

Fame worthy events slated for weekend

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Last week I had the opportunity to sit down with actor Matthew Fox in the lobby of the Chateau Marmot in Beverly Hills and talk about his hit TV drama, LOST, which airs Wednesday nights on ABC. What follows is an abridged version of our chat:

ME: Why is LOST such a bad show?

FOX: It's not a bad show.

ME: Why is your character, Jack Shephard, such a bad character?

FOX: He's not a bad character.

ME: Why doesn't Jack drown Charlie? Don't you think Charlie is a bad character? Why is Charlie such a bad character?

FOX: He is pretty bad, isn't he?

ME: Yes. He is very bad.

FOX: Very.

ME: Will you just tell me what happens?

FOX: No.

ME: What is the Dharma Initiative?

FOX: I think it has something to do with the Screen Actors Guild.

This interview never actually occurred, but I have it on pretty good authority that Charlie should be drowned.

Here are this week's best bets:

There are many protagonists, antagonists, ingnués and elder statesmen sailing the cover band seas, but few acts can stake a claim to all four titles with the same emblematic staying power as THE CHARACTERS, who will hold court at River Moon tonight. Formed in 1982, this New Jersey quintet has, over the course of a quarter century in the business, shared the stage with Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Ray Manzareck, Dramarama and The Monkees. Championed by legendary KROQ disc jockey Rodney Bingenheimer, and extolled by Monkees' producer Chip Douglas, The Characters are equally known for original compositions like their hit "Maryann," and traditional fare pop/rock covers from the likes of The Beatles and The Stones. Come check out the band that professes to walk the sonic trestle "somewhere between Keith Richards and Keith Partridge."

When local performers/humorists/rabble-rousers Bill Hadam and Andy Hladeck take to the stage, they do more than belt out a few Dylan tunes for the townies. Bred on rock and roll, comedy and a kitsch performance aesthetic that has earned them faithful fans and

satisfied bar owners, this irreverent duo has been known to blow on kazoos when audience participation wanes, and inspire fits of laughter when the stars are aligned for a boozy weekend performance. Unlike status quo acoustic pairs, Bill and Andy play traditional Irish and Italian songs, holiday standards, and novelty favorites, flanked with a diverse list of Top 40 rock, pop, folk and R&B. You can catch THE BILL AND ANDY SHOW on Saturday at The Grapevine in Tuckerton.

On December 12, 1915 a blue-eyed baby boy was born to a middle-class Hoboken couple called Sinatra. Ninety-seven years later, Francis Albert Sinatra is still being honored as the most talented, well-known male vocalist in the history of American popular music. Unfortunately, Frank died back in 1998, but his legacy lives on through illegitimate children, loan sharks and Sinatra impersonators. So stop by Sea Oaks Golf Club for SINATRA SATURDAY and pay your respects to the man who left Mia Farrow for Ava Gardner, starred with Brando in Guys And Dolls and single-handedly invented popular music vocal phrasing.

Every so often an original band comes along that breaths the divine spark needed for sustenance in an industry where bands have the average life spans of amoebae. That being said, kudos are once again in order for local sly caps MATT FISHER AND THE TELEPHONE JUNKIES for booking gigs at New York's famed Arlene's Grocery (Tuesday, March 6), and The Saint in Asbury Park (Sunday, March 11). With any luck, that divine spark just might travel through the right radio waves to bring the Junkies to the masses. Catch them locally on Thursday at The Gateway before they go long distance.