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Sound Waves

Volume 17
Issue 3
December 2006

**An
Interview
with
Beach Boy's**

**CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS & MORE**

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12 TIME BETWEEN US	14 WILD CHERRY	15 WICKED PEACH	16 DIRTY DEEDS
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Dear Readers,

The Holidays are upon us! The shopping! The traffic! The Lines! It can get hectic out there at times. Then there was Black Friday. I'll bet a husband gave that day its name.

A good thing about the area we live in is that there are many places to go and enjoy oneself after a hectic day of shopping and visiting family. This month you will find many great events within these pages. To help with the Holiday Spirit, Mystic to me is the place to go. There's the 1st Tuesday Mystic Stroll and The Lantern Light Tours at the Seaport. Plus the Sunday before Christmas carol sing at the Seaport is a nice way to get in the Christmas mood. Even if you are broke by then - the event and Seaport admission is free that day. So get out, relax and enjoy this Holiday month.

As we enter 2007, Sound Waves Magazine will have been in publication for 17 years! We have seen many changes in the area. And the one thing that is constant is the great variety of things to do here. But the most important aspect of the last 17 years has been the support of you the reader. You have enabled Sound Waves to remain a free publication by your support. Thanks!

From the staff at Sound Waves magazine.....we wishes everyone a joyful and safe holidays.

Till Next Month
David L. Pottie
Editor/Publisher

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EVE
INTO
CHRISTMAS
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Sound Waves

December 2006
VOLUME 17, NUMBER 3

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12 - Civic Center, Hartford, CT

THE BEACH BOYS

8 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI
9 - Palace Theatre, Waterbury, CT

CLAY AIKEN

12 - Convention Center, Hartford, CT

THE COMMANDER CODY BAND

8 - The Riverside, Danielson, CT
31 - Chan's, Woonsocket, RI

DARK STAR ORCHESTRA

8 - Lupo's, Providence, RI
9 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT

DEBBIE DAVIES BAND

16 - Black-Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT

THE DUKE ROBILLARD BAND

30 - Chan's, Woonsocket, RI

GOO GOO DOLLS

12 - Civic Center, Hartford, CT

JAMES BROWN

27 - Palace Theatre, Waterbury, CT

JOHN HAMMOND

27 - Newport Blues Cafe, Newport, RI

JAMES MONTGOMERY

1 - Newport Blues Cafe, Newport, RI

KENNY LOGGINS

1 - Foxwoods, Mashantucket, CT
2 - Chevrolet Theatre, Wallingford, CT

KT TUNSTALL

12 - Civic Center, Hartford, CT

LUTHER "GUITAR JR." JOHNSON

9 - Chan's, Woonsocket, RI

THE SELDOM SCENE

8 - Community Center, E. Hartford, CT

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15 - Naval Base, Groton, CT

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MUSIC NOTES

By Mark T. Gould

Have Bass, Will Travel

It has to be flattering for a talented musician, singer and songwriter to be asked to join one legendary band, but when you're fortunate enough to be asked to join two, as happened to Nashville-based Jack Sundrud, well, it certainly means that your reputation, and your ability, is ingrained in your peers.

Sundrud has been a member of Poco, the renowned purveyors of country-rock, since the beginning of the decade, after two prior stints with the band, in the mid 80s and early 90s. In addition to that, he has recently been performing double duty, sitting in with another classic band, Pure Prairie League, as a short-term replacement for original bassist Mike Reilly, who is recuperating from surgery.

The association between the two bands and with Sundrud, is evidence of his artistry and his multi-faceted career.

"Rick Schell (PPL's drummer) called me when they realized that Mike was going to need an extended recovery period," Sundrud recalled. "Rick played drums on 'By My Own Hand,' on my solo CD, and Poco and PPL have played many, many shows together over the years, and both are managed by Rick Alter.

"I talked to Rusty (Young, founding member and leader of Poco) about doing it, and he was very cool with the idea."

Young concurred, noting "it makes perfect sense for Jack to help PPL out while Reilly is down. We're all good friends, and since Jack has heard their set more than a few times, it was easier to fit him in than it would be someone new."

"I do get a kick out of Jack's habit of changing shirts for each band," Young joked. "We did suggest that, when he plays with PPL, he might wear those black-rimmed glasses that come with a big nose and fake mustache attached."

Sundrud played his first show with PPL in Texas in June, and the pace picked up through the concert season.

"Rick Plant (PPL's bassist) did most of the (2006) summer shows with them," Sundrud said, "but he moved to Australia, so I finished out the summer schedule. There's only more show this year, and, hopefully, Mike will be back in the saddle for the '07 touring season. No one knows for sure yet, but that's the plan."

