

CHUCKLEHEAD

BACK FROM THE HEAD

What you have in your greasy little paw is a Chucklehead funk time-capsule. I'm referring to the USB stick. I don't know what you thought I meant, but this is a family show. It all started in 1988 at Wesleyan University. Erik, Brian, Burke, and I started rehearsing together in the practice rooms down in the tunnels under the campus. We put some stuff together, really just grooves. Huck had access to some recording gear that the Music Department owned, and he offered to record our first few songs.

We had a total blast. I remember Huck making us run laps around the building between takes because we had so much energy. It was all a little spazzy and totally revelatory. We emerged with a 4-song cassette. I love it to this day. Then Huck joined the band, and we started recruiting for a full horn section, The Bozo Patrol.

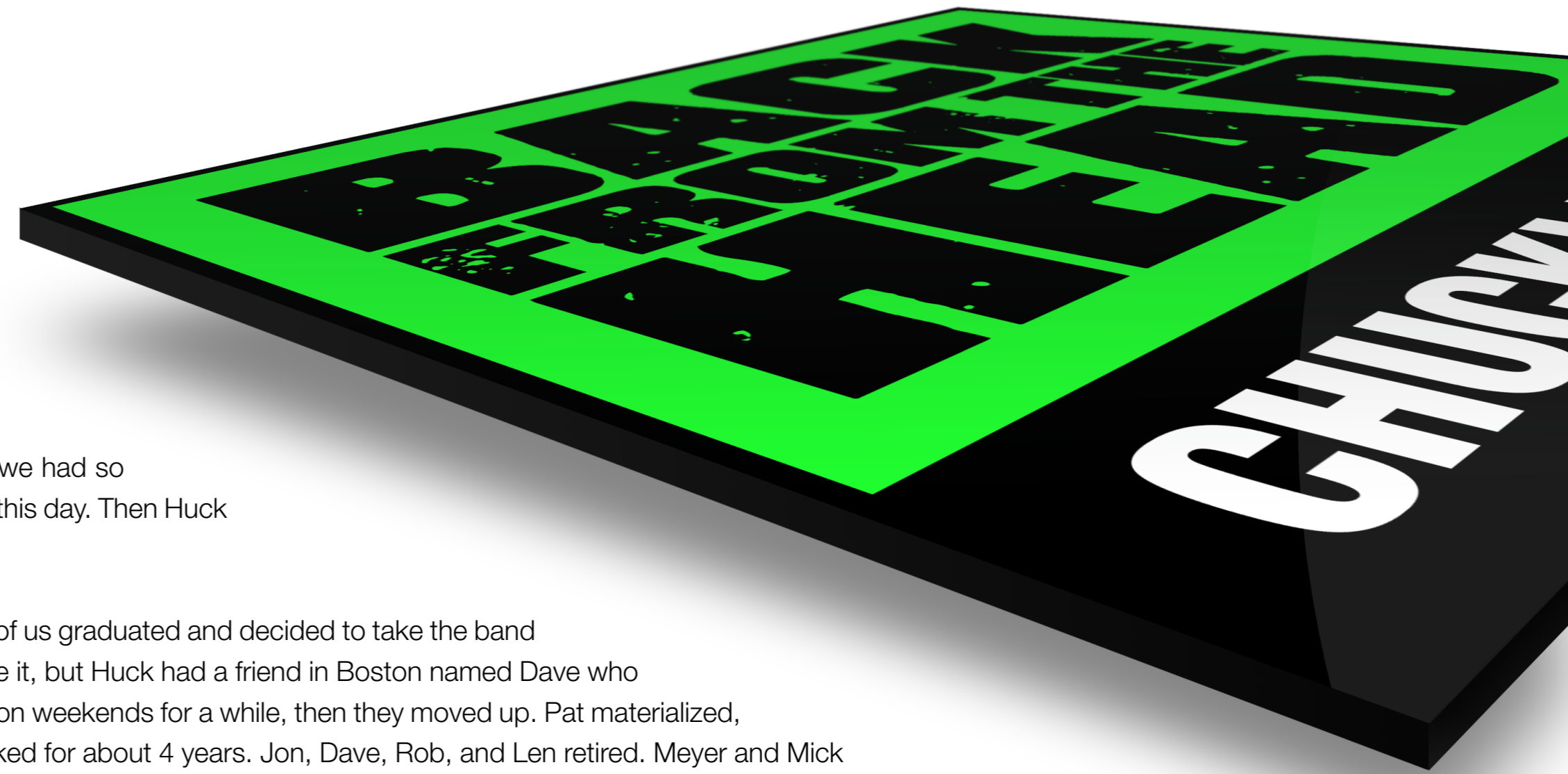
By 1989 we had an eight-member squad and were playing shows on campus. At the end of '89, a bunch of us graduated and decided to take the band to Boston, just for the summer. Erik, Brian, Huck, Rob, Len, and I all made the move. Burke couldn't make it, but Huck had a friend in Boston named Dave who might be into playing bass for us. He was into it. Jon materialized too. We stayed. Brian and Len came up on weekends for a while, then they moved up. Pat materialized, a truly nuclear sound man if ever there was one. Brucie materialized, the roadie to end all roadies. We rocked for about 4 years. Jon, Dave, Rob, and Len retired. Meyer and Mick materialized. We rocked for about 4 more years. Three albums, hundreds of thousands of miles, and a dizzying number of live shows later, we put the band to sleep.

