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Sound Waves

Volume 20
Issue 6
June 2010

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Sound Waves

June 2010
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25 PRIVATE STOCK	26 SUE MENHART
2 PRIVATE STOCK	3 DAN STEVENS

MAILBAG



Dear Readers,

In August of 1990, Sound Waves Magazine published it's first issue. Since then we have become a leading entertainment guide for the area. With interviews of some of the top names in the music industry. Some of which were the artists' first interviews by a publication. To kick off our 20 years of publication, we are having a party at the Knickerbocker in Westerly RI on Saturday July 31st with Chris Thomas King. I hope you all can make the show and look for other events to celebrate this landmark. Tickets for the show can be purchased ahead of time at the Knickerbocker's web site.

Sound Waves Magazine has also remained a free publication all these years! This is because of you the readers. By letting our advertisers know that you saw their ad in Sound Waves, you have made these 20 years possible. Thank You!

Till Next Month
David L. Pottie
Editor/Publisher

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6 SOUND WAVES

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25 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT
26 - Comcast Center, Mansfield, MA

Dave Matthews Band

7,8 - Comcast Center, Mansfield, MA

Edgar Winter

27 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

James Taylor/Carole King

12,13 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Jason Ricci & New Blood

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

Jethro Tull

10 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Jimmy Buffett

17,19 - Comcast Center, Mansfield, MA

John Hiatt

26 - Yachting Center, Newport, RI

Jordin Sparks

12 - Webster Theater, Hartford, CT

Justin Bieber

23 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

Phish

17,18 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT
22 - Comcast Center, Mansfield, MA

REO Speedwagon

24 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band

27 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Steve Miller Band

13 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Ted Nugent

17 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

Yes

16 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

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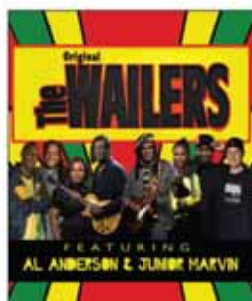
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MUSIC NOTES

Hear! Hear!

By Mark T. Gould

Yellow ear cups?



I was about 14 or 15 years old, if memory serves, and I was wandering around the old, great Roberts Music Store on Bank Street in New London. I'd started my record album collecting fetish just a couple of years earlier, and, well, the combination of the Beatles, the Stones, the Who and just

about every other loud record was getting on my parents' nerves (of course, they were the ones who first exposed me to music, but that's a story best left for another day).

So, it was time for my first set of headphones. They would serve a dual purpose; first, they'd allow me to listen to my music at whatever ear-splitting level I wanted; and, second, they'd allow me to drown out my parents' frequent complaints about said ear-splitting level of music.

Being of tender years, I knew next to nothing about headphones. Somehow, somebody somewhere, though, had recommended a brand called Sennheiser to me. I have a specific recollection of that, because it seemed to be such a cool name.

What they didn't tell me was that the company's trademark was yellow ear buds on those headphones.

There I was, standing in the middle of Roberts, fingering pair after pair of Sennheisers, all the while thinking about how I was going to feel about having bright yellow foam covering my ears.

Semi-reluctantly, I grabbed a pair that, those bright ear cups aside, looked and felt pretty cool. They were very lightweight, but, absent any listening stations back in the day, I would have to wait to try out their sound at home.

I bought them, grabbed the bag, and raced back to Mystic, plugged them in, and put them on. I cranked up the stereo, and while I don't recall what I sampled, it probably, being the year was '68 or '69, was the Stones.

Suddenly, I was hearing music like never before. The phones delivered crystal clear sound, and did not distort at all when I cranked the music up. Even better, it barely felt like I was wearing them.

The sound was so good, and I was so satisfied with my new Sennheisers that I totally forgot about the yellow ear cups.

Perfect. And, now, after some 40 years of wearing them, and several other pairs, out, I noted the passing, last month of Dr. Fritz Sennheiser, the founder and longtime chairman of Sennheiser Electronics, at the ripe old age of 98.

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And, to think that landscape gardening almost took the Good Doctor away from creating those yellow ear cups. Dr. Sennheiser was born in Berlin on May 9, 1912. As a youngster, he was fascinated by radios and built a simple crystal receiver. But, his first love was horticulture, and he dreamed of becoming a landscape gardener.

The deep economic depression then affecting his country made job prospects in landscaping slim, so the young Dr. Sennheiser changed his path, and decided to study electrical engineering. In 1940, he earned a doctorate from the Heinrich Hertz Institute, where he later worked as an engineer.

In World War II, Dr. Sennheiser helped the German Army with the radio transmission of coded messages, and, after the war ended, he started the company that would bear his name. Initially a small electronics laboratory, the business took off when its first product, a tube voltmeter, was bought by Siemens, the electronics giant. That led to the development of Sennheiser's first microphone, also for Siemens, in 1947.

Later, Sennheiser products included among the first open headphones. Introduced in 1968, the headphones had flat disc-like earpieces that sat on top of a listener's ears, instead of the traditional deep cuplike ones that encased the ears completely.

Founded with a staff of seven, Sennheiser now employs more than 2,000 people around the world. The company, which is wholly owned by the Sennheiser family, has manufacturing plants in Germany, Ireland and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ironically, the company's United States subsidiary is based in Old Lyme.

In 2008, Sennheiser recorded sales of about \$500 million, according to its Web site.

Sennheiser professional equipment has long been a leader in the fields of communications and entertainment, used by radio, television and recording engineers worldwide. Its personal audio accessories, including wireless and noise-canceling headphones, are routinely well reviewed in consumer-electronics publications.

Among the innovations with which the company is credited is the invention, in the 1950s, of the shotgun mike, a slender, highly sensitive directional microphone now widely used in film and television production.

Yet, with all that worldwide acclaim, Fritz Sennheiser's finest hour may have come when, by the force of his imagination and fortitude, he was able to allow young music fans like me to hear, really hear, the music that was beginning to consume our lives.

In that way, this wanna-be gardener clearly changed our musical landscape.





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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Hello My Sweet BarFlies.. Well we made it! My nephew Dean and his beautiful wife Samantha are married! It was a Beautiful wedding held at the Historic Stonington Light-House at the Point in Stonington. The view was breathtaking as was the Bride! Dean was looking pretty sharp himself, along with the wedding party and guests. Uncle Jesse played guitar at the Point and

it was all Very Romantic.