Although Sundrud is clearly talented and versatile enough to pull off the dual role, it's not that easy, he explained, to go out with another band.

"I was, of course, very familiar with their music, having heard them a number of times, but I had to know all of it, exactly, to do the gig," he said. "I got recordings of all the songs, made charts (of the music), and did the first couple of shows with the charts. I don't like using charts, so I spent the time required to commit the songs to memory, just played along with them in front of my stereo, until I had them memo-

rized."

It also helped, Sundrud added, that he's a fan of PPL's music.

"They're one of the earliest country rock bands, and 'Amie' is a classic," he said. "I've really enjoyed the music and the guys."

And, it's given him a unique perspective from the position of playing bass, singing and traveling with arguably two of the best, most respected bands of the country rock era.

"The advantage to it is that it's fun to play both sets of music," he said. "Also, I'd be lying if I didn't say that the two paychecks ain't too shabby."

"The disadvantage is that each band has its own identity with the fans, and I don't want to affect that in any way," he added. "I look at it like I'm just filling in for Mike, temporarily."

"I love playing the music with these guys, they're all real pros," he said. "And, there have been fans of both bands that have come up and said hello to me after shows."

And, it's clear that PPL feels the same way about him.

"It's tough when you lose someone of Mike's caliber in the band," PPL original member and front man Craig Fuller said, "but, it's so great to be able to call on Jack, who's been a friend for so long."

But, looking back, would Sundrud do it again?

"Absolutely," he said. "After playing for a living for as long as I have, and after having been in Poco for as long as I have, it's a kick in the butt (in a good way) to be challenged to learn a whole set of material that I hadn't played before. Long inactive synapses started sputtering and, finally, fired up. It felt good."

"It hasn't been any more taxing that tacking a few more shows onto the Poco schedule, he added. "Of course, travel gets tiring and, in reality, that's the toughest part of my job. But it's also part of the job description. We all know that the travel is what we get paid for - the time onstage is the gravy."

"I guess I'm pretty seasoned, as well," he concluded. "I really enjoy the whole thing."



MARK T. GOULD, ESQ.

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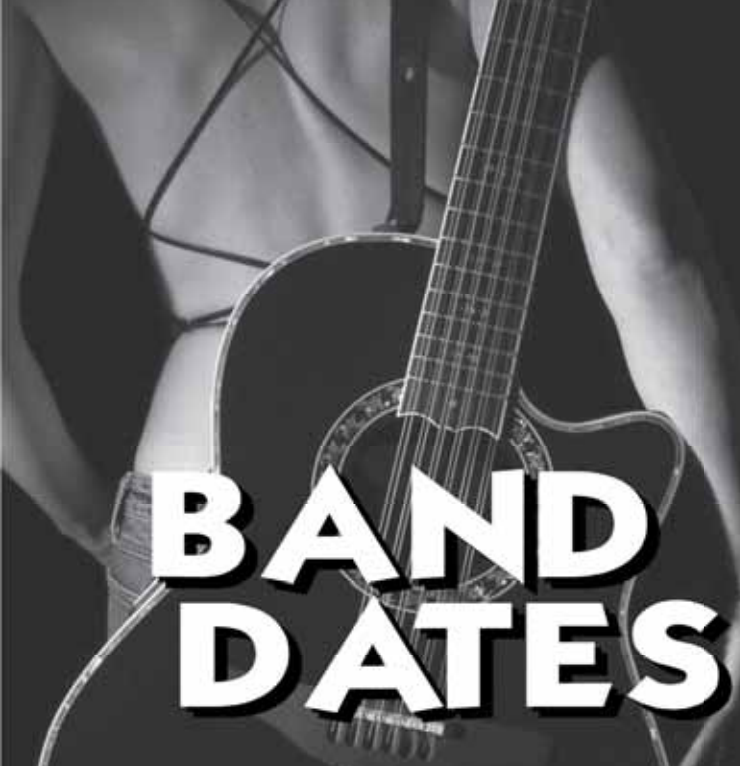
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1 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 8-12

BROGUE & BLARNEY

1 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT
2 - Tinker's Nest, Warren, RI
8 - Ceili's Irish Pub, Guilford, CT
9 - Harp & Dragon Pub, Norwich, CT
15 - Sham Rocks, Wakefield, RI
16 - The Greyhound, Worcester, MA
27 - Killarney's, Ludlow, VT
30 - Carmody's, W. Hoosick, NY

