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## STANDING ROOM ONLY

« Ken Navarro will perform at Rams Head On Stage, located at 33 W. St. in Annapolis. Tickets cost \$25. Doors open at 7 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 410-268-4545.

## LISTENING POSTS

✓ **Almost McGraw**  
Rams Head Live, 20 Market Place, Baltimore; \$20; 8 p.m. Saturday; 410-244-1131

**Green Machine, TBR, Paperback Tragedy**  
Fletcher's Bar, 701 S. Bond St., Baltimore; \$7 (+ \$3 under 21); 8 p.m. Saturday; 410-558-1889

**The Radiators**  
The 8x10 Club, 10 E. Cross St., Baltimore; \$17; 8 p.m. Saturday; 410-625-2000

**Summer Concert Series**  
Harborplace Amphitheatre, Inner Harbor, Baltimore; free; 7 p.m. Saturday; 800-HARBOR1

**Hot Harbor Saturday Nights**  
Harborplace, Light and Pratt streets, Baltimore; free; 8 p.m. Saturday; 800-HARBOR1

**Al Maniscalco Quartet — CD release party**  
An die Musik Live! 409 N. Charles St., Baltimore; \$15/\$12 students and seniors; 5 p.m. Sunday; 410-385-2638

## DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT

» **Artkids Preschool Program** — 10:30 a.m.  
Tanglebird by Bernard Lodge, The Walters Art Museum, 600 N. Charles St., Baltimore; free; Saturday; 410-547-9000.

» **Baltimore Improv Festival** — 8 p.m.  
Theatre Project, 45 W. Preston St., Baltimore; \$15; Saturday; 888-745-8393.

» **BellyPalooza: The Daughters of Rhea Belly Dance Festival** — 10 a.m.  
Mattin Center at Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles St., Baltimore; free; Saturday; 410-733-0536.

## BOOK TALK

» **An Afternoon with Apathy Press Poets** — 4 p.m.  
Minas Gallery, 815 W. 36th St., Baltimore; free; Sunday; 410-732-4258.



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— Courtesy photo



— Courtesy photo

# Panic! At the Disco

## Top emo group performs in Baltimore at Virgin Fest

By Nancy Dunham  
Examiner Correspondent

Forget the Web rumors that report Panic! At the Disco will cover "Space Cowboys" by \*NSYNC.

While the ever-popular emo band will bring new songs to the Virgin Festival, a Justin Timberlake cover is not among them.

"Wow. That's new. I hadn't heard that before," said guitarist and band co-founder Ryan Ross, from his Las Vegas home. "No, that's not true. Not yet, at least."

Since the incredible success of the band's 2005 debut album, "A

Fever You Can't Sweat Out," and a world tour, the group's members have hunkered down to craft their next album, due for release in the first quarter of 2008. But that hasn't drained their enthusiasm for an extravagant live show.

While the heat and humidity at other recent festivals have prompted the band to leave the dancers and contortionists behind, expect M.A.C. cosmetics, circus costumes and rock-star struts to be in full display.

"We sort of have a fascination with theater, Cirque de Soleil," Ross said. "We just want people to have a good time at a show, so we add a little something. I feel like a muse that puts on a pretty good live show."

Not to mention pretty good music, too. Good enough, in fact, that the Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz signed them to his label after hearing just

a few demos. His faith was not misplaced. Panic's first album hit No. 13 on Billboard and received five out of five stars from Rolling Stone.

"On all fronts, Panic pillage two pop-friendly musical trends," wrote Rolling Stone. "Eighties keyboard nostalgia and angry-boy pop punk — and create something new."

That innovation translated into their videos. "I Write Sins Not Tragedies" snatched the coveted "Video of the Year" award away from Madonna and other music heavyweights at the 26th MTV Music Awards.

Can lightning strike again with the second release?

"We're actually in the middle of making that record. It's been a long process," Ross said. "It's easy to make a song that is hard to understand. It's a lot harder to make a simple song really good."

## VIRGIN FESTIVAL

# Incubus marches to more success

By Nancy Dunham  
Examiner Correspondent

Incubus will ride into Baltimore on a metaphorical wave from its recent chart-topping "Light Grenades," its sixth studio album.

The band that formed when a group of Los Angeles teens fell in love with music they heard at the Whiskey, the Roxy and other clubs has truly come into its own.

"This was no overnight success," lead singer Brandon Boyd said. "We had to form a stubborn self-reliance to get this far."

Almost 16 years after setting about to emulate their idols, which included the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Incubus is now a trendsetting band in its own right. Perhaps that's because latching onto the others' musical creativity was only a starting point for launching its own sound. Boyd likens the creative path the band took to a wandering stream.

"We've definitely carved our own path," guitarist Mike Einziger, the band's primary songwriter, told the Indianapolis Star. "Our music is always kind of ... stylistically ambiguous."

Boyd seems somewhat humbled by the success the band enjoys talking about the continual struggles the band endured as it climbed the charts.

"There are definitely instances that I look back on with less-than-fond memories," he said. "We were continually struggling, facing one upset after another. But when there was even a glimmer of hope, that is what kept us going."

But Boyd dwells more on the positive of the camaraderie of the members as they toured, recorded and started to make a name.

"The first couple records, I didn't know what I was doing," Boyd said. "They said OK, you have long hair. You're the lead singer. I was peeing into a high-powered fan, but I was having a lot of fun."

Although the band has matured artistically and musically, they have not fallen into any rote pattern, as evidenced by the various directions taken in their albums.

"We very much embrace the idea that art is a moving target," Boyd said. "That's exciting to me, not to have to be any one thing at one time. We choose our target, so to speak."