

Sound Waves

Volume 22
Issue 8
May 2012

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

An
Interview with

**DUKE
ROBILLARD**

Plus

**HUMAN
NATURE**

A Southern New England
Entertainment Guide Since 1990

Levon
Helm

May 26, 1940
April 19, 2012

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3-7

Fri

Sat

4 6-9 **JAY
DEMPSEY BAND**
**Shiner &
2 Local Bands**

5 **MURRY
THE
WHEEL**

11 6-9 **FUSION**
9:30 **ALWAYS
SOMETHING**

12 **BOTTOM
DRAWER**

18 **WICKED
PEACH**

19 **BREWZER**

25 **STYFF
KITTY**

26 **THE
1800
BAND**

1 6-9 **NEW
GROOVE
BRANDED**
9:30

2 **THE
SYNDICATE**

L
I
V
E

M
U
S
I
C

Friday May 11th
Happy Hour Band
6-9

FUSION

Band

9:30 **ALWAYS
SOMETHING**



NEW HAPPY HOUR
M-F 4-7

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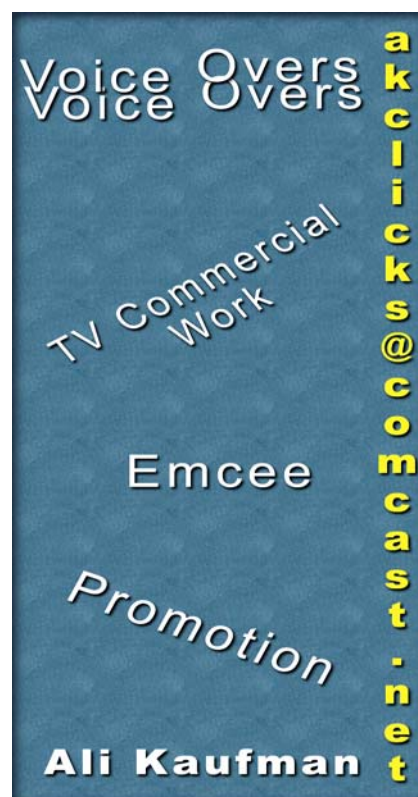
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Joseph A. Rosen



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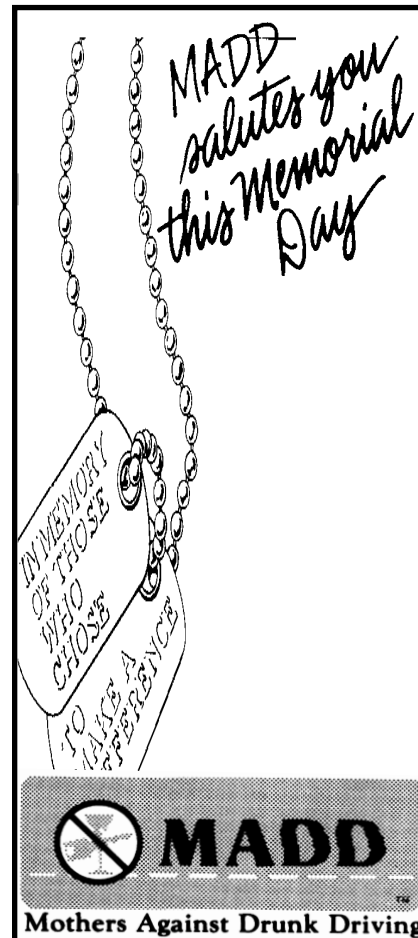
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Fri	Sat
4 RON DRAGO	5 SHAWN TAYLOR
11 CHRISTOPHER JOHN	12 SUE MENHART
18 BEN FRIERT	19 MIKE & PAT
25 MIKE & PAT	26 SAM E. JAMES
1 CHAMPAGNE SKYE	2 DRAW BRIDGE BAND