DAN STEVENS

1 - C. C.'s, Southington, CT 8:00
2,16,28 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT
8 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 8:00
9,30 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30
15 - G. W. Tavern, Washington Depot, CT
20 - Red Lion, Stockbridge, MA 8:00
29 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI 8:00

DOUBLE FISTED

8 - Copperfield's, Warwick, RI
22 - Sneaker's Café, Groton, CT
29 - Dubliner, Uncasville, CT
30 - Stash's Café, New London, CT

EIGHT TO THE BAR

1 - Town Hall, W. Hartford, CT 8:30-11:30
15 - Roma's, New Britain, CT
17 - Elks Club, Leominster, MA 7-10:30
22 - Contrassegno, Hamden, CT
29 - Black-Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT
31 - Holiday Inn, Norwich, CT 8-1

FACE FIRST

20 - El-n-Gee, New London, CT
23 - The Brown Derby, Montville, CT
29 - The Riverside, Danielson, CT

FIVE FINGER DISCOUNT

2 - Hair of the Dog, Middletown, CT

10 SOUND WAVES

FRANK & JERRY

2 - Raya's, Gales Ferry, CT
8,22 - Billy Wilson's, Norwich, CT
9 - CC O'Briens, Pawcatuck, CT
12,26 - Daniel Packer Inn, Mystic, CT
14 - Hanafins, New London, CT
15 - Ivory Rest., Deep River, CT
16 - Knucklehead's, Moodus, CT
28 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT
29 - Trio's, Occum, CT

FREESTILE

15 - Greenleaf Cafe, Hebron, CT
23 - Fat Cats, Colchester, CT

THE GOAT ROPERS

1,31 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8:30-12:30
9 - Bud's Place, Hyannis, MA
10 - Pines Rest., N. Smithfield, RI 12-5
15,16 - Blondie's, Fall River, MA
23 - Oak Hill Tavern, Wickford, RI 8:30-12:30

GOPHERBROKE

1 - School St. Bistro, Westfield, MA 7-11
2,22,30 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
7,21,28 - Elizur's Pub, Holyoke, MA
8 - Baci Grill, Cromwell, CT 7-11
12 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA 8-11
14 - Riverwalk Rest., Mystic, CT 8-11
15 - Main St. Tavern, Old Saybrook, CT
23 - Tuscany Grill, Middletown, CT

MIKE SAVINO / THE SONS

1 - Nikita's, Middletown, CT 5-8pm
1,23 - The Black Seal, Essex, CT 10pm
2 - Cugino's, Cheshire, CT 8pm
7 - Tuscany Bar, Middletown, CT 7pm
8,30 - Oliver's, Essex, CT 8pm
15 - Old Corner Cafe, Naugatuck, CT
18 - Marinelli's, Burlington, CT 8:30pm
21 - Baci, Cromwell, CT 7pm
28 - The Ivoryton Pub, Ivoryton, CT
29 - JRoo's, North Haven, CT

Ms. MARCI & THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

30 - J.J.'s, Worcester, MA

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9 - Raya's, Gales Ferry, CT
27 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 8-11
28 - Stash's, New London, CT

WORLD'S SMALLEST QUARTET

1,22 - Oliver's Taverne, Essex, CT
2,23 - Glock Grill, Higganum, CT
7 - Angelico's, E Hampton, CT
8,29 - Main St Tavern, Old Saybrook, CT
9 - McKinnon's Irish Pub, Hartford, CT
15 - Elk's Club, Westbrook, CT
16,30 - Ray's Seafood, Westbrook, CT

21 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT

Any bands wishing to be listed for the month, **MUST** have their dates into **SOUND WAVES** by the **LAST FRIDAY** of every month. **NO** listings will be taken over the telephone. These listings are **FREE!**

Mail Listings to the magazine or FAX them to:

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- December 16th -

MONSTA BUZZ

- December 23rd -

**FACE FIRST
AND
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**

- December 30th -

STILL FACE

Coming January 13th

DIRTY DEEDS





By Bill Harriman

The never ending drama of the Beach Boys continues to this day. The Beach Boys are Brian, Carl, and Dennis Wilson, their cousin Mike Love and their friend Al Jardine. If there's a sixth Beach Boy it's Bruce Johnston who came along a little bit later. Dennis died in 1983 and Carl passed on in 1997. Today the Beach Boys have splintered into three factions with Mike Love holding the rights to the "Beach Boys" name and touring with Bruce Johnston as The Beach Boys. Brian Wilson, who continues to enjoy a remarkable comeback, tours with his band. And Al Jardine tours with the Al Jardine Beach Band which features members of his own family along with Brian's daughter's Carnie and Wendy.

