

PANTS FEVER

THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE LEATHER PANTS:

What's that squeaky sound you hear? The Inland area is being invaded by this wardrobe compulsion.

BY VANESSA FRANKO
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Ladies and gentlemen, the Brotherhood of the Leather Pants is proud to call Inland Southern California home this week.

Members will be performing from Highland to Indio, including Mike Reno, Ronnie Dunn and Rob Thomas.

But without the founding fathers, leather pants and music might never have merged to form this stunning collective.



THIS IS ONE TIGHT FRATERNITY

Selected adjunct members of the Brotherhood of the Leather Pants:

POP DIVISION

- Michael Jackson, "Bad" period
- Ricky Martin

HEAVY METAL DIVISION

- Rob Halford, Judas Priest

ROAD WARRIOR DIVISION

- Mel Gibson, "Mad Max" (leather holds up well, post-apocalypse)
- Arnold Schwarzenegger as The Terminator

SUPERHERO DIVISION

- Ben Affleck, "Daredevil"
- Nicolas Cage, "Ghost Rider"

ACTRESSES, ACTION DIVISION

- Rhona Mitra and Kate Beckinsale, "Underworld" series
- Halle Berry and Famke Janssen, "X-Men"

- Sandra Bullock, "Demolition Man" (didn't help her action career)

ACTRESSES, ODD PERSONAL CHOICES DIVISION

- Katie Holmes, shopping with her kid. Hmmm.

BAD CAREER MOVE DIVISION

- Al Pacino, "Cruising"
- Jessica Simpson, country conversion

TV SITCOM DIVISION

- David Schwimmer, "Ross' Leather Pants" episode of "Friends"



ELVIS PRESLEY

Before Elvis left the building, he rocked some leather and pulled off the matching black leather jacket and pants. However, if you want to see some Elvis, the impersonator at the Copykatz Revue at Morongo Casino Resort and Spa in Cabazon seems to be of the jumpsuit variety.

The Copykatz Revue goes on tonight and Sunday afternoon.



JIM MORRISON

Jim Morrison oozed rock 'n' roll from every pore, and his bad-boy antics and leather pants paved the way for every hair metal act who really thought they were serious poets. Ahem, Axl Rose and Jon Bon Jovi.

Jim Morrison is dead, but you can check out the Doors' old spot at the Whisky a Go Go in Los Angeles.



RONNIE DUNN, BROOKS & DUNN

Country music is about cowboys and what are cowboys without cow hides turned into pants? Brooks & Dunn is the most powerful duo in country. That doesn't happen when you only wear jeans.

We've also heard that it's easier to do the "Boot Scootin' Boogie" if you're wearing leather pants.

Brooks & Dunn come to San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino in Highland on Thursday and Fantasy Springs Resort Casino on Feb. 20.



MARTINA MCBRIDE

An honorary member of the Brotherhood, the country star is also a member of the Sisterhood of the Traveling Leather Pants, a splinter group that features members Joan Jett and Lita Ford.

With the power of leather pants, she can dive into her soprano-ranged tunes such as "Independence Day."

Martina McBride will sing at The Show at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage on Saturday.

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ROB THOMAS, MATCHBOX TWENTY

Rob Thomas really wants to be a rock star. He wore leather pants to achieve that goal. However, Matchbox Twenty's music is really too adult pop to rock hard enough for leather pants. See also: Scott Stapp and Creed.

Matchbox Twenty performs at The Show at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage tonight.



MIKE RENO, LOVERBOY

Mike Reno brought a splash of 1980s color into the world of leather pants with his crimson pair that were prominently featured on the "Get Lucky" album cover and in the "Working For the Weekend" video. Reno said in a recent interview that the pants are still in his closet. He is also a past president of the Sweatband as Fashion Club.

Loverboy plays at the Riverside County Fair National Date Festival in Indio on Monday. **Story on S8**





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