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Bjorn Turoque

Rule the Air Guitar Nation

By Mary Montoro

To anyone who may have been told that perfecting their air guitar technique was a foolish waste of time, behold the newly documented movement that waves the middle finger at naysayers. Air Guitar Nation is a testament that make-believe rocking out is a respected art form.

The documentary chronicles the rivalry between David "C-Diddy" Jung and Dan "Björn Türoque" Crane and their journey to the air guitar finals in Finland. Performing as Björn Türoque (pronounced Born too-ROCK), Crane is finally able to leave his boring job at a software company.

"It allowed me to start focusing on writing and being a musician full-time," the New York resident confirms.

The first regional occurred at the Pussycat Lounge in New York in 2003. Friends and producing partners Kriston Rucker and Cedric Devitt arranged their own competition after Rucker read in a Wall Street Journal article that competitions in Oulu, Finland had been going on since the early '90s. Contestants represented countries from all over the world, except the United States.

The friends quickly remedied this omission by launching their own competition, hoping to send a winner to the championships in Finland. Word quickly spread via radio god Howard Stern.

"That was a crazy night because nobody really knew what was going on," Crane says, referring to the first regional. "The whole thing was thrown together. I did what I could. I rocked out. Then I saw C-Diddy take the stand, and I knew that I was in the presence of greatness, because he is pretty incredible. But, I still wanted to beat him. It was the nature of the game."

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