I had the honor of meeting Al Jardine in New York City last year when he was promoting his new children's book called "Sloop John B - A Pirates Tale." Earlier this year I was stunned to see a picture of the surviving Beach Boys smiling together at a photo op celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the "Pet Sounds" album. Rumors of a reunion were rampant. We didn't get a reunion for reasons that are explained in this interview. However, it was announced in early October that Al would play a series of shows with Brian Wilson's band. For that reason alone I thought it might be a good time to catch up with Al Jardine. When I called him at his home in Big Sur on Tuesday morning October 12th he had no idea who I was or why I was calling. I hate when that happens! However, when I called back a couple hours later all was cool!

BH - Am I catching you at a good time now?

AJ - "I just got back from the studio."

BH - Are you working on a new record?

AJ - "Today I had a crew in here cleaning up for me while I was gone. I went to Europe for my son's wedding. Adam Jardine, one of my band members, decided to get married in Italy so I spent a couple of weeks globe trotting and I just got back. It was fun but arduous and I'm still on Italy right now so it's probably nine o'clock at night in my head. (It was noon actually) But I feel a little more awake, I just had some coffee but what a day. What a year it's been! Actually I've been working on a new record for quite some time. I'm trying to finish up my California Suite comprising of the California Saga trilogy and then expanding on that, you know those values from the central California lifestyle. We're always thinking of our future recording projects."

BH - Tell me about the upcoming shows with Brian Wilson? How did that come about?

AJ - "The reason is we attempted to get Mike Love to join us in a reunion of the Beach Boys and he refused. He said there was too much litigation and so on and so forth, which of course he brought about himself. So he says it's really not in his best interest to reunite with Brian and myself. So I suggested to Brian that we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of 'Pet Sounds' together and Melinda (Brian's wife) agreed that it was appropriate and also it satisfied some of the rumors of a reunion. So I'm really excited about it. I love the idea of working with Brian again. I think it's terrific and of course it's important to remember the accomplishments of forty years ago which is hard to believe but it is also forty years ago October 10th that 'Good Vibrations' was released. And to me that was probably the pinnacle of the career right there and of course 'Pet Sounds' was released earlier in the year. Ironically 'Good Vibrations' was not included on 'Pet Sounds' but that's an entirely different discussion, however we recorded all that material at the same time. So in my brain it is still part of the legacy of 'Pet Sounds.'"

BH - I think the rumors of a reunion started when pictures were taken of you, Brian, and Mike at the Capital Records building earlier this year. But then in September I read about a lawsuit being dismissed regarding the rights to the Beach Boys name and I thought 'here we go again!'

AJ - "Well that's because one of the members proceeds against the others in a unilateral way. It's like Bush going after the axis of evil, that kind of thing. He seems to have this need to sue people and there's probably a term for that but when you start making more money suing your partners then why should you work with them? It's a sick mind that works that way. I'm not naming names of course but I think we can all figure out who it is."

BH - I know you were called Al Jardine - Beach Boy and Friends but you know Alan, I don't think there's anything wrong with a band being called The Al Jardine Beach Band. I think that's a nice catchy name.

AJ - "Yeah well I was pursued to the ends of the earth and it cost millions of dollars to defend myself and they're still not happy. I shouldn't say 'they.' The Love camp is still unhappy with my success. And really what it boils down to is success and an individual's right to have success, particularly after you've built a name for over thirty-seven years. That's when I left the band, after about thirty-seven years. Can you believe that? Some people don't even live that long but we were lucky enough to have this wonderful career but we can't share it."

BH - But it does seem like you're all successful. Mike and Bruce have done well. Brian's career is happening again and you're doing well.

AJ - "Yeah that's great but we all have an investment in this thing called The Beach Boys. What you don't understand is that tens of millions of dollars are being made by the reincarnation of the Beach Boys which of course, here's where the money is. That's where the success and that's where the recognition is. If the parent group cannot help the individual there's something supremely wrong with that and unfortunately it gets down to the corporate structure of America which in this case is how we are owned. Our name is owned by a corporation and corporate codes don't always work in the favor of the individual, it works in favor of the corporation. Anyway, getting back to your point about having success, yeah I'm having success. I'm happy to have my wonderful band. But John Fogarty had the same problem. He couldn't even use his own name for a while because the other members (of Credence Clearwater Revival) were hostile to him. So as long as there's hostility there won't be a reunion in this particular lifetime for the Beach Boys because one of the members is hostile to the others. And that creates this environ-

ment whereby success is measured in a different way. I like to be successful and I like to be happy. Particularly in the golden years when we should all be sharing the rewards. Brian is certainly getting wonderful accolades from songwriting but he and I can not participate in a reunion which is insane. So that in a roundabout way is saying we're fine in our joy and happiness in working together at least in this way expressing the music that we helped create."