Levon Helm

May 26, 1940 - April 19, 2012



"The Great American Music" suffered a monumental loss Thursday afternoon, April 19, 2012, when legendary multi-instrumentalist and drummer, and last surviving vocalist of "The Band" succumbed, after a more than decade long battle, to cancer at the age of 71. Amidst his struggle with throat cancer, Levon Helm mounted one of the most remarkable second acts in the history of rock and roll. With a deteriorating voice reduced to nary a whisper, Levon Helm's vocal cords miraculously resurrected to garner a triage of

assorted and consecutive Grammy awards. Beset by debt, Helm, inaugurated an entire series of free wheeling, bi-weekly, pot luck, medicine shows in his barn in Woodstock, NY. The paying public was welcomed into his home studio. On any given night, Levon Helm's "Midnight Rambles" featured icons from all over the musical spectrum – from Emmy Lou Harris to Elvis Costello and Los Lobos to My Morning Jacket. A late February Ramble featured Donald Fagen of Steely Dan. Mumford and Sons joined Helm and his band with Simon Felice performing "The Weight" to close the last Midnight Ramble.

Levon Helm, maintained a vigorous touring schedule right through March, until it was announced that an April 6th show at the Wellmont Theatre in Montclair, NJ would not be rescheduled. Perhaps most touching out of any of this was that amidst his amazing comeback from throat cancer, he was able to forge a musical bond with his gifted vocalist daughter, Amy Helm, of Olleabelle, who often accompanied her famous dad onstage. The outpouring of love and deep respect has been wildly contagious and began when Robbie Robertson sent "love and prayers" to his ailing former band mate during a speech at The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony on April 14th. Robertson is said to have visited Levon Helm and sat with him in his hospital room. Bob Dylan, who began playing music with Levon Helm in 1965, posted on his website that Thursday afternoon, "He was my bosom buddy, friend to the end, one of the last true great spirits of my or any other generation. This is just so sad to talk about, I can still remember the first day I met him and the last day I saw him. We go back pretty far and had been through some trials together. I am going to miss him as a whole lot of others will too!"

Levon Helm died of complications from cancer at Sloan Kettering in New York City. He was surrounded by family and loved ones and was serenaded by the musicians he shared stages with throughout his lifetime. Levon Helm, graced the August 2010 cover of Soundwaves that featured an excellent article by Rex Rutkoski. We here at Soundwaves are deeply saddened by the death of "the best sangin' drummer" of all time. We add our voices to the world wide grievous chorus, singing Levon Helm's praises. Our hearts go out to his daughter, Amy, his wife, Sandy, and the myriad of loved ones and fans mourning his passing.

Levon Helm was a once in a lifetime, American original, who possessed one of the finest voices to ever rise from the Arkansas dirt. For "The Band's" music was some of the finest, purest, most durable, quintessential Americana music ever made. It is, in the end, his work as the drummer,

vocalist, and mandolin player of "The Band", for which Levon Helm will be remembered most. His love, strength, commitment, devotion and dedication, however, are what made this man truly heroic. Godspeed, Levon Helm. Woodstock's Finest!

~ Butch Oeser

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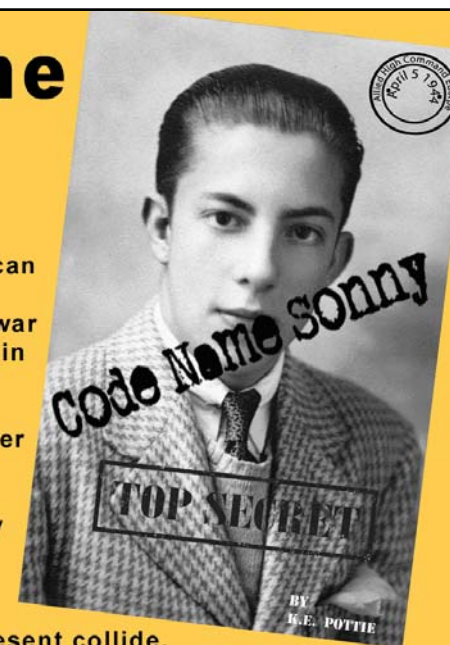


K.E. Pottie

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MUSIC NOTES



“Gentleman Jim”

By Mark T. Gould

I was a young, snot-nosed, semi-arrogant kid who thought he knew everything.

That was about to change, and I’ve been forever blessed that it did so.

It was the summer of 1976, and I had accepted an internship to work my summer vacation at the Norwich Bulletin, a daily newspaper in my community. Having already survived

two years at the Daily Campus, the University of Connecticut newspaper; alongside two years in radio; plus the daily grind of several UConn journalism classes taught by “Obe Wan” himself, the inspirational, yet oh so tough, Evan Hill, I sauntered into the newsroom, ready to show them what good reporting and writing was all about.

