



For Immediate Release

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Live Performances Elevate Funky Rockers *The People Upstairs* Unique Quintet to 'Tear the Roof Off' SunFest

Lake Worth, FL

The People Upstairs (TPUS) should be seen outdoors. At two recent performances – at Jupiter's Guanabanas and Lake Worth's Havana Hideout – their reggae-infused vocals flowed through their drum base like an April breeze through rustling palms. That's just one of the reasons band members are excited about SunFest.

"We love to play, period," says Casey Buckley, lead singer for the band, whose members have been playing together for almost a decade. "But it really shows when we play an outdoor venue. It's something about the reggae, the island sound. SunFest is the perfect place to see The People Upstairs for the first time."

Buckley's enthusiasm is infectious. The group has a dedicated following which grows like the cadence of one of their trademark drum jams. Perhaps because of this, the band has been playing bigger, higher visibility gigs in the past few months, most notably at downtown Lake Worth's inaugural Halloween Street Scene festival, at Boynton's Slainte Irish Pub on St. Patrick's Day, and at a New Year's Eve concert for the Navy at Andros Island in the Bahamas. Upcoming gigs – in addition to their SunFest debut – include an appearance at Miami Beach's legendary Jazid nightclub on April 20th.

Driven by drums (most of the members were in the drumline together at Atlantic High School) and accented by Jose Rangel's soaring trumpet and Buckley's cheerfully raspy vocals, The People Upstairs' upbeat funk is unique in South Florida – and uniquely South Florida. From quirky originals like 'Ha Ha Ha,' 'Mr. Murphy,' and 'Ni Modo' to energetic covers of such diverse material as 'I Will Survive' and 'Give Up the Funk (Tear the Roof off the Sucker),' TPUS' edgy, danceable groove has audiences gleefully tapping their rhythms out across the state and across the Straits.

The People Upstairs are as ethnically diverse as South Florida and feature Casey Buckley on vocals/percussion, Chris Prestia on guitar, Tony Rangel on bass/vocals, Jose Rangel on percussion/trumpet and Gabe Rangel on drums. They released their first album, *Synchrofunkinicity*, on FAU's HOOT Records label in 2004.

See **The People Upstairs** (<http://www.thepeopleupstairs.com/>):

- 9 p.m. April 15th at **Propaganda**, 6 S. J St., Lake Worth (561-547-7273) <http://www.propagandalw.com/>
- 10 p.m. April 20th at **Jazid**, 1342 Washington Avenue Miami Beach (305-673-9372) <http://www.jazid.net/>
- 10 p.m. April 23rd at **Slainte**, 1500 Gateway Blvd., Boynton Beach (561-742-4190) <http://slaintepubs.com/cms/>
- 5:45 p.m. April 30th at **SUNFEST**, South Stage <http://www.sunfest.com/>