

Minnesota's Bad Bad Hats plays live in Baker City

Concert on May 24 will also feature The Ophelias

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — The first livestream for Bad Bad Hats was out of pure boredom.

That was in 2020. The band had been on tour, but shows were cancelled and they were stuck in a motel room.

Lead singer Kerry Alexander remembers saying "I guess we could do a livestream on Instagram."

So they did.

"We did an impromptu concert in the motel room," she said, laughing at the memory.

That led to weekly livestream shows of cover songs chosen by themes.

"I needed that busyness in my life," she said.

(In concerts, they play all original music — not covers.)

They went from livestream



Zoe Prinds-Flash/Contributed photo
Minnesota-based band Bad Bad Hats playing at Churchill School May 24 in Baker City.

concerts to playing in empty venues to performing at drive-in theaters.

"People would honk instead of clapping," she said.

Now, two years later, the Min-

nesota-based band is on tour once again and their West Coast route includes Churchill School, 3451 Broadway St., on Tuesday, May 24. They are touring with The Ophelias, a four-piece band that formed in 2015 and has released four albums.

"We haven't done a West Coast tour since October of 2019. We're excited to come back," Alexander said.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the music starts at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance at churchillbaker.com, or \$15 at the door. Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or negative PCR test taken within 72 hours is required for entry. Admission is free for fully vaccinated youth age 15 and younger who attend with a ticket-holding adult.

Bad Bad Hats, founded in 2012, is the trio of Alexander (vocals and guitar), Chris Hoge (bass) and Con Davison (drums).

The name is inspired by the "Madeline" children's books, most notably "Madeline and the Bad Hat."

"I read those books a lot when I was little," Alexander said. "The 'bad hat' is the troublemaker."

Her musical background began with violin lessons.

"I bombed every single violin recital," she said.

She started writing lyrics in middle school, and by eighth grade was playing the guitar.

"Having people hear and enjoy my songs — that was my dream," she said.

She's glad to be back on-stage, with a live audience.

"Music is a very personal experience — to be close to the person who made the art, and the one who is appreciating the art," she said.

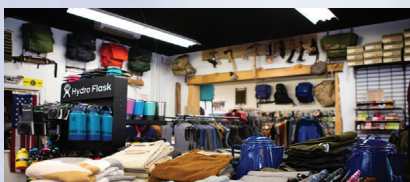
Pre-pandemic, Bad Bad Hats would tour the East Coast, the West Coast and the Midwest. She keeps a map, marked with pins, to track all the places they've played.

"We're excited to add our Baker City pin," she said.

They released their most recent album "Walkman" in September 2021. Learn more at www.badbadhats.com.



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