

Picking and Screaming

In the desolate, acid-washed year of 1988, two struggling souls crossed paths in the City of Angels. Sharing a passion for avant-garde theatrical arts and Queen-size rock & roll histrionics, Jack Black and Kyle Gass forged a friendship, dedicated themselves to the arcane craft of acoustic heavy metal, and formed a band/comedy act the likes of which had never been seen. Jack sang lead. Kyle led the guitar charge. They called themselves Tenacious D, and they crafted anthems about shiny demons, killing yaks with mind bullets, and their lone fan, Lee. Tenacious D chronicled their journey to the crested peak of rock godderly (at least in their own weed-muddled noggins) in a series of beloved HBO shorts in 1999. Soon after, they were rewarded with sold-out concert halls and later a gold album. Yet the two-headed cult sensation realized that there was still one thing left to conquer: Movie Mountain. So they toiled on ideas for the next half decade—with liberal breaks for naps and burrito runs. Under the stewardship of writer-director Liam Lynch (*Sarah Silverman: Jesus Is Magic*), they begat Nov. 22's *Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny*, which documents the duo's epic quest for a satanically-powered guitar plectrum that would help them become, as self-prophesied, the greatest band of all time. (The film also features an appearance by Sasquatch.) Herewith, a colloquy with Black, 37, and Gass, 46, who sometimes are in character, sometimes not, but are always game to hold court.

By Dan Snierson

Photography by Jeff Minton



Tenacious D wonder boys Jack Black and Kyle Gass finally bring their folk-metal duo to the big screen. Here, they rhapsodize about their cinematic journey, their competition, and their backstage demands (hummus?).

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New York

(917) 407-4292

Nicki Silverman: nicki@dsreps.com

Los Angeles

(626) 441-2224

Deborah Schwartz: deb@dsreps.com

Crystal Roberts: crystal@dsreps.com