OK, now a little confession: behind that somewhat confident veneer, I was scared to death. Jesus, this was a real newspaper with real newsmen (and, at the time, only a very few newswomen). ‘What the hell are you getting yourself into?’ I thought as I nervously glanced around the newsroom. Yeah, I’d met a couple of deadlines and broken a few campus stories, but I knew what they’d think about that here, in the big leagues.

Yep, BFD.

So, I strode, actually I crept, in, not really sure of what to do, where to go and what to say when I got there.

And, there he was, sitting in a swivel chair at the head of a long, strangely shaped table in the middle of a bustling room, reading some copy, a red marking pen in his hand. His tie was a bit askew, hair matted a bit, and he looked, well, a bit trampled under foot.

He spun around in the chair, gave me a stare down that would stop the most confident of men, and spat it out.

“You the bleeping summer guy?”

“Uh, er, yes, sir,” this veteran of radio stammered. “That’s me, sir.”

“Docker. I’m the news editor. Call me Jim.”

He then turned back to his copy, and left me to gather my wits from the floor.

It was the beginning of a beautiful, daunting, thrill-filled ride for a young writer/reporter wanna be, who, quickly learned that, well, he had a lot to learn. And, thankfully, I learned pretty much all of it in that three-month roller coaster ride at the feet, and marking pen, of the best editor I’ve still

to meet.

It’s now more than three decades later, and I can truthfully say that, with the exception of the guy who was his boss at the Bulletin, I never had a better education, as a writer and as a person, as I got from Jim Docker, who tragically passed away last month at the too young age of 64.

Yet, when I look at what I just wrote, it gets me thinking that with all the lives that Jim affected, straightened out, edited, and taught, maybe, just maybe, it was the right time for him.

Jim Docker was an absolute force of nature, an editor who had the incredible ability to critique you and praise you at the same time. Under his tutelage, and his boss I might add, I learned just about everything there was to learn about finding a story; covering that story; never, ever taking “no comment” or “no” for an answer; digging until all the dirt was overturned and then digging some more; and, then, most importantly, writing about it in the only way that dignified and reflected all that hard work, and then some.

Today, I’m still trying to do it.

Jim’s influence didn’t stop there, though. I tried to eavesdrop when he was editing other reporters’ work or talking to them about stories, just to pick up on what he had to say. Hell, I’d even finagle a way to sit next to him practically every night at “choir practice,” our somewhat youthful moniker for late-night imbibing at Billy Wilson’s Pub, conveniently locating downstairs from the paper’s newsroom.

There was seldom a night that I didn’t drive home thinking about something Jim had said or some offhanded comment he made about a story, or about another reporter.

It wouldn’t be much of an exaggeration to say that the Norwich Bulletin in those days, in the hands of John Peterson, Don Bond and Jim, the “Three Musketeers” of editing, could rival any newspaper for breaking stories by the hardest working, and, yes, the hardest playing, reporters you could ever find in a newsroom. In that context, the Bulletin produced some of the best writers in Connecticut, like Andy Thibault, Denis Morin, Anson Smith, Steve Fishman, Harry Phillips and others whose influence still affects good writing, and my writing, today.

Some of us got out of the day-to-day media grind, including Jim and me. But, he embraced “new media,” writing a blog that was required reading for those of us who were fortunate enough to stay in contact with him.

And, as I still try to write here and there (including this column), I remain guided, influenced and affected by all, and I mean all, of Jim Docker’s criticism, praise, care, love and teaching.

You’ve finally met all the deadlines, old friend, and you know I’ll see you again someday, probably at “choir practice.” Thank you.



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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Hello, My Sweet Bar Flies...what a beautiful month Sweet April Was... and so much happening as we slowly come out of our Winter Shells. I was happy to be able to attend many area events and unfortunately, I was unable to attend many others. I try, my Peeps, I try!!

The first event I made it to was a Secret Super Surprise Party thrown by Miss Morgan and Miss Taylor Jones for their Mother, my dear friend and Co-worker Joyce! It was held at Dylan's in Downtown Westerly, and we were blessed to have Sweet Chris working the Bar like the Pro that he is! I suppose I should also thank Tom Jones for

making that Bar an "Open One"! Yay!

