



***Halloween Hijinks for Tweens and Other Spooky Things ...***

**ANDY Z's**

**'THE GRAND SCREAM OF THINGS'**

**A HIGH SPIRITED**

**AUDIO PLAY MUSICAL WHIRLWIND**

**A Hallow“tween” audio play packed with engaging songs and captivating characters that portray a Halloween adventure about a witch who’s lost her way and a boy who discovers his.**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (July 26, 2012)** – Award winning independent kids’ musician **Andy Z** will celebrate this Halloween season with the release of his fifth studio CD, ***The Grand Scream of Things***, a musical Halloween audio play created especially for kids in their “tweens.” (a2z Productions, \$14.99, run time 66 minutes, for ages 8 - 12, release date **October 9, 2012**).

This Halloween fantasy begins with young **Andy Z** emerging from a dream state where he has been exhorted to “Find the Witch.” The narrative employs colorful characters like Andy’s high-energy pet Chihuahua, Reggie, who not only barks but has learned to speak with a “south of the border” accent. Reggie discovers a magic wand that confirms the veracity of Andy’s nocturnal visions and sets him on a path to find the owner of the wand – Sandy Witch. Very much in the mode of an “old time radio show,” Andy’s day is a series of surreal adventures, which are mysteriously under the spell of his romantic interest, Pleadia, a teenage alien. ***The Grand Scream of Things*** is like Fibber Magee and Molly meets Sponge Bob on a Halloween Day packed with more stream of consciousness adventure than even James Joyce could “conjure up.”

Driven by **Andy Z's** quest to introduce a new art form to the landscape of entertainment for the 8 to 12 year old set, ***The Grand Scream of Things*** gives kids a chance to use their imaginations to create their own visual images for this hip bit of aural theater that incorporates a mixed bag of pop musical styles. Andy’s buddy, “Danger Dude,” being a teen punk rocker from England, right away breaks into a song about “The Punkin Patch.” Pleadia introduces the boys and Reggie to the Lizards of the Lounge, who do some scat singing and other swinging to the driving sounds of a hot horn line and a cool rhythm section. Other encounters of a musical kind include Jam Master Z and the Baking Fools, whose recipe for pumpkin bread is offered up in hip hop fashion, and a skateboarding punk rodent, Blue the Rat, the Andyland school mascot. Andy Z contributes his own bit of punk, a song about his “Alien Girlfriend,” and he later laments the way things are turning out with a power pop tune, “The Right Thing.” The show concludes with a couple of big production numbers, “The Grand Scream of Things” and the grand finale “Friends.”

Produced by **Grammy®** nominee **Tor Hyams**, ***The Grand Scream of Things*** features ten **Andy Z** originals that range in style from Brit and American punk to hip-hop and even Big Band swing. Listeners will hear echoes of Green Day, The Ramones, Jimmy Eat World, Jack Johnson, John Mayer, and '70s funk band Brick. (Andy’s song, “Pumpkin Patch,” which has been featured on **NBC's Today Show** in multiple Halloween segments, is heard here in a Brit punk version titled “Punkin Patch.”) Guest vocalists include popular kids’ musicians **Paula Messner (Candy Band)** and **RhymeZwell**. The top-notch San Francisco based instrumentalists heard on ***The Grand Scream of Things*** include Michael Olmos (trumpet), Bobby Strickland (saxophones), and Michael Rinta (trombone), who, collectively, have played with everyone from Santana, The Grateful Dead, Sly & The Family Stone and Todd Rundgren to Etta James, Herbie Hancock and Taj Mahal.



***The Grand Scream of Things*** celebrates a number of life lessons: “Being afraid of what COULD happen makes you unaware of what IS happening. You can plot and scheme and calculate every move, but if you spend your time worrying about the outcome, you’ll miss the experience of getting there,” and “What’s most important is not how much candy or how many gifts and rewards you get in a lifetime. It’s the journey and the people whose lives you touch and whose lives touch yours that matter the most. Our friends are our greatest gifts, and those gifts last forever.”

Notes **Andy Z**, “Throughout my years of entertaining kids and families, I’ve noticed an unfortunate lack of music that’s appropriate for ‘tweens,’ particularly with regard to song lyrics. I wanted to come up with something that has the sound and energy of the music their older siblings and friends are “in to,” but with lyrics that work for 8 to 12 year olds. I feel that the quirky nature of this project goes straight to a very happy part of their brains. In many ways, creating this album has been like starting a new school. The kids who were with me in the Andyland kindergarten are now moving on up in the grades, so of course I want to provide music for them that has ‘grown up’ a bit, and *The Grand Scream of Things* is a part of that natural evolution. The last two years have been a thrilling adventure, allowing me to create an art form just right for ‘tweens’ that reflects the world of my imagination in story and song.”

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, where his fan base includes a legion of adoring families, singer-songwriter **Andy Z** combines music, movement, and storytelling to create an experience that keeps kids engaged and adults entertained. His performances consistently earn rave reviews from industry pros, educators and families alike. Andy has been featured in Pandora's Video Series and Pottery Barn Kids' Video Sing-a-long Series and performs hundreds of shows every year.

Following studies at San Francisco State University in their classical and jazz music programs, **Andy Z** entered the SF Bay Area club scene as a solo performer and founding member of the alt/rock band Tinman. As a kids’ performer, Andy has shared the stage with The Sippy Cups, The Banana Slug String Band, and Dr. Noize. As a celebrity, Andy has appeared with Nancy Cartwright (best known as the voice of Bart Simpson) at a “Stars In The Park” event and with San Francisco Giants’ mascot “Lou Seal,” leading the Highlander Little League Opening Day crowd in a rousing rendition of “Take Me Out To The Ball Game.”

**Andy Z’s** previous albums include *Summer in Andyland* (2007), *Return to Andyland* (2005), *Welcome to Andyland* (2004), and *Pockets* (2002). In 2009 Andy released a DVD, *Sing & Dance with Andy Z*, and the following year his book-with-CD *Scarecrow, Where Do You Go?* was published. Andy’s work has been honored with two iParenting Media Awards, two Parents’ Choice® Awards, and Creative Child Magazine’s Seal Of Excellence.

***The Grand Scream of Things*** will be available online at CDbaby.com, Walmart.com, and iTunes.

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**THE GRAND SCREAM OF THINGS SONG LIST:**

Which Witch Is This?  
When You’re A Dog  
Punkin Patch  
Pleadia  
How We Roll  
Alien Girlfriend  
The Right Thing  
Blue The Rat (That’s Me!)  
The Grand Scream of Things  
Friends (Finale)

*For more information about **Andy Z** or to schedule an interview, please contact Elizabeth Waldman Frazier at Waldmania! 415.334.2787 or [elizabeth@waldmaniapr.com](mailto:elizabeth@waldmaniapr.com).*

**Check out *The Grand Scream of Things* website at [www.thegrandscreeamofthings.com](http://www.thegrandscreeamofthings.com) .**