The reception was held at BISHOP'S COVE in Mystic. Sam's boss and good friend Rob Rivers did a fantastic job making the clubhouse absolutely stunning and helping to keep everything running smoothly, along with Annie Bananie, her husband Tom and Stacie Vargas with her daughter. Thanks so much! It was so good to have all the family together. We laughed, we cried(me, with the non-waterproof mascara, looking pretty scary). Dean made a video montage, with tear-jerking music and there was nary a dry eye in the house! We are so happy to have Sam's Family, a part of Our Family.

Went to two openings this week.. STEPHEN PATRICK TAVERN was the first one. Taking over at the old MY MARYS spot, owner Chris Deveau and his wife put on quite the shindig! The place looks amazing, the food was delicious and the band SUGAR rocked the House. The place was jam-packed and I seriously mean JAM-PACKED. Tried out my two left feet again with my new buddy Dave, but I really need some lessons, people, really!!

And of course, nothing can compare to my second opening of that week, at the OCEAN HOUSE in Watch Hill. It was a breathtakingly, beautiful evening, sun shining, valets parking, green lawns rolling, words cannot describe the fabulousness of the evening! The OCEAN HOUSE is Simply Majestic. I predict a bright future and many evenings personally spent at the Bar, listening to the ocean and the entertainment of the starry nights.

Oh, and she got me again! I'm speaking, of course of my dear friend Wendy, of PRIMETIME CAFE fame. After the Flood, sweet Wendy's restaurant was closed for three weeks. For the opening, she called and asked if I would be willing to "help out" bartending. She told me that there would be light appetizers around the room, a band and just a general good time to be had by all!

Well, I fell for it again, people. I arrived and was handed my "F**K THE RIVER...WRECK YOUR LIVER" t-shirt. Then I was handed a menu and a specials list. Huh? Menu? specials? Stuffed mushrooms with what cheese? I don't

serve food, people. I knew then, as crowds started streaming through the door (and Wendy was avoiding all eye contact) that she had gotten my ass again. But, of course, I'm a trooper...too busy to do anything but fly by the seat of my fabulously jean-clad pants.

In the end though, it was a really fun evening with many beautiful people supporting PRIMETIME CAFE, one of the many businesses that were able to come back from a devastating Flood, that is still effecting people and businesses in our area.

Went to my friend Larry Gavitt's Retirement Party at the GROTON MOTOR INN on 184 in Groton. After 41 years at ELECTRIC BOAT, his many co-workers came to say farewell, along with his family and friends to celebrate a life well lived and a job well done. The INN is an old favorite for big events and the buffet they put out was delicious. Larry was roasted by his friends, and with his adorable mom proudly looking on we was toasted by all in attendance. Congratulations Larry, and may your retirement be a happy one.

Had our last POKER RUN EVER, I swear to you!! I can't do it anymore...simply cannot make everyone happy. You remember my friend Thelma? Well, she was supposed to ride with me, so she gave me her money ahead of time for her Poker Cards and was gonna meet up with us.

We started at the HANDLEBAR CAFE with a fantastic crowd and headed out to THE EXCHANGE on Bank Street in New London. First problem, my speedometer is not working properly and apparently my co-pilots Tami and Artie were wrong in assuming everyone was having no difficulty in keeping up. Oh yeah, my rearview mirror is the size of a quarter, and it's difficult to keep everyone in my sights.

Anyways, THE EXCHANGE is beautiful! It sits right in the middle of Bank Street. The bar looks lovely and the outdoor deck gives a fantastic view of the Thames River. They serve food and the drinks were served by some Hot-Looking Young Things! Male and Female! They also have entertainment! Can't beat that with a stick! Stop by and tell them the BarFly sent you!

We stopped by the WILDSTYLE RIDERS House on Bank Street on our way back to our bikes and my Street Rod. It was nice to see Carlos and the guys. They are holding their Seventh Annual Trophy Party at the EL 'N' GEE CLUB on Golden Street in New London on July 10. The doors open at nine and that is also the night of the fireworks at 9:45 by the World Famous Grucci Bros.

Next we stopped at SNEEKERS for a quick drink and said Hello to Annie. And last, but never least, we stopped at CLYDESDALES in Westerly, before heading back to the HANDLEBAR. Well, that's where the controversy begins. My sweet Thelma ended up being the Winner of the Poker Run, but she never showed up for the ride. Sorry, had to give it to her, she bought her ticket. We bought a round for the bar with her winnings, like any winner would do, and that's that. Except it's not, cuz you are never gonna make everyone happy. Oh well...I try!!

UPCOMING EVENTS: Pappy's Run will be held Memorial Weekend and this Fly will be attending, as usual, at

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TOMMY JAMES



100,000,000 Tommy James Fans Can't Be (And Aren't) Wrong

By Mark T. Gould

100 million records sold.

In this troubled era of record company self-immolations, illegal downloading and the tragic closing of Mom and Pop record stores, you need to read, and grasp, that again.

100. Million. Records. Sold.

That's the astounding musical legacy of Tommy James, clearly one of the most important, influential and popular artists of the rock era, who accomplished that virtually unfathomable and rarely equaled sales achievement with a record company that was, as he now freely admits, a front for organized crime. It's all documented in James' extraordinary autobiography "Me, The Mob & The Music," co-written with Martin Fitzpatrick.

"This is a story that I've wanted to tell for a very long time," James, who recently turned 63 but looks at least a decade younger, said during a recent book signing at Borders in Farmington, Connecticut. "We started it about eight years ago. We were going to write just about the music, and call it 'Crimson and Clover.' Then, we realized that, without telling the whole story, we'd be cheating ourselves and everybody else. We had to tell the Roulette Records story."

And, what a story it is. Roulette Records was, at least

on, pardon the pun, record, a legitimate business partnership. The brains, and perhaps muscle, behind it was the irrepressible Morris Levy, who ran the company from its inception in the mid-Fifties. It was a poorly-kept secret that, among Levy's less than silent backers, were members of New York City's Genovese crime family, who allegedly used the company as both a front and a money-laundering mechanism.

Into this maelstrom walked James, fresh off a regional hit with 'Hanky Panky' in Pittsburgh, and determined to secure a recording contract.

Little did he know.....

"We went around to all the companies in New York, including Morris at Roulette, and all were very positive about signing us," James remembered. "We got calls the next day, though, that they were all backing out. We were very surprised.

"What we didn't know at the time was that Morris had contacted all of them and said (here James does an impersonation that could have landed him a starring role on the 'Sopranos,') 'we're making this record, not you.' So, everyone else backed off, and we ended up on Roulette."