What a way to spend a Saturday Afternoon (into Evening...)! Also a "Thank You" to Gil Bricault, who I Won at then 84 HIGH STREET YMCA Outreach Benefit. He was kind enough to play for Miss Joyce masterfully, and to allow us to warble into the Mic several times also! He is a Pro Himself and did a wonderful job!

Had a blast at the recent BUSINESS AFTER HOURS for the WESTERLY-PAWCATUCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE at GREY SAIL BREWING COMPANY, a family run business (plus a couple of handsome guys). What a fabulous set-up they have at the old NAPA BUILDING slash WESTERLY MACARONI COMPANY (a granite sign was uncovered on the face of the building during renovations...how cute is that?). Different types of local beers sold to many local restaurants and bars. Delicious! Oh? and they can be freakin' Hand!!!! Awesome!

Did a POKER RUN with some of my Peeps on a recent Sunny Sunday! We headed up to see Wendy at LEGENDS in Hope Valley, then stopped at TWO BROTHERS looking for Ron, then off to CLYDESDALES and back to the HANDLEBAR CAFE. Did not have my spiffy car so really kinda sucked for me, but who's asking?

Danced for 3 straight hours at the KNICK on another tour of SUGAR'S music. Had Xtacie and the Baaafaatha with me! Absolutely Thrilled to see the Heather's!! one working and one WORKING IT on the dance floor! Fabulous!! Always a good time, but the next night I had a raging freakin' Migraine and was unable to attend BREWZER AND KISS-TORY! I SUCK!! I Know...you don't have to tell me! But I did hear that BREWZER'S MATT, ERIC, NATHANIEL (tell me your dreams) and BILL Rocked the House (BANK STREET CAFE) and KISS-TORY Was Freakin' Awesome!

Donny Banks hosted a surprise birthday party for his true love, Dorothy, with musical guests CUCUMBER JONES, at the PAWCATUCK VFW, which I am sorry to say, I Missed! A big showing by many of their friends and family made the night extra special, I was told and I would like to take this time to say "Happy Birthday, Dorothy!" Also was at the OCEAN HOUSE'S Celebration of 40 Influential Rhode Islanders Under 40 with 8 SOUND WAVES



Bar Fly & Wendy Carr

my date, Miss Wendy Carr, owner of PRIMETIME CAFE....what a blast! Congratulations to locals MARIA ALLEN, PAUL GINGERELLA and THERESA CAVALIER, for constantly being of service to your communities! Bravo!

Some Bar Flies will be Attempting to head over to the CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA at SNEEKERS in Groton and to win a dinner party for Eight! The HOOLIOS will be playing and will have copies of their new CD with them for sale! Pasarlo muy bien! PRIMETIME CAFE will also be holding an event that I will be attending with many specials and music by DJ MARCO!!! Love it! Come shake a maraca with me...your sombrero is waiting!



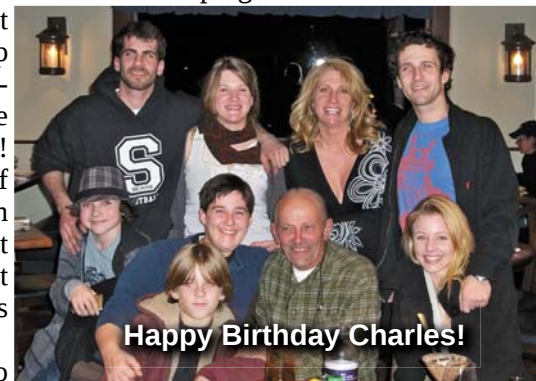
BarFly Hanging with the locals at Tattoo Expo

Holy Crap, Holy Crap, Holy Crap, Crap, Crap...Wow!!!! What a show! The RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER'S TATTOO EXPO was Da BOMB!! So many unbelievable local tattooists! Their art is amazing and amazing to look at both in a book and on people's bodies! There were contortionists, sword swallows, blockheads, awesome scary zombie caricaturists, music and dancers and just freaky people in general. Love It!! Could sat and people watched all day! Some parts of the Blockhead Show(I'll let you use your imagination.. just let me say, a mousetrap and a drill may have been involved?)I could not watch and Miss Xtaci and Ricky also had a Hard time with it!

