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## Music

### Misery loves company

by Megan Wennberg

“When it can’t be Metallica, it’s gotta be Misery,” proclaim the flaming neon block letters on Misery’s homepage, <http://www.metallicatribute.com/>. The tribute band, starring Miguel Spires as James Hetfield, began in 1991 and has toured North America extensively, even playing for Metallica members- on three occasions.

“They were quite impressed,” says Spires. “The first time I saw James, he was like, ‘Wow, I’m floored. I’m beside myself.’ He was kind of tickled by it actually.”

Spires, who started Misery because of his “uncanny resemblance” to Hetfield, gets mistaken for the aggressive front-man with the famously abrasive voice on a regular basis—even when they’re standing side by side.



photo Jessica Holder

“It was 1997, and they’d just cut their hair,” says Spires, “and they’d come to check us out at this show in Fort Myers, Florida. They stood in line, paid cover and walked right through. In a room packed with 1,400 Metallica fans, no one knew who they were. And there we were up on stage. Then, at the end of the show, I was standing with James and this guy came up to me. He wanted me to sign an autograph on his back so he could get it tattooed. I handed the pen to James, he just rolled his eyes.”

Unlike Metallica, Misery remains musically committed to the early ’90s, specializing in tracks from And Justice for All and the Black Album. “Time stands still for us there,” says Spires. “We bring fans back to their high school days.”

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Promising an energetic show of “explosive Metallica live,” Spires says the show is much more than four guys playing Metallica tunes. “It’s the complete package,” says Spires. “We emulate the whole experience of a Metallica concert, from the mannerisms and costumes to instruments and jewelry—we re-create the performance.”

Misery. Saturday, May 7 at The Attic

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