

The New York Times Magazine dubbed him a member of the "Poetry Pantheon" and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. featured him in a profile in The New Yorker. They call him "Ringmaster of the Spoken Word" (New York Daily News), "Poetry Czar" (Village Voice), "Dean of the Scene" (Seventeen). From Slam to Hip-hop, from performance poetry to spoken word, Bob Holman has been a central figure in the re-emergence of poetry in US culture. His most recent book is The Collect Call of the Wild (Holt). His latest cd is "In With the Out Crowd" (Mouth Almighty / Mercury). He is Chief Curator of the People's Poetry Gathering, Poetry Guide at About.com, Visiting Professor of Writing and Integrated Arts at Bard College, and Proprietor of the just-born Bowery Poetry Club.

#### Internet Resources

Bob Holman bio and press materials: <http://www.bobholman.com>

Downloadable photos of Bob Holman: <http://bobholman.com/photos/album.htm>

### **Who is Van Dyke Parks?**

Van Dyke Parks is the prototypical musician's musician and a vital force in American music for more than 35 years. He was Brian Wilson's lyricist for the legendary Smile album. He produced the first records by Randy Newman and Ry Cooder. The six albums he's recorded of his own are gems. He arranged for Aaron Neville, U2, The Everly Brothers, Tim Buckley, Judy Collins, Bruce Springsteen, Phil Ochs, Ry Cooder, Victoria Williams, Lowell George and Little Feat, Harry Nilsson, Randy Newman, Eliza Carthy, The Buena Vista Social Club, and many, many others.

#### Internet Resources

The Van Dyke Parks website: <http://www.vandykeparks.com>

**Sunday, February 23,  
Freud Playhouse,  
Custodians of the Avant Garage**

The festival concludes with a rare concert appearance by Pere Ubu and an even rarer appearance of the seminal American proto-punk group, Rocket From The Tombs.



**Who is Pere Ubu?**

From Cleveland, Ohio, Pere Ubu burst upon the scene in 1975 and changed the face of music. For over 27 years they've defined the art of cult; refined the voice of the outsider; and influenced the likes of Joy Division, Pixies, Husker Du, Henry Rollins, REM, the Sisters of Mercy, Thomas Dolby, Bauhaus, Julian Cope and countless others.

Pere Ubu make a music that is a disorienting mix of midwestern groove rock, "found" sound, analog synthesizers, falling-apart song structures and careening vocals. It is a mix that has mesmerized critics, other musicians and fans ever since.

Mojo says, "Ubu are generally regarded as the missing link between the Velvet and punk. From the beginning they obviously understood the nuts and bolts of popular music, and then loosened them."

Andy Gill writing in the New Musical Express says Pere Ubu "achieved what no other group would even attempt, before or since, they had become the world's only expressionist Rock 'n' Roll band, harnessing a range of rock and musique concrete elements together in a sound which drew its power from, and worked on, levels of consciousness previously untouched by popular music."

Robert Palmer in the New York Times says, "Pere Ubu was either ahead of its time or out of step altogether; the band's earliest music sounds as if it could have been recorded yesterday, and is likely to keep sounding that way for some time."

The Wire says, "They're the greatest out-rock 'n' roll group of this millennium, and probably the next."

The band's latest, highly acclaimed cd is St Arkansas (spinART Records).

David Thomas: singer  
Tom Herman: guitar  
Robert Wheeler: synthesizers  
Michele Temple: bass  
Steve Mehlman: drums

Internet Resources

Pere Ubu bio: [http://www.ubuprojex.net/pu\\_bio.html](http://www.ubuprojex.net/pu_bio.html)  
Pere Ubu photos: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/ubupix.html>  
St Arkansas web page: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/stark.html>  
Pere Ubu web sites: <http://www.ubuprojex.net>

**Who is Rocket From The Tombs?**

Rocket From The Tombs existed for less than a year, played fewer than a dozen shows and was probably never seen by more than a few hundred people but it has acquired an international status via an frenetic underground exchange of bootlegs over the decades. When the band split in 1975 some of the group went on to form Pere Ubu, taking along rock classics such as "Final Solution" and "30 Seconds Over Tokyo," and some formed the Dead Boys taking "Sonic Reducer" and "Ain't It Fun," among others. For the first time in 27 years the band will play together at Disastodrome. Richard Lloyd from Television will step in to complete the original two guitar attack.

*Sunday, Feb. 23, continued*

A cd of original source demo tapes and live material, *The Day The Earth Met The Rocket From The Tombs* (Smog Veil Records) was released officially for the first time in 2002 to massive praise.

The Wire says, "Blazing amazing trails, they deserve to be celebrated, not consigned to a historical footnote."

"Les Inrockuptibles says, "A record of great historical importance, envisaging the Punk-Rock revolution..... Furious songs full of tension and of a surprising modernity that deserve being regarded alongside the best songs of the MC5, Patti Smith, The Stooges or VU on the list of the seminal non-mainstream rock bands."

Billboard says, "It's flabbergasting stuff"

The Village Voice says, "The darkest, most desperately unforgiving sound."

David Thomas: singer  
Cheetah Chrome: guitar and vocals  
Richard Lloyd: guitar  
Craig Bell: bass  
Steve Mehlman: drums

Internet Resources

RFTT webpage: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/rftt.html>

**For more information...**

See the Disastodrome web page: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/disasto.html>

Visit the Ubu Projex web site: <http://www.ubuprojex.net>

Contact David Thomas: [david@ubuprojex.net](mailto:david@ubuprojex.net)