But a Bar Fly's gotta do what a Bar Fly's gotta do and we headed off to JOE'S AMERICAN GRILL for a Pomegranate Martini, with Barbet, Dave, Mike and Melanie not far behind. Barbet endured 2 1/2 hours of pain for a beautiful apple blossom tattoo on top of her foot, done by an artist from the PROVIDENCE TATTOO. But oh, she was a bit cranky during her "procedure". Ouch!! I know from experience that's a sensitive area! But of course, like most of my friends, she's an Amazing Woman who can handle anything life throws at her!! You go, Girl!

Gonna be with Miss DEB PENDOLA, Principal at the BRADFORD SCHOOL, to judge at the 7th Annual DANCING WITH THE STARS, at VENCIE RESTAURANT in Misquamicut! We'll see if I end up doing the Tango with Mr. Haberek for the Opening Act or if he's a No Show! I will kick his A**!! We Need You!! And I am hoping to make it to MYRTLE BEACH BIKE WEEK, but apparently I got a lotta crap a** friends who are backing out on me! We shall see how that all works out too! Also, got some pix back of the Families Dinner with Charles for his Birthday at the BOATHOUSE! Great Night with Fabulous Food as Usual! Hi Simon and Lori!!

A Happy Mother's Day to my Mom, and to All the Fabulous Mother's that I Know and Love! Be all that you can be and remember I Love You! Happy Birthday to Ronnie, Luna, and Zack! Ciao for now, my Sweet Flies and Keep Me Posted!!



Happy Birthday Charles!

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BAND DATES

BOTTOM DRAWER

12 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
26 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT

BRANDT TAYLOR

2 - Friend's Cafe, Southington, CT 8pm
3 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT
4,18 - Bella's Bistro, Putnam, CT 8pm
5 - Brown Derby, Montville, CT 2pm
5 - Fred's, Willimantic, CT 6-9pm
11 - Village Lounge, Woodstock, CT
12,25 - Johnny's, S. Hadley, MA 8pm
18 - Sneakers, Ashford, CT 5pm
19 - Gina Marie's, Hebron, CT 6pm
19 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
26 - Sneakers, Ashford, CT

THE CARTELLS

4 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6-9pm
5 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm
9 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm
20 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 2-5pm
23 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8pm
26 - Donahue's, Madison, CT

CRAIG JOHNSON

19 - Bean & Leaf, New London, CT 7pm
23 - Sneekers, Groton CT 7pm
31 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 7pm

DAN STEVENS

4 - Chamard, Clinton, CT 5-8pm
12 - Fred's, Willimantic, CT 6-9pm
17 - Perks and Corks, Westerly, RI
18 - First/Last Tavern, Avon, CT 7:30pm
19 - Angelico's, E. Hampton, CT 7pm
20 - Delta Grill, NYC, NY 12:30-3:30pm
21 - Grand Central, NYC, NY 8-10am
21 - Union Square, NYC, NY 12-3pm
23 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth NH
26 - Shovel Handle, Jackson, NH 6pm
28 - Angelico's, E. Hampton, CT 4-8pm
31 - College, Manchester, CT 1-4pm

DAN WATSON

1,15,29 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
10 SOUND WAVES

2,13,23 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
10 - Bridge, Westerly, RI
11 - Latitudes 41, Mystic, CT

FUSION

5 - Red Door, Watertown, CT
11 - Stashes, New London, CT 5:30pm
12 - Back Porch, Old Saybrook, CT
18 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT

THE GOAT ROPERS

11 - VFW, Taunton, MA 8pm
19 - St. John's Club, Fall River, MA 8pm

HOPE ROAD

11 - Springfest, Misquamicut, RI
28 - Skipper's, Stonington, CT 3-7pm

JAMES HARRIS

1,8,15,22,29 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
2,5,9,16,19,23,30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
10 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 7pm
12 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI 8:30pm
17,24 - John's, Mystic, CT
18 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
25 - Dogwatch, Stonington, CT
26 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 1pm
31 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm

JAY DEMPSEY BAND

2 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8pm
4 - Stash's, New London, CT 6pm
8 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7pm
25 - Ocean House, Watch Hill, RI 8pm

JOHN FRIES & THE HEAT

9 - Black Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT 8pm
12 - Eugene O'Neil, Waterford, CT 8pm
15 - Arts Center, Mystic, CT 6pm
19 - National Underground, NY, NY
24 - Theodore's, Springfield, MA