That is, until 2013 when mid-life hit and we all got the urge to funk again. It was a collective realization. We suddenly needed to do it again, 25 years after we started. If and when you have your mid-life crisis, I strongly recommend getting the old band back together. When I get up on stage now with Chucklehead, I get the same feeling I had in that first recording session in 1988, running around the building between takes, exploding with energy and filled with the funk.

We made three albums between 1991 and 1997, but we wrote gobs of material that never made it onto the albums. The songs on this stick show the rest of our journey from young funkateers with a groove to keepers of the funk. We learned just about everything up on stage as some of the tracks you'll hear too clearly point out. When we were really cooking, we'd invent new stuff right out of thin air, in the moment without talking. The funk just happened. We left it all in. Some tracks were captured via the most wack-ass tape recorders ever conceived, some were performed in world class recording studios. Everything that helps tell the story is here.

There's also hundreds of hours of live material available on the vast and free Chucklehead Archive, which you can find on our website www.chucklehead.com. Listen to this collection from top to bottom, and you'll hear how it all went down. Back From the Head wouldn't exist without the intrepid, hard work of Jason (Grasshopper) Beals who's served as Chucklehead archivist for the last twenty-plus years.

I'm seeing stars like Uncle Sam when he hears the jam,
Eben



CHUCKLEHEAD is

Eben Levy [EL] (1988 – present): Guitar, Vocals

Brian Gottesman [BG] (1988 – present): Keys, French Horn, Vocals

Huck Bennert [HB] (1988 – present): Saxophones, Percussion, Vocals

Erik Atkisson [EA] (1988 – present): Drums, Vocals

Mick Demopolous [MD] (1994 – present): Bass

Meyer Statham [MS] (1993 – present): Trombone, Vocals

Lenny Alkins [LA] (1988 – 1994): Tenor Saxophone, Vocals

Rob Nahf III [RN](1988 – 1994): Alto Saxophone, Vocals

Dave Rengel [DR] (1989 – 1994): Bass

John Schacter [JS] (1989 – 1993): Trumpet, Vocals

Burke Mamlin [BM] (1988 – 1989): Bass, Vocals

Paul Labay [PL] (1988 – 1989): Trumpet

All songs by Chucklehead, except where noted. All songs engineered/produced by Huck Bennert, except where noted.