BH - Did you happen to read Peter Carlin's new book called "Catch a Wave: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson"?

AJ - "I haven't read any of the books."

BH - I was going to ask you if you thought it was a fair assessment.

AJ - "Why would I read any of those books?"

BH - You were portrayed well.

AJ - "Yeah but what would they know about me?"

BH - You were quoted in it

AJ - "What would they know about Brian?"

BH - The book is about Brian

AJ - "I'm sure he didn't participate in it. These are wonderful attempts to understand the workings of a band that is very complex and they will never understand it. Now if someone writes a meaningful autobiography that's different."

BH - Is that something that you're thinking of doing?

AJ - "No but people have asked me about it. You know I have thought about it and I've contemplated it from several different directions and it's a fascinating story but none of these feeble attempts at writing biographies ever get to the truth. We would just have to find the right angle, if there's an angle that should be pursued that hasn't been tried before and be truthful but not hurtful. It should be something non blameful yet interesting to the reader. And just show the inner workings of a family really and from the outside looking in. Because as you know, I'm not related to anybody. It's a little harder on me because think of one of your partners dying and the estate takes over you see? The estate of Carl Wilson or the estate of Dennis Wilson, they don't know me from a hole in the wall. So you get a different set of partners to work with, let's put it that way. And it does make it difficult to continue. Frankly I'm quite happy here in Big Sur. I don't need the negativity or the unwarranted attacks on my personal character or my wonderful band that I get from time to time from particular entities that support the culprit point of view. So I'm just happy to be wanted in the way that I am in Brian's camp. They're open and warm about it and that's the way to go. Forget about a Beach Boy reunion because it won't happen as long as litigation is the way of making money. And that's a sickness in the American corporate atmosphere I think."

BH - Let's talk about something a little more pleasant like the children's book you wrote last year called "Sloop John B - A Pirates Tale." What was the thought process behind that and did writing a book help give you some insight into that industry?

AJ - "A gentleman approached me to write a children's book on behalf of a publisher in New York who unfortunately recently passed away. The idea was to get artists like myself and movie stars to lend their name to a project and of course that will help sell books. And my angle was through folk music which I still love very much and of course the production of the song 'Sloop John B.' So that kind of tied in to the idea of doing a little travelogue you might say with a young character going on a trip on the Sloop John B with his grandfather. So it was like a little takeoff on a very familiar tale which coincided with the recent popularity of pirates vis-a-vis Johnny Depp and we thought it



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would really be kind of cool. So it all kind of worked out."

BH – When I saw you in New York last year you told me that another children's book using the Beach Boy song 'Vegetables' would be a good idea.

AJ – "Oh yeah I remember. That would be something that maybe I'll talk to Brian about. But I don't know if there's any market for this kind of thing unless it's really well promoted. Again I wasn't able to use the Beach Boys name. I wasn't able to launch properly without the help from my parent group. It's very difficult to get anything done I couldn't even put 'Beach Boys' on the cover."

BH – You mean to say that you can't call yourself a former Beach Boy?

AJ – "No and it's so wrong. Well Mike Love simply had better lawyers. I'm sure Brian had nothing to do with that. He's not a litigious type person. But without that kind of support it makes it far more difficult because I couldn't get on the talk shows. And that's where you really need to sell your book. But I had a wonderful response from many, many people and I got so many kind letters and just great reaction from everybody throughout the country. So the possibilities of doing another one, it's always there, but it requires a team and unfortunately the guy passed away and he was really in a great position to help me and it would have been a great sequel. You know, who knows? 'Vegetables' would be cute, it's such a darn cute little song and hell, we own the publishing on it, we have the rights to the music and we have the wherewithal certainly. It's a good idea. I'll mention it to him. We have three days rehearsals coming up in L.A. for the 'Pet Sounds' tour. I'll make a note and maybe we can do it in the show or something."

BH – Tell me about the new Beach Boys CD called "From Here & Back." I guess you can only buy it at a Hallmark store right? I liked your song "PT Cruiser."

