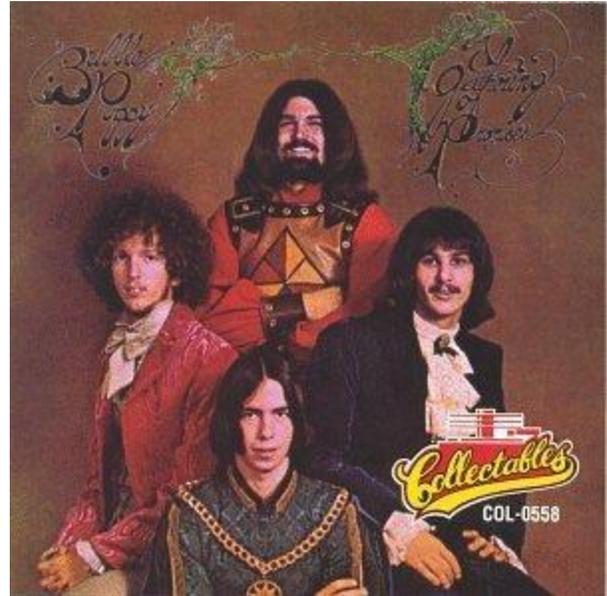


# Bubble Puppy

**Bubble Puppy.** Formed in 1967 in Austin, Texas, Bubble Puppy was a band that successfully combined psychedelic rock of the 1960s with the hard rock sounds of the 1970s. Band members Rod Prince (lead guitar and vocals) and Roy Cox (bass guitar and vocals) started their musical careers in the Corpus Christi, Texas, garage band The New Seeds in 1966. As their musical talents matured and their local opportunities dwindled, they moved to San Antonio where they joined up with Todd Potter (lead guitar and vocals). The newly formed trio took the name “Bubble Puppy” from the fictitious children’s game “Centrifugal Bumble-Puppy” in Aldous Huxley’s novel *A Brave New World*. In the summer of 1968, Bubble Puppy got its first major break. A far cry from the previous days of garage band jams and late night rehearsals, the band landed an opening gig for the rock group The Who at a live show in Austin. After this performance, David “Fuzzy” Fore, having come up from Corpus Christi to watch the show, joined the band as the new and permanent drummer and guitarist. With this final addition, Bubble Puppy was solidified.



Soon after its performance with The Who, Bubble Puppy relocated to Austin. In the fall of 1968, the band traveled to Houston for a performance at the Love Street Light Circus. A few days after this show, the Houston-based record label *International Artists* signed the group. In December of that same year, the band wrote the hit song “Hot Smoke and Sassafras” (titled after an explanation uttered by a character named “Granny” on the television show *The Beverly Hillbillies*.) The song rose to number 14 on the *Billboard* 100, making it International Artists biggest hit single. In 1969, Bubble Puppy released its one and only full-length LP, *A Gathering of Promises*. Even with the band’s regional popularity and a song on the *Billboard* 100, the album did not generate as much profit as International Artists had hoped. Though established as a local and regional favorite for live performances, the band began to suffer from financial difficulties and conflicts of interest rising from within the label’s management. In an effort to leave all of this behind, the band moved to Los Angeles, California, to pursue new musical opportunities.

Once in California, Bubble Puppy changed its name to Demien and signed with ABC-Dunhill Records, recruiting Nick St. Nicholas of Steppenwolf as its new manager. In 1971, the new group recorded and released one self-titled album. One year later, after Demian failed to garner much public attention and ABC proposed a reduced budget for a follow up record, the band dissolved.

After the breakup, the members returned to Austin where they remained involved in the music scene. Todd Potter played with Texas musician Rusty Weir, and more than twenty years after Bubble Puppy's last performance, Potter released his solo album *The Bell*. In 1979, Dave Fore switched from drums to guitar and co-wrote the popular punk rock song "Too Young to Date." In 2005, Roy Cox was performing with the coastal Texas band, High in the Saddle. Though never attaining the level of stardom the group had hoped for, Bubble Puppy made the ranks of some of the most talented psychedelic bands of the 1970s.

*Sandra George*