

Legion Industry Interview

Questions for the Chuck buddies team

If you said chuck buddies to an Australian he'd assume you meant the friends he goes down the pub with on a Saturday night but in this case Chuckbuddies are cool new rubber, hand-held toys for you to play with, as filthy as that sounds they don't run on batteries.

Legion caught up with the brains behind Chuckbuddies and asked some really probing questions which we like to think hit the spot.

1. Is one of you called chuck and the other buddy? Is that where the name comes from?

Haha that sounds queer. No not at all, I was thinking of the idea of a pocket sized companion and clearly Chuckbuddies sounded better than 'toss toys'.

2. For anyone who's missed this can you explain in just a few sentences what a Chuckbuddies are and why everyone should have one?

Ok one sentence. With a certain amount of control you can

3. I have to say, having watched the videos of what you can do with these toys that it kicks the arse out of those tech deck things and all the naff spin off miniature extreme sport boards. Were you a fan of that type of toy?

Techs decks are definitely sick. Who hasn't wasted time with one of them.

4. Did Chuckbuddies develop from some sort of Sock puppet background?

Yeah it kind of did, more like a bean bag background. I used to glue together Lots of different materials until I stopped dicking about and realised how it needed to be.

5. Did you guys set out to make a snowboard figure or where you always focussed on producing something that you could really simulate snowboard moves with?

Well when I doodle snowboarders I used to draw them right in the middle of tricks when the style was at its thickest, and chuck was really born of this image. We where definatly focused on it being throwable across rooms and shit. But also make the parts interchangeable was a big design conundrum

6. I've watched the video with the Chuckbuddies in the snow, does it have to be snow or will they work anywhere?

Well CHUCK was designed with jumping from hand to hand as the main event. Its cool because they really are versatile in that you can just do whatever might work. Personally I like the tactility of it and the little moments of style you can visualise just by spinning him in and around your hands. The stuff they can do off jumps by themselves is a whole different kettle of ball games

7. Was it an accident that they seem so balanced and weighted perfectly for launching off ramps or is one of you some sort of engineering over-feind?

Haha That was a plan from the start. There was lots of careful thought The balance point of a good snowboarder is generally in the seat of his or her pants, isn't it? thats we did with chuck, that's where he gets his squat from and also his balance...which is nice..

8. How many different variations of chuck buddies have you guys gone through to get this far?

From the early glued cloth dick abouts to balsa wood carvings which I cast in plaster and fired full of plumbing silicone but once the 3d was complete it was just a case of finding the right material so maybe 15 in total this was a valuable learning process.

9. Is there a little chuck buddy mass grave somewhere with the bones of failed chuckies?

Indeed there is Adam has them all in a coffin like box...

10. In your video the little guys are pulling off some pretty sick moves, is there technique involved in spinning and slipping these guys off jumps?

Well those jumps josh wolf built in the snow, its was all about getting the snow nice and icy to increase landing potential haha it was a lot of fun, once you work it out you can get him to backflip into the transition and pretty much double his speed you basically build your take off and run in and see how far the little guy goes then you build your landing..

11. And how do you get them to do all the board slide variations?

We just send him down the run in and he does the rest. I don't get it...

12. Everyone has a bug up their ass about the environment these days what lengths have you gone to to make chuck buddies eco friendly?

We have a green one!? We recycle the freight packaging and ...

13. One of you, Joel Erith, is an accomplished snowboarder does that mean you're (sorry man I can't find your name anywhere!) into rubber?

What the little bits of rubber on the fingers of my gloves, yeah I'm into it, you know many the time we've blamed a missed grab on our gloves so...big up the rubber!...

14. If I look really closely between the legs of any of the four chuckbuddies I can see what looks like a little tinkle? You've not given him much to be proud of so I'm guessing it's not a cartoon penis?

WTF, haha that "little tinkle" is actually the key to taking chuck apart.

15. It's a nice touch having the magnets in the hands for grabbing, can chuckbuddies grab anywhere on the board?

As the arms loosen through age and experience the grabs become easier.....

16. What event sparked the moment when you thought "do you know what, I'm going to invent a little rubber dude on a board that you can totally play with and it will do tricks and it will be fun and then we will get married on top of a mountain and there's going to be flutes playing and trombones and flowers and garlands of fresh herbs! And we will dance till the sun rises!"?

Well I worked back from the dawn sun dance always been a fan of herbs. and name me a finer brass instrument than the trombone.... other than the sax..... Should be a Sax. The mountains are a given, and boom I was sitting in a friends restaurant and his little infant son was in amongst it with his beanie babies. Something just happened with the coming together of the little character I doodle, the stuffed fish doing a flat spins, and back flips. And over the next week the bare bones where there.

17. Will chuckbuddies make you guys rich or is this the first wave of an empire of addictive collectable toys for snowboarders?

Well if we think it will then it defiantly won't. We want to insure the concept evolves to its potential by refining the design and increasing the range of colours. And certainly introduce patterns and limited editions.

18. Would you guys consider any collaborations with boarding companies to produce say a Burton Custom Chuckbuddy?

For sure, the door is open.

19. What about a Shaun White Chuckbuddy with a shock of red hair?

If I had a penny for every.....yeah Shaun whites amazing isn't he. But anonymity and simplicity are important aspects of CHUCK coming to life in you hand, that's right I said coming in your hand.

20. Could there be any chuck buddies X Games style events in the offing? This could be a sport unto itself!

I guess it's just a case of people getting good at it first. Then who know's

21. Are you guys into Japanese vinyl toys? Have you thought of getting this into Japan? They would climb over each other for something like this!

Japan is definalty something we're looking into.

22. In a Jerry Springer final thought persona can you summarise why people should take home a chuckbuddy and how it will bring a little sunshine into their lives?

I think just by having one in your hand you bring a little sunshine into your life It's furkin simple

Take care of yourselves and each other...