And, 100 million records, 23 gold singles, and nine gold and platinum albums later, James can finally tell the whole, amazing story.

"When we started, we were concerned about (writing the book) because some of those guys were still walking around," he said. "So, we put it on a shelf for a couple of years. It was in '04 or '05, when the last of the Roulette regulars passed away, so we could finish the story. It came out, and, boom, we have had such an amazing response."

James' story begins in the relative quiet of Niles, Michigan, the small Midwestern town where, in 1959 at age of 12, the young Thomas Jackson formed his first rock band. While he was clearly influenced by Elvis, as were most young people of his day, James places a special significance on the Beatles.

"My cover band began doing Beatle music. We fell in love with them as musicians, although when they first came out, I wasn't sure that I liked them," he said, laughing, during an interview with Sound Waves following the book signing. "All of '64, our last set of the night was Beatles music. They were the guiding star, we tried to imitate all that as much as we could.

"The Beatles were the state of the art that everyone was following. I can't tell you how important they were to musicians," James added. "The sounds they got on their records were just so incredible. We were devastated when they broke up. They were like family. It really was a magical mystery tour."

In 1964, a local disk jockey asked the then 17-year-old Tommy and the group to sign with his new regional label. Among the four sides they recorded was an obscure song called 'Hanky Panky.' The group changed its name to "The Shondells," and released the song as a regional single. It was an instant local hit, but didn't break nationally and was soon forgotten.

Two years later, the record was discovered in a Pittsburgh record bin by another disk jockey, who played it at his weekend dances. The response was so overwhelming that the local radio stations started playing it, and a local record distributor bootlegged it, selling a reported slightly less than 100,000 copies in just 10 days.

By May 1966, it was the number one record in the city. James was asked to make some promotional appearances in Pittsburgh, and, unable to put the original group back together, he went alone and hired a local band to be The Shondells. Two weeks later the new group signed with Roulette and 'Hanky Panky' became the biggest hit of the summer of '66.

"'Hanky Panky' just unexpectedly exploded," James recalled. "That just started it all."

James, as he was then known, saw his career catch fire, as 'Panky' was followed by hit after hit. In those days, you couldn't, and arguably you still can't, turn on music radio and not hear Tommy James and The Shondells'

CONTINUED PAGE 20



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All Concerts Start at 6:30 PM

Events in June

Rock n' Soul Revue – June 18

The Cartells – June 25

Rain dates are August 13 and
August 20

Events in July

Jay Dempsey & Highway Call – July 2

The Dick Campo Big Band – July 9

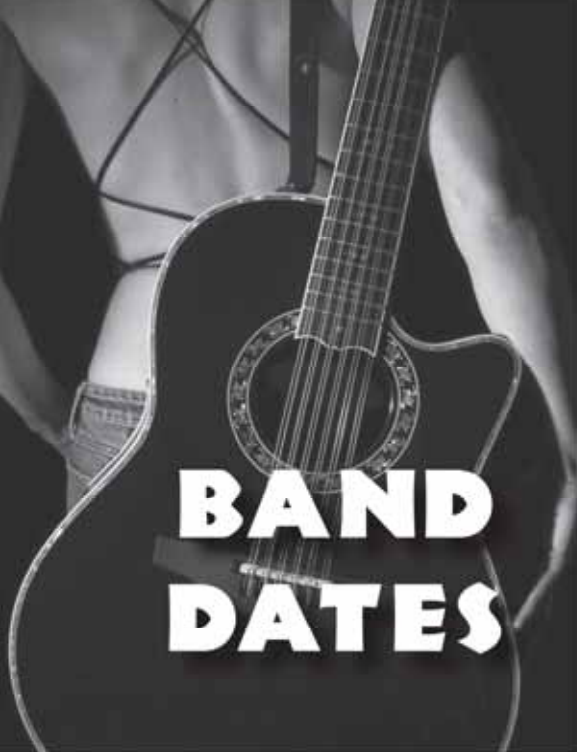
Mind, Body and Soul – July 16

High Times – July 23

9Teen – July 30

Sound Production By Alpha Audio Works





BAND DATES

ALTER EGO

4 - Harbor Park, Middletown, CT
10 - Convention Center, Hartford, CT
11 - Stash's New London, CT
26 - Sandys, Misquamicut, RI

BAND OF HUMANS DUO

4,9,16,18,23,30 - Elmridge, Pawcatuck, CT
12,25 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT

BEER LIGHT INDUSTRIES

11,25,30 - High Noon, Norwich, CT
18 - Dot's Cafe, Uncasville, CT

BORROWED TOYS

19 - Uncle Krankys, Jewett City, CT

BOTTOM DRAWER

11 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT
19 - Odeta Campground, Bozrah, CT 7pm
26 - Cafe On Main, Colchester, CT

THE CARTELLS

7 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 12-2pm
11 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

DAN STEVENS

4 - Suds Pub, Bethel, ME 7:30
5 - Coveside, South Bristol, ME
6 - The Bog, Waldoboro, ME 2pm
7 - Farmers Market, W. Hartford, CT 3pm
9,17 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
11 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT
12 - Mark Twain House, Hartford, CT 11:30am
12 - Angelico's, Glastonbury, CT 6pm
18 - Crown & Hammer, Collinsville, CT
19 - Arts Walk, Rowayton, CT 6pm

14 SOUND WAVES

24 - Perigee, South Lee, MA
25 - Elmridge, Pawcatuck, CT 6pm
27 - Delta Grill, New York, NY Brunch

DAN WATSON

8,22 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
13 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT

DOGIE

& THE COWPIE POACHERS
9,16,23,30 - Fastnet Pub, Newport, RI

FACE FIRST

5 - Bank Street Cafe, New London, CT
19 - Legends, Gales Ferry, CT

FULL CIRCLE

4 - Mulhearn's, E. Providence, RI
5 - Lou's Cafe, Manville, RI
12 - Balls, Cranston, RI
25 - Grill 47, Pawtucket, RI

THE GOAT ROPERS

18 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8-12
19 - Rodeo Bar, Manchester, NH
26 - Hyline Cruise, Onset, MA 8-11

GOPHERBROKE

4 - Cafe on Main, Colchester, CT
5 - Old Farms Inn, Avon, CT
6 - Mooring, Guilford, CT 3-7
9 - Central Park, New Britain, CT 11:30-1:30
18 - Tuscany Grill, Middletown, CT 7-11
19 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
23 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA
26 - CJ Sparrow's, Cheshire, CT