AJ – "Hallmark started their own distribution obviously for music as well as their greeting cards. And it's another profit center for them. And I guess they had success with a couple of people. Oh yeah they had big success with Carly Simon and James Taylor because James Taylor did about two million units in their stores alone. So they were very excited of course and they thought the Beach Boys would be a great idea which, as it turned out, it worked out ok. We didn't work together on it. It was something we each did in our own studios. And I'd have been much happier to have them on my song because frankly I think the production might have been a little better because I was very hurried. I didn't have that much time to put it together. And when you're working with a team, the team you've been working with for years, you just know how to do it. It just gets done automatically. My band did a good job, I think the boys sang well but I don't like the digital thing."

BH – I hear that you're planning a big tour next year.

AJ – "Damn right. I signed with an agency that's putting a tour together of the performing arts centers. And the neat thing about these venues is that you can actually talk to the audience and share interesting stories with them and memories and it's nice. People like to hear what's going on."

BH – These venues are usually in smaller cities and towns too. It's a good way to see America I suppose.

AJ – "Mike comes out to the Westbury (New York) music fair every year. We used to do that every year with the Beach Boys and I guess they still call themselves the Beach Boys (lol). I mean let's face it, they're not. I don't mean to go there, I keep going there, I apologize. But apparently it still works. Those kind of small arenas are wonderful for people like us because you get a good core audience and the quality is great. The

sound and lights are always good. And it's just a lot of fun. And I hope Jake Hooker (Alan's manager) and Entourage come up with about thirty or forty dates. That would be great."

BH – I read that another Beach Boys compilation called "The Warmth of the Sun" will be coming out this spring. How is this one different from some of the other greatest hits packages?

AJ – "On the last one 'Sounds of Summer' we had three cuts from the Warner Brothers years, the more recent stuff. So we made a deal with Capitol that they can use the masters from all of the Warner Brothers years to beef up the existing masters that they've been using. I mean it's been the same running order for last forty years. So now they have a fresh new catalog to draw from. And a lot of the seventies Beach Boys music hasn't really been fully explored. They didn't have access to it and now they do."

BH – Which Beach Boys albums do you think have been overlooked by the public? What are some of your favorites?

AJ – "Oh gosh, that's a tough question because there are so many of them. I really love 'Holland,' and 'Surf's Up.' 'Pet Sounds' was just a bear. That was a lot of hard work and I can't say it was a pleasure making it. It was just one of those very difficult projects and it's just a miracle that we got through it because we were really making three albums at the same time when we did that. Although it turned out wonderfully, I think if I had a favorite it would be 'Holland.'"

BH – These past few years I really liked the "Endless Harmony" soundtrack and the "Hawthorne, California" double disc. I always enjoy getting Beach Boy stuff that I haven't heard before.

AJ – "Oh you're going to hear a lot of stuff you haven't heard. We've got so much stuff, just a ton of stuff. In fact I'm looking over 'The Warmth of the Sun' list now. I just got it in the mail, the running order. There are twenty-eight cuts on it and it's a good mixture I think. We actually all got together and really hammered out the running order. We had a nice conference call on it and I think it's going to be a really nice blend of sixties and seventies stuff. 'Til I Die' is on there along with 'Sail on Sailor,' 'Don't go near the Water,' 'California Saga,' 'California Dreamin',' 'The Warmth of the Sun,' 'All This is That' and my favorite 'The Little Girl I Once Knew.'"

BH – That's the song Brian opened with when he first made his comeback.

AJ – "Well I'll be. That was Carl and my first duet together!"

BH – Thanks for your time Al. I'll see you at the Beacon Theater.

AJ – "Thank you too and thanks for your suggestion about 'Vegetables.'"

BH – Actually that was your idea!

On Tuesday evening November 21st I found myself on 74th and Broadway sitting in the 4th row of the Beacon Theater. Just after 8:00 pm the Brian Wilson band took the stage and opened up the show with "Surfer Girl." Soon after that Brian introduced his special guest and Al Jardine walked out on stage, strapped on an electric guitar, and sang "Then I Kissed Her" sounding just like he did when he first sang the tune over forty years ago. It was a joyous night of music as Brian and the band played the "Pet Sounds" album in its entirety. Al of course sang lead on "Sloop John B" just as he had back in 1966. The pair seemed genuinely happy to be reunited. Wouldn't it be nice if they could do this more often? God only knows how much all the Beach Boy fans would love it.





