

# CAN I PLAY WITH MADNESS?



CHAD RADFORD

**P**inball! There's something so deeply satisfying about pulling back the plunger and sending the silver ball rocketing through a maze of blinking lights and rubber gyros, while slapping flippers to keep the ball in flight before gravity brings it home. Set it all to the demonic tunes of Iron Maiden and an interactive sarcophagus that opens to reveal the underworld, and the experience verges on sensory overload. In April, pinball devotee Kevin Grillo persuaded Avondale Estates' comic book-themed bar My Parents' Basement to slide a few rows of toys and comics to the side to try out a Walking Dead pinball game. It was a hit! Since then, My Parents' Basement has become a pinball destination, housing 10 machines, hosting tournaments on the first Wednesday of every month, and facilitating Atlanta's chapter of

## MY PARENTS' BASEMENT

22 N Avondale Road, Avondale Estates  
404-292-4607.  
[www.myparentsbasementcbb.com](http://www.myparentsbasementcbb.com)

Belles & Chimes, an international network of women's pinball leagues.

The "Attack From Mars" and a one-off bootleg Foo Fighters game — a repurposed Rolling Stones machine — are reason enough to show up and peel through a stack of singles. But the pride of the pack at MPB is "Iron Maiden: Legacy of the



Beast," made by Stern Pinball.

## SHREDDERS DELIGHT:

Iron Maiden's mascot Eddie, aka Eddie the Head, was created by British painter Derek Riggs, and has become an iconic symbol for the British metal group since appearing on the cover of their self-titled debut album in 1980. Poster artist Jeremy Packer, better known as Zombie Yeti, who has created artwork for Metal-

lica, Primus, Queens of the Stone Age, and more, produced the hand-drawn art for "Iron Maiden: Legacy of the Beast."

Pinball devotees affectionately refer to themselves and each other as pinheads — like metal heads, or the lead Cenobite from the *Hellraiser* films.

Players can select different versions of Eddie to fight "the Beast" and his many minions, while blasting some of Iron Maiden's greatest hits: "Aces High," "2 Minutes to Midnight," "The Trooper," "Wasted Years," "Can I Play with Madness," "Run to the Hills," "Powerslave," "The Number of the Beast," "Hallowed Be Thy Name," "Flight of Icarus," "Fear of the Dark," and "Rime of the Ancient Mariner."

The new version of "Iron Maiden: Legacy of the Beast" at MPB is the second Stern-produced Iron Maiden game. The original was released in 1983. This one is the Pro model (featuring a montage of the many incarnations of Eddie); Stern also offers the Premium (Powerslave-themed) and the Limited Edition (*The Trooper*-themed).

There is one other Pro "Iron Maiden: Legacy of the Beast" machine at Portal Pinball in Kenesaw.

The skill in pinball lies not only in a player's accuracy and knowledge of the playing field, but in their ability to move the machine without tilting it. Pro players move the machine slightly to change the ball's direction. It's a learned skill that changes by day, location, and the amount of wear and tear on the machine. It's

never the same game twice.

*Photos by Emily Harris*