GRUNGE DAY

5 - Quality Time Cafe, Meriden, CT
10 - Bleachers, Bristol, CT
12 - Festival, Hartford, CT 3pm

JAMES HARRIS

4,11 - Elmridge, Pawcatuck, CT 6pm
5,9,16,19,23,30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
8,15,22,29 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
12 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 4pm
17 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 6:30pm
22 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 7pm
24 - Serapo's, Westerly, RI 7pm
25 - Stash's, New London, CT 5pm
26 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI
27 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 1pm

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

4 - Stash's, New London, CT 5:30-8:30

9 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

KEVIN MANZELLA

24 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

kGb

25 - Dog Watch Cafe, Stonington, CT

Ms. MARCI

& THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

11 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT 7-10pm

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

11 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
12 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI
18 - Ivory Pub, Deep River, CT
25 - Christopher's Cafe, Groton, CT

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

5 - City Saloon, Hartford, CT
11 - Angelico's, E. Hampton, CT 7-11
18 - Freespirit, Vernon, CT
27 - Elks, Westbrook, CT 2-6

RED LIGHT

5 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT
12 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
18 - The Dubliner, Uncasville, CT
27 - Sunset Rib, Waterford, CT 5-9pm
30 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 8-10pm

SCOOPY

& THE POUNDHOUNDS

26 - Freds, Willimantic, CT

STYFF KITTY

4 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

STONE GROOVE

4 - Bank Street, New London, CT

SUE MENHART BAND

5,26 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT
12 - 125 Riverside Drive, E. Hartford, CT 3pm
13 - Exchange, New London, CT 4-8pm
15 - Cafe on Main, Colchester, CT 7-10pm
24 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT 5-8pm
27 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 4-7pm

2 CAT ZOO

4 - Exchange, New London, CT 6-9pm
11 - Dogwatch Cafe, Stonington, CT
12 - The Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
30 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

4 - Nightwatch Tavern, Charlestown, RI
www.Swaves.com

10 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
 12 - Bean & Leaf, New London, CT 8-10:30
 17 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
 30 - Humphrey's, Wethersfield, CT 6:30-9:30

WAR PIGS

4 - Backstage, Groton, CT
 19 - Surrell's, Jewett City, CT

WICKED PEACH

18,19 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
 25 - Exchange, New London, CT
 26 - One Pelham East, Newport, RI

WILSON KANE

4,10,24 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
 5,12 - Blue Cottage, Branford, CT 2pm
 5 - Hanafin's, New London, CT
 6 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 2:30pm
 6,20 - Griswold Inn, Essex, CT 7pm
 11 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
 12 - June's Outback, Killingworth, CT
 13,20,27 - Unk's, Waterford, CT 2pm
 16 - Whitfield's, Guilford, CT 7-9pm
 17 - Stryker's Cafe, Berlin, CT 8-11pm
 18 - Gilligan's, Westerly, RI
 19 - Penny Lane Pub, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
 25 - Clydesdale Tavern, Westerly, RI
 26 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 11:30-2:30
 26 - Mews Tavern, Wakefield, RI
 28 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT

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THRUST





JORDIN SPARKS

By Bill Harriman

powerful rendition of Shirley Bassey's "I (Who Have Nothing)." Jordin went on to win over such notables as Melinda Doolittle, Lakisha Jones, Blake Lewis, and the unforgettable Sanjaya Malakar.

Since that day Jordin has been living the dream. She would record and released her debut self-titled CD later in the year on the 19 Recordings/Jive Record label. The record, which has a very contemporary pop sound with a rhythm and blues edge to it, has gone on to sell over two million copies and featured such hits as "Tattoo," "One Step at a Time," and "No Air" which Jordin sang with Chris Brown.

The whirlwind continued for Jordin in 2008. She sang the national anthem at Super Bowl XLII between the Giants and the Patriots. It was nice that Jordin was given this honor because her dad Phillip Sparks played cornerback for the Giants throughout the nineties. She certainly brought the Giants some positive vibes that day as they went on to win in a monumental upset! As the year continued Jordin went on two high profile tours. She teamed up with Alicia Keys in the springtime and hit the road with Jesse McCartney during the summer months.

In 2009 Jordin was back in the studio working on her second album. "Battlefield" was released that summer to rave reviews. The record showed Jordin's continued growth as an artist and as a songwriter. In fact one of the songs, an original called "Faith," was debuted by Jordin at the Inaugural Ball for President Obama on January 20, 2009. Both the title song and "S.O.S. (Let the Music Play)" have received extensive airplay and the "Battlefield" video has certainly been a youtube sensation. Jordin went on to tour in 2009 with both Britney Spears and the Jonas Brothers.

The big news for Jordin this year is that she has just landed a major part in the Tony award winning Broadway musical called "In the Heights." Her first performance

May 23rd, 2007 was the day that Jordin Sparks' life would forever change. That was the day she became the season six winner of American Idol. Just seventeen years old at the time she was and still is the youngest person ever to win. And with apologies to Crystal Bowersox, she is still the last woman to win. As with all American Idol winners there is usually that signature moment which separates the eventual winner from the rest of the contestants. For Jordin Sparks it was undoubtedly her

will be on August 19th at the Richard Rodgers Theater on 226 West 46th Street. However, before she gets there she still has one more tour in support of her "Battlefield" CD. Jordin and her band will be at the Webster Theater in Hartford on Saturday June 12th. This phone interview took place in the afternoon of Tuesday May 11th.

BH – Jordin, let me start by congratulating you on landing a part in a Broadway play, especially one as successful as "In the Heights." Could you tell me a little bit about the play, your character and how it all came about?

JS - "My character is Nina Rosario and she's one of the main characters in the play. Basically she represents the neighborhood from where she comes from but she's one of the few that got out and went to college and got to experience all that. She actually has a really hard time while she's at college for the first year and she's trying to work and she's can't pay for it and her grades suffer. So the play starts with her coming back home and feeling that anxiety of having to tell her parents that she couldn't handle it. She feels like she's letting everybody down because she was representing her neighborhood and she was representing her parents as well. So by the end of the play she realizes that it's ok to struggle and that not everybody is going to be perfect and all those different things. So that's basically her story and she falls in love too in the play which is really cool.