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The Jammys has become an annual spring party to honor the jam band movement - young and old. It began quietly in 2000, but word has spread about this unique event. This one and a half-hour, nine song, DVD released in mid-November, provides a nice introduction to spirit and passion of the event. With a few thousand in attendance, the show is held on a weeknight at The Theater at Madison Square Garden, and is generally five to 6 hours. The event is a marathon; well paced and mind bending in typical jam band fashion. Relix has done a fine job piecing together highlights from almost 40 hours of great, one-of-a-kind, improvisational music.

That said, the musicians and setlist of the DVD is more than appealing, from a classic North Mississippi Allstars rendition of "Psychedelic Sex Machine" to Phil Lesh and Ryan Adams teaming on "WharfRat." The DVD does what it should do by providing a sense of why one would want to go see the event and why the event is so essential to all involved.

Though it's called an award show, and there are a modest number of awards doled out, along with an annual lifetime achievement award, it is more of a grand gathering of talent and character. Without a doubt, it is truly the only award event in existence that showcases creative skills and passion, instead of personalities and ego. While the awards (of which there were only 10 this year) are focused on jam bands, the boundaries are not limited. For instance, in 2006, people like Bob Dylan and Jack Johnson received awards, and the late, great, Frank Zappa (represented by Dweezil) received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The DVD opens with Richie Havens backed by The Mutaytor playing Haven's classic "Freedom." This odd couple provides a majestic opening to the DVD. Havens is sitting centerstage with acoustic guitar in hand, offering his intense and vibrant soul to the audience. Produced in black and white, the visual provides a paradoxical clarity that evokes the intensity and ageless grace of the song. Ironi-

cally, world events are eerily similar to when Havens ended his set with this tune at Max Yasgur's farm 37 years ago.

That said, the night is less political, and more of a theatrical production that brings together diverse and unrelated musical forces onto one stage. Some of the best highlights are when generations and styles meet, e.g. Phil Lesh and Mike Gordon, moe. and Blue Oyster Cult, and Perry Farrell and The String Cheese Incident. Song after song becomes a new creation with combinations of musicians that you will more than likely never see together on stage, except this one night. It's truly a trip, and trust me, no mental enhancement is required.

***** 1/2 - Dave Geller

STEVE MEDNICK

"Dark Ages Reprise"

Who says that attorneys can't have fun, talent, and be interesting? Judging by this spectacular release, there's clearly no law against it.

Mednick, a practicing Connecticut lawyer by day, sounds at times like a cross between the best of Mark Knopfler and Warren Zevon, with a dash of Bruce Springsteen tossed in, for good measure. However, he's certainly no imitator. He's got the kind of voice, emotion, and phrasing that is uniquely his, and his alone. And, his seven songs on this EP are exemplary. Frankly, he's just got loads of talent, a ton of ability and a flair for putting it all together.

Yet, perhaps even more important to the stand out quality of this release is the sound. Too many times, self-released albums, created far away from the studio muscle of the major companies, sounds like, well, it's self-

released. Mednick, though, clearly (no pun intended) knows that the sound is crucial to his outstanding work. To that end, he's surrounded himself with a fabulous producer, Eddie Seville, and the disc is expertly mastered by Paul Orofino, with the work being done in Mednick's native Connecticut and in upstate New York. In their hands, the sound is crystal clear, stark and non-compressed to death, and stands solely on its own, without resort to any studio gimmicks.

With a lesser performer, that might, ironically, reveal the flaws in the music. However, it's a good and right thing, here, because that allows Mednick's talent to shine through these great songs and performances. From the opening track, "Sidestepping (In the Dark)," to the wondrous "Does It Make Any Difference?" to the finale, "Hope, Again," Mednick has given listeners a beautiful work.

Keep making music this good, and you can quit your day job, Steve.

***** 1/2 - Mark T. Gould

ROBERT PLANT

"Robert Plant and The Strange Sensation" - DVD

Rounder Records / Zoe Vision

The voice and the charisma of Robert Plant are unmistakable, no matter what genre of music the legendary Led Zeppelin frontman chooses to delve into. Perfectly comfortable being woven into the Middle Eastern element of the creative music featured on his 2005 recording effort "Mighty Rearranger", Robert Plant continues to prove



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that creativity, when done right, delivers merits far superior to attempted re-creations of a glorified past.

