

# THE PRINCETON PACKET

## Freak Out!

### Get dressed up and become part of the show when Caravan of Thieves plays in Bordentown

DATE POSTED: Thursday, April 14, 2011 3:06 PM EDT

By Keith Loria

CALLING all freaks!

For fans of the band Caravan of Thieves, which rolls into the Record Collector in Bordentown for an April 17 concert, this isn't an insult but more of a rallying cry.

The birth of Caravan of Thieves occurred when the husband and wife duo of Carrie Sangiovanni and Fuzz decided to play together and went through several incarnations of a band, eventually deciding to create a musical elaborate historical fantasy world.

"Our music is like a gypsy, jazz, swing kind of thing," Fuzz says. "We call us gypsy, swinging, fire-breathing serenading circus freaks."

The Bridgeport, Conn., natives started playing together as an acoustic duo, switched to a more rock-type style, then returned to an acoustic sound, adding their own uniqueness to make the band stand out.

"We knew we had to do something a little bit more than just the two of us playing the acoustic guitar and that's when the gypsy jazz sort of crept its way into our radar," Fuzz says. "It's some great music, it's a lot of fun, it's different and colorful, and we started using that as a template to start writing songs around it."



Caravan of Thieves released the critically praised album *Bouquet* in 2009. The disk is a collection of dramatic and satirical tales put to music. Combined with a stage show that's as much a theatrical experience as it is a rock concert, the band earned legions of followers during its first tour through the U.S.

The additions of Brian Anderson on bass and Ben Dean on violin have given Caravan of Thieves some thumping upright bass and rhythmic acoustic guitar to add to their fiery violin arrangements.

"People can expect to have fun with the music, but it's also a visual thing as well," Miss Sangiovanni says. "We get all dressed up and bang on random junk and it's a very interactive show. We like to break that barrier down between the audience and us and get them really involved in it."

"It's sort of a communal thing in a way and we try to get the audience to be as much a part of the show as they are spectators," Fuzz adds. "It's definitely theatrical, visual and comedic, along with all the musical elements that are there."

As the band's followers know, it's not just the members of the group who get in on the act. Often Caravan fans in the audience dress the part as well, and you shouldn't be surprised if The Record Collector is filled with fans in period costumes or strange outfits that match the Caravan of Thieves' music.

"We want to encourage people to do whatever they want at our shows, and there are no set guidelines," Miss Sangiovanni says. "For those who want to just sit and watch, that is fine, but we want people to be able to jump around and have fun and experience the performance in their own way."

The band's sophomore release *Mischief Night* came out last year, and it's comprised of songs from a live show in Fairfield, Conn. on May 1, 2010. The recording highlights the first two years of the group's most outrageous and engaging on-stage antics, original composition favorites and a few selections from their list of unexpected cover song reconstructions.

As for working and living together, the couple offered some tips for keeping the marriage and band solid.

"It's been an ongoing process of working together. It's key to take constructive criticism and separate that and not take it personally," Miss Sangiovanni says. "But you have to do that any time you're working with people. It's just a little different when you're working with your partner too."

"We try to keep the two as separate as possible," Fuzz adds. "It's important to let the business be the business and the relationship be the relationship."

Up next for the band is another new collection of songs, which the Thieves will be recording in between stops of their current tour.

"We're going to look to break new ground, but at the same time satisfy our core family of freaks," Fuzz says. "We're having fun and we want to take everyone along on that ride with us."

Looking ahead, the couple wants to continue developing its style creatively and see how far they can push the whole live experience.

"We want this to be a social interactive play between us and the fans and create a community of people who are interested in talking with us and each other," Fuzz says. "We want it to be as popular and big an entity as it could be."

Caravan of Thieves will perform at *The Record Collector*, 358 Farnsworth Ave., Bordentown, April 17, 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20, \$15; 609-324-0880; [www.the-record-collector.com](http://www.the-record-collector.com)

Link:  
[http://www.centraljersey.com/articles/2011/04/15/time\\_off/entertainment\\_news/doc4da742a3200e5452473252.txt](http://www.centraljersey.com/articles/2011/04/15/time_off/entertainment_news/doc4da742a3200e5452473252.txt)