It kind of came about when I went out to New York for a meeting with the writer of 'In the Heights.' He just wanted to meet me and talk to me about a few things and a couple of other things involving the play. I think they want to make it into a movie as well but I'm not sure. They were talking to me just about a whole bunch of different things. And they said if you get a chance you should see the show. So I went later that night and I fell in love with it. I loved the show and they also gave me the soundtrack for the play and I literally haven't stopped listening to it since I got it and that was back in February. But I had no idea that they were thinking of using me and placing me into the play. I guess about a month later I was doing a show in Texas and on our way there and I got the email that said they had an offer for me and I was so taken aback because I didn't really expect it. But I was like 'Yes I want to do it. Please!'"

BH – Are you familiar with the Washington Heights area of Manhattan which is the setting for "In the Heights?"

JS - "I did live in New Jersey for a little while just because when my dad played football we moved back and forth so I'm familiar with some areas and I'm sure we've driven through there but I've never liked stayed there or anything like that. But yeah I'm learning more and more about it as I talk to the director and the writer and ask him about where he came up with the concept and all those different things. So I'm learning about it each day."

BH – Before you get to Broadway you're still touring in support of your "Battlefield" record. I thought this CD showed more confidence and maturity than your self titled

debut record. Do you agree?

JS - "Definitely, the Battlefield record was two years later. I grew up a little bit. I got a little bit older and was in a different place. I got to write a lot more on this record as well so I was saying a lot of things that I was thinking about. With the first record we had to get it done so fast that it was very crazy but I'm still so proud of the first one and I'm definitely proud of the second one. But I want to keep growing and evolving with any of my music. It's definitely still the 'Jordin' sound but it's going to be a little bit different."

BH - I really liked the last four songs on the record which are the ones that you wrote. I would imagine that writing your own material is something that you would like to continue to do.

JS - "Definitely, I want to keep writing and I want to keep honing my skills in that area and maybe potentially writing for other artists one day. But I've always loved writing and language arts was my favorite subject in school. I love poetry and I love reading. I just love words I guess."

BH - I thought your song "Faith" sounded a lot like Mariah Carey. Have people told you that?

JS - "That's a huge compliment. Thank you very much! I haven't gotten that all the time so that's why I'm kind of freaking out. The first time somebody said it I was like 'what are you talking about?' But then I re-listened to it and I was like 'oh my gosh it is kind of reminiscent of early Mariah.' But I wasn't really going for that. We just kind of wrote the song and I sang it. I love Mariah. I grew up listening to her so I guess somewhere in the back of my head I was channeling her."

BH - You've recently toured with the Jonas Brothers and with Britney Spears. What were those experiences like and how is it different now that you're the headliner?

JS - "Well first of all touring with the Jonas Brothers and Britney was definitely a crazy experience. For both of the tours it was just non stop screaming. Everybody walks in and they start screaming! I'd go out and they would scream and then I would leave and the boys would go out or Britney would go out and then it was just like deafening. It was so crazy. But I had a blast. The 'In the Round' stages were something that I never been on before so I got used to really having to move around and make sure that I hit everybody that was in the audience to make sure that they could see me and that I faced them. So that was definitely a learning process. Touring with Britney Spears was something that I never thought that I would ever do. I got a call asking if I wanted to do this but we need to know right away. I said 'YES I want to go!' And touring with the boys they're such great people I'm actually under the same management as they are and it's been really fun to get to know them over the past year. I had a really, really good time on that tour. But now that I'm headlining I'm getting used to it because now there's somebody opening for me. So it's definitely a little strange and instead of singing five songs I'm singing like fifteen to seventeen depending on how my voice feels."

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Tommy James Continued

captivating, exhilarating music. The songs, which most music fans know by heart, included "Say I Am," "It's Only Love," "I Think We're Alone Now," "Mony Mony," "Crimson and Clover," "Crystal Blue Persuasion," the list goes on and on for, clearly, one of the, if not the, most popular American singles acts of the rock era.

Unlike many of their Top 40-radio-friendly contemporaries, though, James and the Shondells were able to make the leap, in the late Sixties when the musical arena changed from singles to albums, and from AM radio to FM, propelled by the incredible, trance-inducing, 'Crimson and Clover.'

"We were created by radio. We knew that when it changed, we had to change," James said. "We were blessed, at that time, to be working on 'Crimson and Clover.' It made the change for us. It was the most important record for us since 'Hanky Panky.'"

"It was certainly difficult and impossible for some other acts (to make that change)," James said. "'Crimson and Clover' allowed us to make that jump from AM to FM radio. We went from four track to 24 track in the studio in about 10 months. That was our pivotal moment."

And, the ability to make that transition gives James a unique perspective on today's music industry, as it, ironically, appears to have returned to the heyday of the single record.

"We are in an amazing moment right now, but everything is in pieces," he said. "We are morphing from one system to another. Right now, getting new music in front of the fans is one of the most difficult things. A computer is a pretty awful way of listening to new music. There's no social angle to it."

"I'm actually grateful to the Ipod, though, because it's taken us back to singles," James added. "But, the problem is that people want their music for free. That's not a terrible thing, but it means there's going to be a reluctance to do new music. The thought is 'if you can't get paid for it, why do it?' Singles from now on may just be business cards to set up your concerts."

"I don't know if rock and roll will go the way of vaudeville. We're in a very serious moment right now, and I don't know how it will play out," he observed. "Live music is doing great. I just don't know how the record business is going to play out."

While Roulette certainly had other popular artists, Tommy James and the Shondells, were, by far, the most popular. And, as odd as the situation was, James gives a great deal of the credit for his success to Levy.

"Morris looked like the Godfather, right out of central casting. But, if there hadn't been a Morris Levy, there wouldn't have been a Tommy James," he said.

"The funny part is that it worked at a creative level. That is what always amazes me about Morris," he said. "Whatever he pushed made me work harder and be better. In a strange way, I was very thankful.

"We were definitely being manipulated, but we had our freedom," James said. "We could make records."

The story is so incredible that, James said, a major motion picture, possibly starring Val Kilmer as the grownup James, and a Broadway musical, based on the book, are being planned.

"I'm so flattered. I'm flipped out. I can't believe it," James said. "I'm really speechless about the whole thing."

"It's a story that starts with Morris at the top and Tommy at the bottom" co-author Fitzpatrick said at the book signing. "But, that changes. Tommy becomes his own man, Morris needs him more and more. It was demented and crazy, but there was a love there."