The "Robert Plant and the Strange Sensation" DVD from Rounder Records/Zoe Vision captures the band's September 2005 performance at the intimate Soundstage Studios in Chicago. The set list includes a blend of "Rearranger" material and five, re-worked Zeppelin classics that strategically venture from their original offering with remarkable results. The opening rendition of "No Quarter", for example, mirrors it's 1973 tune in lyrics alone, yet flows comfortably from start to finish. The band's rendition of "Black Dog" is outstanding, aptly substituting rhythmic funk for power chords while staying true in tracing Page's memorable rhythms with a Middle Eastern-themed approach. "Four Sticks" (dedicated to the late John Bonham) and "Whole Lotta Love" stray less from their original work and are welcomed graciously by the crowd in attendance. The Strange Sensation, comprised of Justin Adams and Skin Tyson (guitars), John Baggott (keyboards), Billy Fuller (bass), and Clive Deamer (drums), share Plant's vision and delivers both the Zep material and the recent work passionately and professionally.

Robert Plant's first solo offering on DVD was well worth the wait. The picture and sound quality are outstanding, and the film crew and edit staff has done a remarkable job in being at the right place at the right time. The only complaints are that we're left wishing for more than the 66 minutes delivered by this DVD, and that Plant's solo material outside of "Mighty Rearranger" is ignored (with the exception of the William Robert's classic "Hey Joe", most notably covered by Jimi Hendrix, from Plant's 2002 Grammy-nominated "Dreamland" album). What the DVD lacks in special features or liner notes it makes up for with top notch sound quality and a dynamic performance from the band. Robert Plant is the best in the business and this DVD serves as proof that the music of Led Zeppelin and Robert Plant stack up admirably against today's best work.

1/2

- Don Sikorski



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 12oz Rib Eye
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LADIES

All Male Review
Every Wednesday
\$1 Drinks 8-10:30



Karaoke Party

Thursday Night
w/ DJ DAVE 9 to close
Specials ~ Prizes ~ Giveaways
~ Country Line Dancing
6:30-8:30
Learn how to Line Dance!

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Fri

Sat

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ENUFF

22 STILL
FACE

29 LIVE MUSIC
TBA

2 LEE DURANT
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BLUESHELLS

9 VALENTINO
BAND

16 LIVE MUSIC
TBA

23 STONE
WALL

30 LIVE MUSIC
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Fri. 8th - **JERKS**

plus **EXIT 72** for Happy Hour

Sat. 9th - **DIAMOND BACK**

Wednesday 10th - *Light Parade*

MUNSELL BROTHERS

Fri. 15th - **LICK**

plus **BIPOLAR** for Happy Hour

Sat. 16th - **1800 BAND**

Fri. 22nd - **HARD KNOXX**

Sat. 23rd - **DJ DANCE PARTY**
with 107.7

Fri. 29th - **FAT BETTY**

Sat. 30th - **DJ DANCE PARTY**
with 107.7

Fri. Jan. 5th - **SUGAR DADDY**

LADIES ~ 8pm-10pm ~ FREE Fri. & Sat.

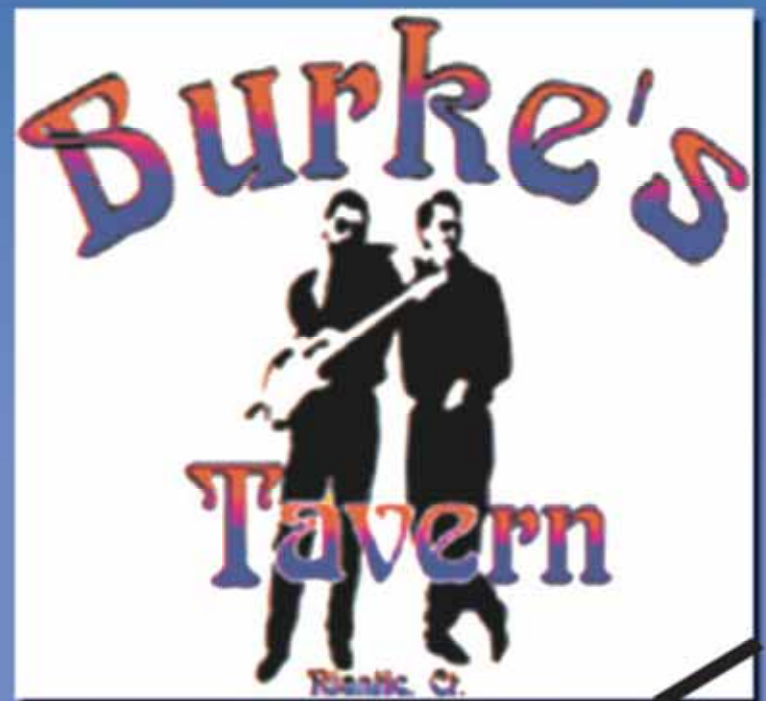
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EVE BASH**

With

1800 BAND

