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VARIOUS
DEKE DICKERSON'S GUITAR
GEEK FESTIVAL VOL. 1 & 2

"The whole reason I started the Guitar Geek Festival was because no one was putting on the kind of show that I wanted to see," says Deke Dickerson. "So I sort of became a promoter by default." Dickerson's Guitar Geek Festival is an unfettered celebration of the guitar featuring a slew of amazing performers—many of whom may have been passed over if not for Dickerson's labor of love.

For the first Geek Fest DVD from 2004, Dickerson rounded up legendary rockabilly guitarist Gary Lambert, steel player Jeremy Wakefield and guitarist T.K. Smith for a tribute set to Jimmy Bryant and Speedy West (complete with Smith donning a double neck Stratosphere guitar), as well as Dickerson's own group, and his side-project, Venturesmania, a tribute to the Ventures. For the second year DVD, Dickerson got even geekier, bringing onboard criminally unheralded pioneers such as Dave Bunker and his doubleneck Touch Guitar (an instrument he patented in 1961), and Hollywood session man and gear pioneer Del Casher, one of, if not the earliest of the wah-wah's practitioners.

T.K. Smith and Jeremy Wakefield appear on both DVDs as does Bakersfield's Brian Lonbeck, a Joe Maphis protégé who has unbelievably flown under the radar for decades. "When people see Brian play, they lose their minds," says Dickerson. "He can play just like Joe Maphis—maybe even a little *faster*. And that's just one side of his playing. He's truly frightening."

"The first two DVDs are pretty low-budget deals," continues Dickerson, who is currently working on 2008's festivities,



which takes place every year in Anaheim during the NAMM show (you don't need to be a NAMM attendee to go to the festival). "The first one was shot with my own camcorder, and the second DVD was two camcorders. The upcoming DVDs from the 2006 and 2007 festivals are being put together right now, but they're taking longer to produce because the quality is miles above what we've done before—now it's a four camera pro shoot with a 16-track audio recording."

One of the second DVD's more hilarious moments is the surprise appearance of Dick Dale during Ventures' legend Nokie

Edwards' headlining set during the 2005 show at Anaheim's Odd Fellows Lodge. "I never even talked to Dick beforehand," says Dickerson who was surprised as anyone at the King of Surf Guitar's sudden manifestation. "We were onstage playing with Nokie and all of a sudden I see a giant pile of gear next to the stage."

Dale proceeds to completely destroy the room and all in it with a torrent of volume. "Dick was mad afterwards because his roadie only set up one of his two Fender Dual Showman stacks—but he was still louder than the rest of us combined!" Major Label Video. —DF