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

4,25 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
16 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
26 - 84 High St, Westerly, RI 8:30

kGb

5 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8pm
18 - Oat Theater, Norwich, CT 8pm

Ms. MARCI

& THE LOVESICK HOUNDS
10 - Black Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT 8:30pm
11 - Gentleman Farmer, Plainfield, CT 8:30pm

MAJESTIC FUZZ

5 - French Club, Jewett City, CT 4pm

19 - Acoustic Brew, Voluntown, CT

RED LIGHT

4 - Ball's, Cranston, RI
5 - Chacers, Norwich, CT
18 - Rock Junction, W. Greenwich, RI
19 - Uncle Kranky's, Jewett City, CT
26 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

ROADWORK BAND

5 - JD Coopers, Putnam, CT

SARAH T

4 - Burke's, Niantic, CT 8pm
10 - Blackeyed Sally's, Hartford, CT
18 - Copperwood, New London, CT 8pm

STYFF KITTY

5 - Marley's, Warwick, RI
11 - Sneeker's, Groton, CT
25 - Stash's, New London, CT

SUE MENHART BAND

5 - CC O'Briens, Pawcatuck, CT
6 - Illusions, Wolcott, CT 3pm
12 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8pm
13 - Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT 2pm
18 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT 5pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

3 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
4 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI
5 - Skipper's Dock, Stonington, CT
12 - Sneeker's Café, Groton, CT
18 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI
19 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
24 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI
25 - Back Porch, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
27 - The Bridge, Westerly, RI

2 CAT ZOO

4 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
5 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
17 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
24 - Bridge, Westerly, RI

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

3 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT 7:30pm
19 - Burke's, Niantic, CT 8pm
24 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

WICKED PEACH

18 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
19 - One Pelham E., Newport, RI
25,26 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
27 - Paddy's, Westerly, RI

WILSON KANE

2,16,30 - Commoner, New London, CT 8pm
3,17,31 - T's Cafe, Hartford, CT 6pm
4,18,25 - Mango's, Branford, CT 7pm
5 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT 8pm
6 - Saltwater Farm, Stonington, CT 3pm
6,13,20,27 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI 7pm
9 - Rotten Apple, Groton, CT 7pm
10,24 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
11,26 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
12 - Acoustic Brew, Voluntown, CT 8pm
13 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 2pm
23 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
26 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 11:30am
27 - Chamard, Clinton, CT 1pm
28 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 4pm

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Animals As Leaders

27 - Webster Theater, Hartford, CT

The Beach Boys

12,13 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Blink-182

18 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Cake

10 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

Candlebox

4 - Webster Theater, Hartford, CT

Dave Matthews Band

25 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

Flogging Molly

11 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

Glenn Frey

20 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Godsmack

19 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

Joe Bonamassa

19 - The Bushnell, Hartford, CT

Lady Antebellum

18 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

Maroon 5

17 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Rick Derringer

12 - Springfest, Misquamicut, RI

Roomful of Blues

11th - Springfest, Misquamicut, RI

Trans-Siberian Orchestra

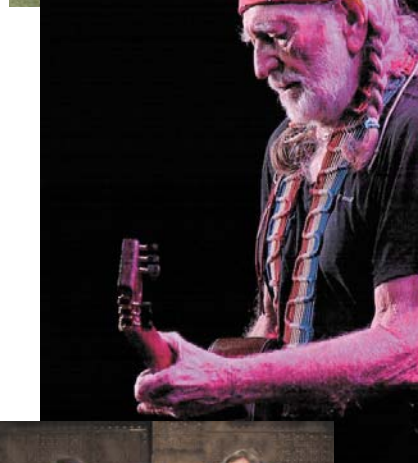
6 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Willie Nelson