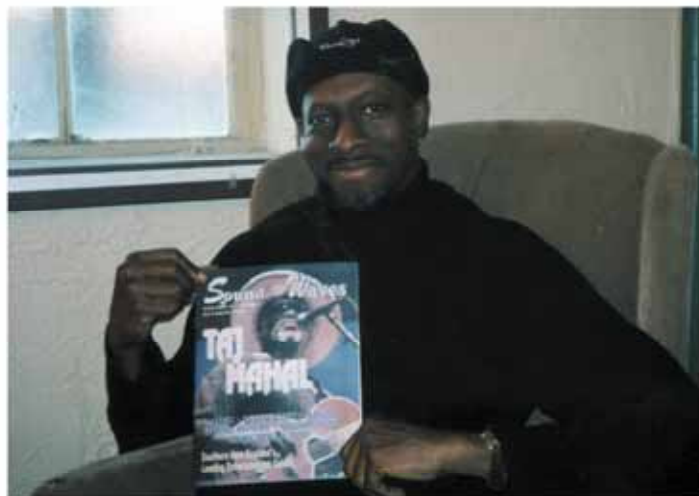
And, what's it like to sell 100 million records?

"I have a hard time with that," James said. "It's wonderful

because the one thing I am most grateful for is the relationship with the fans. People actually went out and bought those records, they didn't download them, they didn't see them on YouTube. It's very different. You are making a statement with your money."

"We make records for the fans," he said. "I love popular music. I'm a studio junkie. There's nothing I like better than making records."

And, he's certainly done it as well as, if not better, than just about anyone.



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Cover Story Continued

It's just been quite a leap but I'm very excited about it."

BH – On your debut CD you list as influences women such as Pat Benatar, Patsy Cline, Etta James, Martina McBride, Annie Lennox, Celine Dion, and Christina Aguilera. That's a very diverse group!

JS – "You know in my family we all love music and in some ways I think everybody kind of touched on it. My mom played piano and my nana played piano. I think my dad was in choir when he was really little. But we all love music and there are so many different types of music that get played. My mom loves the eighties rock music so that's where Pat Benatar comes in. Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Boyz to Men and all that is from my dad's side. And then with my nana and papa, that's where I learned about Patsy Cline, Etta James, and Nat King Cole. I love everything. I mean good music is good music. It doesn't matter what genre it is. I had a really fun time growing up. My nana would say 'hey listen to this and tell me what you think of this.' And my mom too would just be playing her stuff in the car and I learned to love it all."

BH – Jordin, there are a lot of Giant football fans here in Connecticut and we all remember when Phillippi Sparks was the cornerback for them. I'm sure there were many times you saw fans approach your dad to ask for an autograph or a picture. Did watching your famous father deal with the public help you today now that you're the being asked for autographs and pictures?

JS – "Definitely that is such a good question thank you for asking. We were kind of in the spotlight and when he signed autographs or did interviews it was all about him. I would stand in the background and just watch how he responded, how he handled questions and how he interacted with his fans whether it was a meet and greet or whether it was just somebody he met on the street. My dad is a great people person and I definitely learned a lot from that. Also, with him being in the spotlight we kind of were too. So it was like 'ok Jordin no temper tantrums today!' 'Ok mom!' So I really learned a lot from my dad and it definitely helped me with what I'm doing now."

BH – Changing the subject, I understand that you're involved in a program that discourages texting while driving. Could you talk about that please?

JS – "Sure, I'm involved with Allstate's new campaign and it's called the X the TXT campaign. Basically it is getting the word out there that texting and driving is super dangerous. I mean there are laws against not being able to speak on your phone unless it is hands free. And yet there aren't any laws against texting where you have to hold the phone and not only do you hold it but you're looking at it and not looking at the road. So I was really excited about being a part of it because texting is such a huge thing with my generation and we want to respond as quickly as possible. Texting has become a kind of automatic reaction and you don't really think about it when you're in the car. So it's a habit and it's

going to take a conscience effort to break that. If somebody does text in a car they're not only endangering their own lives but potentially endangering the people that they have in the car with them or the car that's driving next to them so it's a big thing. We were recently in Washington DC and I met Ray LaHood the Secretary of Transportation and he is all for it as well. We're just trying to get the word out there and influence kids my age to see if they can take the pledge not to text and drive. They can do this by going to facebook.com/thumbsuppledge. They can go and take that pledge and do it with their family. The whole thing is just to see if one person does it and sets an example another person may see it and go 'you know I can do that too' and sets another example and then another person and by the time we know it we've reached a thousand people. So we'll see how it goes but it's going really well right now."

BH – Are you planning on going to the American Idol finale?

JS – "You know what I'm not going to be at the finale. I have to be back home because it's my brother's birthday. Actually I think his birthday falls on the finale this year. But I will be there to do this huge radio thing before the finale. So I'll be there doing that and then I'll fly home and celebrate my brother's 18th birthday with him!"

BH – Finally Jordin the handful of people who have won American Idol is a very exclusive club. You still must be blown away the whole thing.

JS – "It definitely is and that's so funny. I've never heard anybody else refer to it as that because that's what I say. It's almost like it's an exclusive club because we're the only ones who know what we went through. The American Idol experience opened up in Disney World a year ago February and all the winners so far came. And it was the first time we were all under one roof together. It was David Cook and it was me and Taylor and Ruben, Carrie, Fantasia, Kelly and it was so crazy to be there standing with them because I watched all of the winners and I'm standing here with them. It's so crazy and I will always be so proud to have American Idol attached to my name because it's definitely a phenomenon."

As it turned out Jordin Sparks was at the American Idol finale along with nearly all of the other past winners and runner-ups. It was an appropriate tribute for Simon Cowell whose role as the lead judge played such a significant part in the show's overwhelming success. When Simon spoke to the audience that evening he correctly pointed out that we the viewing public were the real judges, not him. 2007 was one year when we definitely got it right.



Bar Fly Journals Continued

STASH'S. I will give you the Low-Down next month on any trouble I managed to get my self in. My sister Betsy will co-piloting this event with me and God Knows we can get into some trouble.

I will be taking my husband to see Chelsea Charms at STAR'S GENTLEMEN'S CLUB, cuz he's been a good, good boy. She will be on stage on June 25 and 26 and one pic of her, you will probably understand why I feel he would wanna go. Let you know about that one, too! Summer is here, people! Get out and enjoy yourselves, even if it's wrong!! Well, maybe not wrong, but you know what I mean.

