

THEATER REVIEW

This righteous hipster doesn't miss a beat, man

By DAVID C. NICHOLS
Special to *The Times*

"Dig infinity!" proclaimed the late, great Lord Buckley. He would be 100 this year, and "Lord Buckley in Los Angeles" at M Bar is one far-out centenary gift. The iconic hip messiah riffs his way into the pounce of the now through this tight set by divine swinger Jake Broder.

Born in Tuolumne in 1906, former lumberjack Richard Myrle Buckley rattled '50s counterculture much as Elvis shook up pop culture, albeit from underground. With a mix of British posh and Dizzy Gillespie rasp, Buckley's persona, lingo and watershed records influenced countless artists, starting with Lenny Bruce and Bob Dylan, and presaged modern rap.

Broder, immaculately decked out, nails this prophet of "hipse-mantic," even without the pith helmet and waxed mustache. Aided by groovy side cat John Keefe and a solid sent band — pianist Derek Yellin, bassist Ryan Feves and drummer Mark Sanfelippo — the gimlet-eyed Broder



STEVEN KLEIN

NAILING IT: Jake Broder channels Lord Buckley, who influenced artists including Lenny Bruce and Bob Dylan.

lays down His Royal Hipness with breathtaking results.

Take his "H-bomb" ditty, which here folds current entities into its Cold War curlicues. Jazzed by "hip news" breaks and beatnik takes on Dickens and Browning, we are stunned when acute comment communes with

our subconscious.

The reconstituted Gettysburg Address, featuring an American flag and Keefe as "Lanky Linc," is a righteous ride. And the deathless accounts of Gandhi ("The Hip Gan") and Jesus ("The Nazz") fly sky high.

Broder's scatting runs and

'Lord Buckley in Los Angeles'

Where: M Bar, 1253 N. Vine St., Hollywood

When: 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4; 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17

Ends: Nov. 17

Price: \$15 plus dinner (\$10 minimum)

Contact: (323) 856-0036

Running time: 1 hour, 55 minutes

sax licks testify to his bebop bona fides. Viewers brought down by a white man affecting Southern black patois might recall that Buckley juiced up with the legends he invokes, a stompin' believer in the human family.

Attuned to the plush supper club venue, this crazy daddy-o and his ace cronies come on like Vesuvius reaching for Pompeii. They totally connect, and it is the coolest act in town.

Best Events Column, 2006

FRIDAY, October 6

Like Tiny Tim and Andy Kaufman, Lord Buckley was a comic oddball impossible to categorize. One of his more famous talents was the retelling of Bible stories, Shakespeare soliloquies and modern poetry in his own brand of hipster slang. Though few people remember Buckley, young Jake Broder has brought the "jazz shaman" to life with his much-acclaimed one-man performance, *Lord Buckley in Los Angeles: An Evening With His Royal Hipness*, a show the publicist rightly brags has been honored by both *The New York Times* and *High Times*. *M Bar*, 1253 N. Vine St., Hollywood; Fri., Oct. 6, 8 p.m.; also Sun., Oct. 15; Sat., Oct. 28; Sat., Nov. 4; Fri., Nov. 17; \$15, plus \$10 food minimum. (323) 856-0036.



Praise the Lord. See Friday.

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