15 - The VETS, Providence, RI

Yanni

19 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI



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STATIC CHERRY

Saturday Night ~ May 19th

BRANDED

Saturday Night ~ May 26th

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LIVE BAND ~ 1pm till ?**

HARD KNOXX

Saturday Night ~ June 2nd

MISFITS





By Don Sikorski

Asking a man like Duke Robillard what projects he is currently working on is similar to asking a professional boxer what he does to stay in shape. “I do a lot of juggling,” explained Robillard modestly of his current busy schedule. “Besides The Duke Robillard band, I do several other projects.” Several other projects is certainly a conservative estimate. For starters, Robillard has a brand new jazz CD, “Wobble Walkin’”, on his brand new record label, “Blue Duchess”. The disc blends instrumental covers ranging from Billie Holliday to Gershwin alongside Robillard’s original tunes, providing a fresh feel to timeless musical standards. Robillard also keeps himself occupied by doing a lot of producing, for his own label as well as for a number of other artists. “The way things are these days, you really have to diversify,” explains Robillard. “And plus, these are all things I just really love to do. I get to put on different hats and become different people.”

Michael John “Duke” Robillard was born in October 1948 in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. From a very early age, young Duke seemed destined to play music. “There were two factors that influenced me,” recalls Robillard of those very early years. “I had an Uncle that played bass in a County & Western band, who would do tunes by Ernest Tubb, Lefty Frizzell, and Hank Williams. They’d also do Western Swing. So I entered into that music at an early age. And then my brother, Jerry Robillard, who is a pretty renowned New England artist, plays guitar. He’s 10 years older than me, so he was a teenager listening to the birth of Rock and Roll when I was only 6. He was bringing home all the 45’s...Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Buddy Holly, Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis. And I would just listen to that stuff constantly. And it all knocked me out, every bit of it.” Although those mainstream rock and roll hits provided the vehicle for young Duke to be introduced to music, it was the hidden gems on the “B” sides of those records that would provide the real musical foundation for the future. “I noticed something,” said Robillard of that experience. “On the flip sides of these Chuck Berry records were these slow blues. I didn’t know what blues was. “Wee Wee Hours” was on the flip side of “Maybelline”, and that was the first real blues I ever heard. Even at a really young age, it just grabbed me, and I couldn’t let go of it. I was just completely captivated by the rhythm and the guitar sound.”

Robillard would continue full speed ahead in his relentless pursuit of music. He soon became “a crazy record collector”, searching all over the state for 78’s in every record shop and cluttered basement sale he could find. When young Robillard stumbled upon an album titled “Rock and Roll” by The Buddy Johnson Orchestra, he realized the musical direction that he

would soon pursue. Those experiences would provide the framework for Robillard to become the leader of one of the area’s most influential bands of our era, when along with pianist Al Copley, Robillard would co-found the band Roomful of Blues in 1967. Based in Westerly, Rhode Island, Roomful would encounter numerous line-up changes but continue to build a loyal area following over the years. Robillard would leave the band in 1979 to join Robert Gordon’s rockabilly band. From there, he would move onto to a number of other bands and projects he would lead, including the Legendary Blues Band (comprised of former members of Muddy Waters’ band), the Duke Robillard Band, and Duke Robillard & The Pleasure Kings. During this time, Robillard and company toured the country and released a number of records. Then in 1990, Robillard earned himself another opportunity, serving as Jimmie Vaughan’s six-string replacement in The Fabulous Thunderbirds. Robillard would also continue his pursuit of a solo career, expanding musically outside the Roomful/Thunderbirds box to involve a variety of rockabilly and jazz influences into his repertoire. That diversity as an artist continues today. Robillard’s strength as a guitarist and musician is his ability to incorporate a variety of styles and influences and customize the sound as his very own. “I’m a few different people,” answered Robillard when asked how he would describe his music to others. “Some people only see me as a blues guitarist, but a lot of the music I play is really, really old and is more rooted in the swing era and jazz. I guess you could say I cover early American jazz and blues. I try to include it all in all of my shows.”

