

## The Name Game

What's in a name?

In the rock world, band names seem to get more bizarre every day. Even famous bands sometimes leave us scratching our heads. Take, for instance, the **Foo Fighters**. Just what is Foo, and why must it be engaged in battle?

But strange band names aren't anything new. Hugely popular '60s and '70s rockers **Three Dog Night** are named after an Australian outback expression used to rate the temperature at night; the colder the night, the more dogs one would need to keep warm while sleeping. So perhaps for extra thermal protection in Wales, the locals use **Super Furry Animals**? This Welsh combo released an EP called *Lianfairpwllgwyllgogochwyrndrob-wlltysiliogoygoyocynygofod*, which is Welsh for "In Space." Uh, okay. Also from Wales is **Gorky's Zygotic Myncci** (pronounced "monkey"). Come to think of it, the **Manic Street Preachers** are also from Wales. Is there something in the water over there?

And speaking of monkeys, how about **Rainbow Butt Monkeys**? Their name apparently arose from some confusion about Mandrill Apes. Perhaps there was some question as to the colour of the apes' posteriors after it rains? But fear not, no animals were harmed in the naming of this band. And besides, they've since changed their name to **Finger Eleven**. (You do the math.)

Others opt for famous names culled from pop culture. There's **Marilyn Manson**, of course, and **Elvis Hitler**. And then there's **The Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black**, immortalizing the 1970s actress in ways she probably never imagined. Even other musicians are not exempt. There's **Yanni DiFranco** (would this be a cross between easy listening New Age and intense folk-punk?), and a group that does zany **James Brown** covers called **Two State Chase, Four Bald Tires and a Bag of PCP**. As Soul Brother #1 himself might say: "Good Gaaawd!"

So say it once, say it loud, we have wacky band names and we're proud!