Happy Birthday to my kids, Heather and Michael, the Pool is Open, so I hope to see more of my family and friends. Also, Happy Birthday Pam and I must apologize to my wonderful friend, Jess! I am so sorry for missing the Big One! And Yes, I mean 2 1. I also hope to see some of you at the Golf Ball Drop in Westerly to support the RELAY FOR LIFE. There are may benefits this month so check out your SOUNDWAVES MAGAZINE for all the events. As usual, contact me at barfly2u2@yahoo.com with any events that you would like me to try and mention. Ciao for Now, my SweetFlies have a fabulous month.



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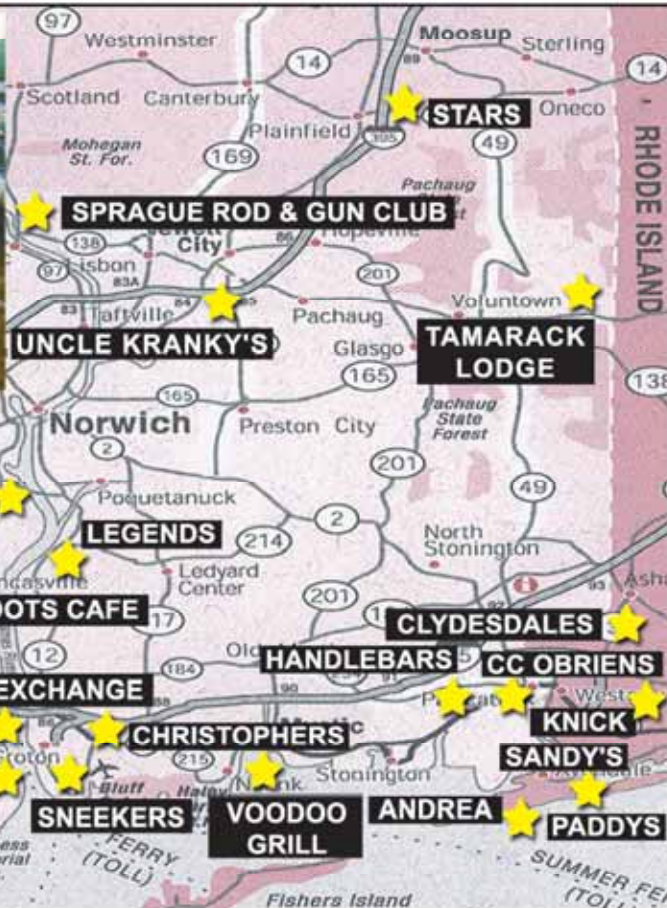
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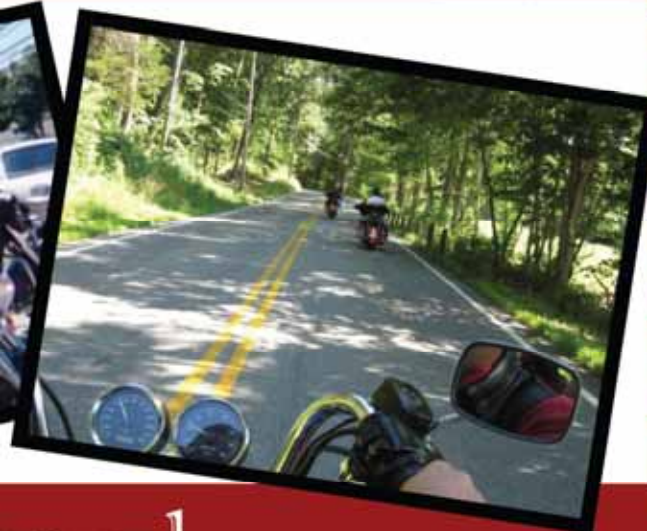
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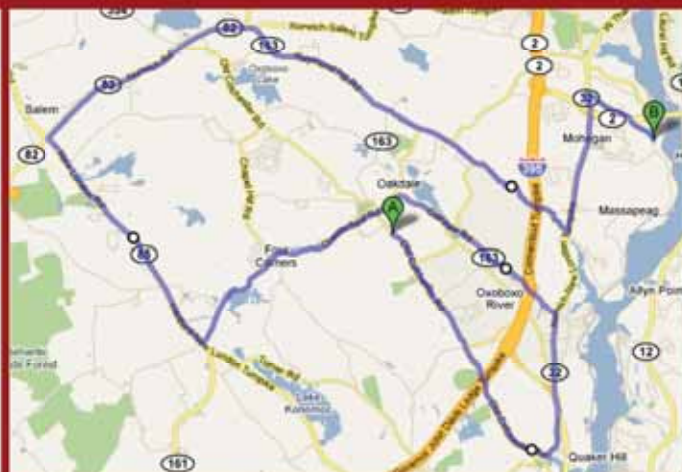
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HEARING AID

JOHN PRINE

"In Person and On Stage"

Oh Boy Records

It was hard for me to sit down and write this review of John Prine's new "In Person and On Stage" release on the Oh Boy record label. With amazing new releases from Jeff Beck and the re-mastered and repackaged "Exile on Main Street" with ten previously unreleased tracks, I must admit Old John Prine remained on deck until deadline.

I have to confess some guilt about this. John Prine penned "Angel from Montgomery" and placed it on his 1971 self-titled landmark debut that defined his entire career. Those of us old enough to remember WPLR evening radio jock "Stoneman", remember how he closed each night's show with John Prine's "Illegal Smile" with a cautionary warning, "If you are out there doing anything illegal, don't you get caught". The show would end with a police siren, every school of rock suburban night!

So I felt some guilt about my procrastination. John Prine is after all an American treasure. He is also a master song craftsman who fills his songs with literary protagonists right out of a Raymond Carver short story. John Prine has been writing Townes Van Zant - Steve Earle quality story songs for decades. He is prolific and together with fellow Chicagoan Steve Goodman amassed an early body of work that would require volumes to transcribe.

I finally gave John Prine's new "In Person and On Stage" release a listen on a recent car trip to the country. I am happy to report that "In Person and On Stage" does not disappoint. Prine is accompanied on all cuts by Jason Wilber, (lead guitar, mandolin, and background vocals) and Dave Jacques, (upright electric bass and background vocals). There are some wonderful guests on this record. It is littered with duets, two of which are outstanding. "Angel From Montgomery" featuring the lovely Emmy Lou Harris is centerpiece and sublime and the first of two duets with Iris Dement performing the hilarious "In Spite of Ourselves" is certainly one of this cd's standouts!