1. Clubfoot (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

2. Slop Jar I & 2 (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

3. Jeopardy (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

4. Chucklehead (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

5. Gilligan's Bush (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

6. Break Free (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

7. Rub-a-Dub (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

8. Jazzy Brian (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

9. You Oughta (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

10. Love It (1989)

From the Head First Cassette; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

11. Bonin in the Boneyard (1989)

Written by Fishbone

From the Head First Sessions ; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

12. Graphite (1989)

From the Head First Sessions ; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

13. Love It (1989)

From the Head First Sessions ; Recorded at Ron & Alvin Studios

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, BM, PL

14. Outbound (1990)

This is the original version of Outbound, transferred from reel-to-reel and was on a transition cassette which feature much of the Head First material. Also the earliest recording with the BWK lineup.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

15. Jeopardy (1990)

From the 4 Song cassette. A reimagining of the Head First tune.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

16. Outbound (1990)

From the 4 Song cassette. This version is a remix of the original version with different lyrics added.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

17. Funky Bus (1990)

From the 4 Song cassette. The original version of Funky Bus with a different bridge and ending than the BWK version.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

18. Outbound (1990)

Unreleased radio edit of the 4 song version of Outbound: a full 1:30 shorter.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

19. ArmaGetdown (1991)

Chucklehead Live at the Paradise in 1991. Engineered by Joe Patten.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

20. Money (1991)

Live at the Alzheimer's Benefit at Axis, Boston MA on 6/20/1991. Thunderous bass solo. Engineered by Pat Murray & Eric J. Simon.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

21. The Book (1991)

Unreleased studio track. Engineered by Jeff Shirley @ Squid Hell. 6/1991.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

22. Meter Maid (1991)

Live at the Alzheimer's Benefit at Axis, Boston MA on 6/20/1991. Segue into ACDC's Back in Black's riff. Engineered by Pat Murray & Eric J. Simon.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

23. The Wash (1991)

Unreleased studio track. Engineered by Jeff Shirley @ Squid Hell. 6/1991.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

24. Intro Soul (1991)

Live at Providence College, Providence, MA on 9/13/1991. Engineered by Pat Murray.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

25. Banana Street (1991)

Live on WBRS, Brandeis Radio, Waltham MA on 12/2/1991. Produced by Ofer Inbar.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

26. Tempted (1991)

Live on WBRS, Brandeis Radio, Waltham MA on 12/2/1991. Produced by Ofer Inbar.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

27. Gilligan's Bush (1991)

Live on WBRS, Brandeis Radio, Waltham MA on 12/2/1991. Produced by Ofer Inbar.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

28. You Don't Have to Give it Up (1991)

From the BWK Sessions: the 'Nipple Groove' original mix.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

29. Funky Bus (1991)

From the BWK Sessions: this version does not suppress the end Scooter rap.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

30. Chucklehead Christmas (1991)

From the Chucklehead Christmas Cassette.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

31. Zard of Ozviz (1992)

From the BWK Sessions, 2/28/1992: alternate version where Huck keeps it together.
With HB

32. Chucklehead Medley (1992)

Live at the Paradise Rock Club, Boston, MA on 3/27/1992
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

33. Freeze (1992)

Live at Harvard University Cabot House, Cambridge MA on 4/18/1992
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

34. Big Wet Kiss (1992)

Live at Venus de Milo, Boston MA on 4/28/1992. Engineered by Kevin Gary & Eric J. Simon.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

35. Intro Fuck (1992)

Live at Connecticut College, New London CT on 5/19/1992. Engineered by Sus and Eric J. Simon.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

36. Noisemaker (1992)

Live at Connecticut College, New London CT on 5/19/1992. Engineered by Sus and Eric J. Simon.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

37. Slower/Lower (1992)

Live at Connecticut College, New London CT on 5/19/1992. Engineered by Sus and Eric J. Simon.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

38. Prehistoric Bug (1992)

Live at Mass. College of Art, Boston MA on 10/30/1992. Engineered by Rick Larson & Eric J. Simon
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

