

The RENALDO THE ENSEMBLE

The logo for The Renaldo The Ensemble is set against a black rectangular background. The text 'The' is in a large, white, serif font at the top left. Below it, 'RENALDO THE' is written in a very large, white, serif font. At the bottom right, 'ENSEMBLE' is written in a similar large, white, serif font. A lit cigarette with a flame is positioned between 'RENALDO THE' and 'ENSEMBLE', with the cigarette tip pointing towards the left.

New York City rock band The Renaldo THE Ensemble is best known for their absurdist concerts, which incorporate clowning, vaudeville and first rate rock and roll. THE players are classically trained musicians, and their shows feature diverse genres including tango, opera, hip hop and straight up rock. They mix THE experimental with THE accessible, playing music that is virtuosic but never pedantic.

The group formed as a trio in 2007 when singer and guitarist Aldo Perez teamed up with percussionist Richard Ginocchio and singer and actress Jenny Lee Mitchell in their Off-Broadway, *New York Times*-praised theatrical show *The Curse of the Mystic Renaldo The*. The trio grew to a sextet in 2008 as pianist Jonathan Roberts, drummer Matthew Talmage and tubist Matt Muszynski came on board. The group now holds a bi-weekly Saturday night residency at The Living Room, a popular club on New York City's Lower East Side. Their shows are consistently packed, and have won praise from critics and celebrities including *Saturday Night Live* cast member Will Forte.

The band fuses their irreverent humor (popping water balloons in their pants, molesting rubber chickens) with compelling original music and cover tunes. Their skills allow them to easily transcend genre, and they believe a beautiful piece of music needs no explanation. Chief songwriter Perez finds his roots in the songs of artists like Frank Sinatra, Elvis, Townes Van Zandt and Queen, but The Renaldo THE Ensemble is wholly unique. Within the constraints of their challenging-yet-fun aesthetic and seriously melodic oeuvre, their imaginations run wild. In November 2009, they released their debut CD, *Why Are You?*

The members of The Renaldo The Ensemble also comprise the membership of *Theater THE*, an independent theater troupe that incorporates original productions with live music.