Sara Watkins guests on "The Late John Garfield Blues" and Josh Ritter appears for a melancholy duet of "Mexican Home". Iris Dement returns for a somber "Unwed Fathers" and the cd appropriately concludes with "Paradise" from Prine's, seminal 1971 debut featuring guest appearances

from Kane Welch Kaplan, (vocals) husband, Kevin Welch (guitar) and some tasty fiddle from Fats Kaplin.

Interspersed around these six duets are solid John Prine compositions like "Spanish Pipedream", "She is my Everything", and "Long Monday". The tea bagger party makes "Your Flag Decal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore" relevant again decades later!

My only criticism regarding this impressive package is that the liner notes provide minimal information thus making it unclear whether this was a single evening (unlikely) or the songs were recorded at multiple venues on various dates.

Forty some odd years of performing, a bout of Squamous cell cancer and six weeks of radiation therapy some years ago have added some gravel to his voice. Yet, if this fine document is any indication, an evening with John Prine is an evening well spent!

- Richard L. Oeser

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Broken Hearts and Dirty Windows: Songs of John Prine"

Oh Boy Records

Tribute albums are often a mixed bag. Certainly, a mediocre tribute often pales in comparison with the real deal. With a quirky and impressive roster of artists, "Broken Hearts and Dirty Windows: Songs of John Prine on OH Boy Records is neither a mixed bag or mediocre.

John Prine well deserves an impressive tribute. This one time Maywood, Illinois mailman has been called "one of the most influential song writers of his generation". Bob Dylan told the Huffington Post that Prine was one of his favorite writers, stating, "Prine's stuff is pure Proustian existentialism, midwestern mind trips to the Nth degree". Johnny Cash revealed in his autobiography "Cash" that he admired John Prine and considered him, Rodney Crowell, Guy Clark, and Prine's old late buddy Steve Goodman his Big Four! In 2008, Word magazine asked Roger Waters if he heard Pink Floyd's influence in contemporary British bands such as Radiohead. Waters responded that Radiohead did not move him the way John Prine did. "He is just extra-ordinary eloquent and he lives on that plane with Neil Young and Lennon."

John Prine has got cred to spare and accumulated accolades as well. The BBC UK's Radio Z awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award for song writing in 2003 and he was inducted into Nashville's Songwriters Hall of Fame later that same year. On September 9, 2005 John Prine received the Artist of the Year award at the Americana Music Awards. His album "Fair and Square" won him a Grammy for Best Contemporary Folk Album in 2006.

Listening to this tribute I realized that there is something so fundamental in the song craft of a John Prine tune that it is often difficult to nuance. That said, Broken Hearts and Dirty Windows has some Americana gems. Directly out of the gate is Bruised Orange (Chain of Sorrow) by Justin Vernon (vocalist) of Bon Iver. Sounding so John Prine like you would be shocked to know it was not he.

Conor Oberst covers "Wedding Day in Funeralville" close to the bone as well. My Morning Jacket gives an honest though sparse version of "All the Best". I must confess that this offering looked better in the liner notes and is anticlimactic featuring a small fraction of the band at best. Josh Ritter contributes a melancholy "Mexican Home" and Sara Watkins dishes up "The late John Garfield Blues". Both I again found anticlimactic. Both their duets with John Prine of these exact tunes on "In Person and On Stage" are superior to the solo offerings on "Broken Hearts and Dirty Windows". Lambchop, however should perform "Six O'clock News" encores for all of their shows until eternity. This effort mocks my John Prine song construction theory. Lambchop abducts "Six O'Clock News" and makes it all their own.

Justin Townes Earle gives "Far From Me" a nice read and The Avett Brothers are all over "Spanish Pipedream"! Old Crow Medicine Show cover "Angel from Montgomery" but there are no artists that can touch the duet with Emmy Lou on In Person and On Stage! Drive By Truckers rock out on "Daddy's Little Pumpkin". Deertick featuring Liz Isenberg give an indie interpretation of "Unwed Fathers" and Those Darlins do a humorous slack key version of "Let's Talk Dirty in Hawaiian" to conclude this excellent tribute to the legendary John Prine. "Broken Hearts and Dirty Windows has a June 22nd 2010 release date. Until then, "Smoke em if ya got em!"

- Richard L. Oeser





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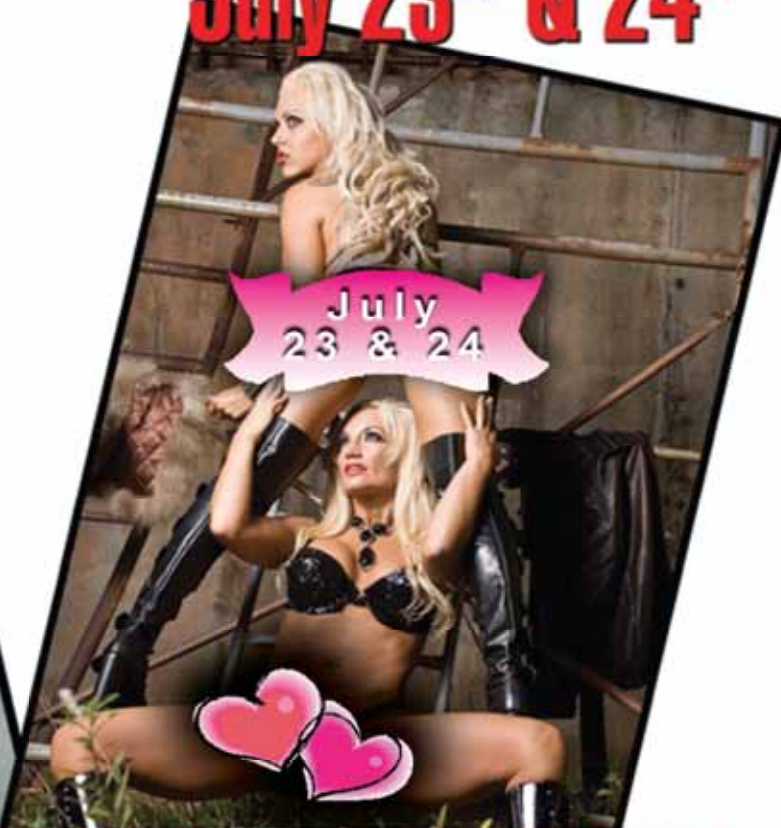


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