39. Funk is on the Loose (1992)

Live at Avenue C, Boston MA on 11/19/1992, featuring the Nuclear Man. Engineered by Pat Murray & Eric J. Simon
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

40. New Year Cheer (1993)

Live at Concord Academy, Concord, MA on 1/23/1993. Engineered by Pat Murray.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

41. Baby Pictures (1993)

Live at Bleachers, Salem, MA on 2/5/1993. Engineered by Pat Murray & Eric J. Simon
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

42. Round-n-Round (1993)

Live at Curry College, Milton, MA on 3/6/1993.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

43. Lush Love (1993)

Live in Syracuse, NY on 4/17/1993
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

44. Wild Thing (1993)

Live at the Muse, Nantucket, MA on 7/3/1993. Written by Chip Taylor. Engineered by Pat Murray & Eric J. Simon.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

45. E-Rockin It (1993)

Unreleased remix by Doug DeAngelis. 7/4/1993
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

46. Serious (1993)

From a tape called 7 songs, culled from an unidentified live show. 8/1/1993
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, RN, DR, JS

47. Big Dumb Song (1993)

From the Fuzz Sessions, featuring Chris Rock in the sampler. Mixed by Eric J. Simon.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, RN, DR

48. Monkey in the Treetops (1993)

Unreleased track from the Fuzz Sessions. Engineered by Doug DeAngelis. 9/1/1993
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, DR

49. Beatbox (1994)

Unreleased track from the Fuzz Sessions. 3/3/1994

50. Mello Cello (1994)

From the Fuzz Sessions, the full Jam that became Flavorful Bouquet. Originally called "Mello Cello"
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

51. Beatbox - Detuned (1994)

Alternate take on Beatbox from the Fuzz Sessions, using the Fuzz-style vocal detuner. 3/3/1994

52. Rapper's Delight (1994)

Live at the Middle East Downstairs, Cambridge, MA on 5/6/1994. Written by the Sugarhill Gang. Engineered by Eric J. Simon.
Segues into the Funky Bus coda.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, LA, MS, DR

53. Bozack (1994)

From the Fuzz Sessions, the full version of Bozack including the intro. 9/5/1994

54. Try & Move Me (1994)

From the Fuzz Sessions, an alternate version of Try and Move Me with different lyrics & music. Engineered by Doug DeAngelis.
9/20/1994

55. It's Alright (1994)

Live on UMASS Lowell Radio. Features the bridge rap removed from the Belly Up version.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

56. Your One (1994/95)

From a rehearsal tape called "In the Room" which has many songs that ended up on Belly Up.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

57. Kick it to the Curb (1994/95)

From a rehearsal tape featuring a frequent later live show jam with Meyer soloing over.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

58. Natural Woman (1995)

Live at the Globe Theatre, Norfolk CT on 5/13/1995. Written by Carole King & Gerry Goffin.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

59. Doug E. Fresh (1995)

Live at Local 186, Allston, MA on 2/12/1995. Engineered by Eric J. Simon.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

60. Dreams (1996)

From the Belly Up pre-production demo. Pulled from an unknown live show.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

61. Can I Be Privy (1996)

From a rehearsal tape.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

62. Creepy Crawly (1996)

From the Belly Up pre-production demo. 8/1996
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

63. Elevator (1996)

Live at the Middle East Downstairs, Cambridge, MA on 11/2/1996. For this show, the band members were half-naked, covered in vaseline, and lit with blacklights.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

64. Ape (1996)

Live at Planet 505, Syracuse NY, on 11/16/1996. Engineered by Pat Murray.
With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

Bonus Tracks

1. Headlites Break Spoof (1996)

Belly Up Outtake.

With EL, BG, HB, EA, MS, MD

2. Happy Birthday to You (1995)

Live at Nietzches, Buffalo, NY on 4/15/1995. Meyer serenades Dan the function manager.

Written by Preston Ware Orem and Mrs. R. R. Forman

3. Funky Bus (1995)

From Earshot by The Chorallaries of MIT.