Throughout it all, Duke Robillard has racked up a string of prestigious awards and played with and produced with some of the biggest names in the music industry. He also values the friendships he has developed along the way. “We all have a good relationship,” said Robillard of his former musical counterparts. “I spent 12 years in Roomful of Blues, and that’s where the whole sound of the band developed. So when I see those guys, it’s like seeing your brother. You just know who they are and who you are.” He also still continues to maintain a very busy touring schedule, although Robillard will be the first to admit that the music industry has changed dramatically since his younger days. “You learn so much by just gigging,” said Robillard of those early experiences. “I’m sorry that today is a period where there’s just not that kind of work. In the early days of Roomful of Blues, we played 6 or 7 nights a week. That doesn’t exist anywhere anymore.” Robillard also dissected some excellent points when looking back on how the industry was back in the day. “Music is totally different now,” said Robillard. “I noticed that in the 1970’s, music became more big business. People started playing stadiums, and the whole thing became more geared towards business. And now, it at the point where they’re hardly any record companies left. People mix their own music; they make their own CD’s. There’s no quality control, and because of the internet, they promote themselves. So there’s so much to sift through. Not like the old days. In the old days, you had to prove yourself, somebody had to approve of you, you had to get signed by a label...you had to qualify. I’m not saying that there aren’t great people out there making their own music, but I guess I’m fairly conservative. I wish vinyl was still the big thing, and that there were still record stores. And I wish that people still went out to clubs, and I wish that people still partied like they used to.” While Robillard is open to acknowledging the value in using today’s technology to research music, he also points out what may be missing from today’s cyber experience. “For somebody to sit in front of a computer and be able to look up somebody or hear somebody, it’s not the same as going on a search that you were driven for to find the music. The cyber thing...I’m sort of glad it exists but it’s sort of ruined everything. It’s made it more of a surreal experience.”

Throughout all of these changes, Duke Robillard continues to churn out
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some of his best work to date. "Usually it just takes some point of inspiration that hits me," said Robillard of the creative process. "I get involved in a particular style, and I just do a lot of research. All of my inspiration comes from music that previously existed. My field of inspiration comes from the 1920's though the early 60's. It's just what I love and what I feel connected to." He also maintains his passion for music and appreciates the impact it has had on his life. "I feel like I'm the most creative I've ever been in my life. I just keep collecting records. Just recently I found a bunch of 78's from some of my favorite artists; records I didn't know existed. Listening to them...that just so soul enriching. There's nothing like it. These things are what my life is all about."

Duke Robillard will make area appearances at CT Stockroom's Blue Monday at The Mystic River Park in Mystic, CT on Monday, June 25th and at The Rhode Island Historical Society in Providence, RI on Thursday, July 19th. Check out www.dukerobillard.com for tour dates and more on the music of Duke Robillard.

DUKE ROBILLARD DISCOGRAPHY ROOMFUL OF BLUES:

1977 Roomful Of Blues ~ 1979 Let's Have A Party

THE LEDGENDARY BLUES BAND:

1981 Life of Ease ~ 1983 Red, Hot and Blue

JOHNNY ADAMS:

1989 Room With A View Of The Blues ~ 1989 Walkin' On A Tightrope

1991 Johnny Adams Sings Doc Pomus

THE FABULOUS THUNDERBRIDS:

1991 Walk That Walk, Talk That Talk ~ 1992 Hot Stuff

KIM WILSON:

1993 Tiger Man ~ 1994 That's Life

RUTH BROWN:

1997 R+B = Ruth Brown ~ 1999 A Good Day for the Blues

SOLO:

1984 Duke Robillard & The Pleasure Kings ~ 1985 Too Hot To Handle

1987 Swing ~ 1988 You Got Me

1988 Rockin' Blues ~ 1991 Turn It Around

1992 After Hours Swing Session

1994 Temptation ~ 1996 Duke's Blues

1997 Dangerous Place ~ 1997 Duke Robillard Plays Blues

1997 Duke Robillard Plays Jazz ~ 1998 Stretchin' Out (Live)

1999 New Blues For Modern Man

1999 Conversations In Swing Guitar

2000 Explorer ~ 2001 New Guitar Summit Retro

2002 Living With The Blues ~ 2003 Exalted Lover

2003 More Conversations in Swing Guitar Duke

2004 Blue Mood ~ 2004 New Guitar Summit

2005 The Duke Meets The Earl (with Ronnie Earl)

2006 Guitar Groove-a-Rama

2007 Unheard Duke Robillard Tapes Vol. 1 - Outtakes and Oddities

2007 World Full of Blues

2008 A Swingin' Session With Duke Robillard ~ 2008 Shivers

2009 Sunny and Her Joy Boys ~ 2009 Stomp The Blues Tonight!

2010 Passport To The Blues ~ 2011 Low Down and Tore Up

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James Montgomery Blues Band
Award-Winning Blues

Fri, June 1 • 9pm • \$12a/\$15/d
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Wed, May 23 **The Cartell's**

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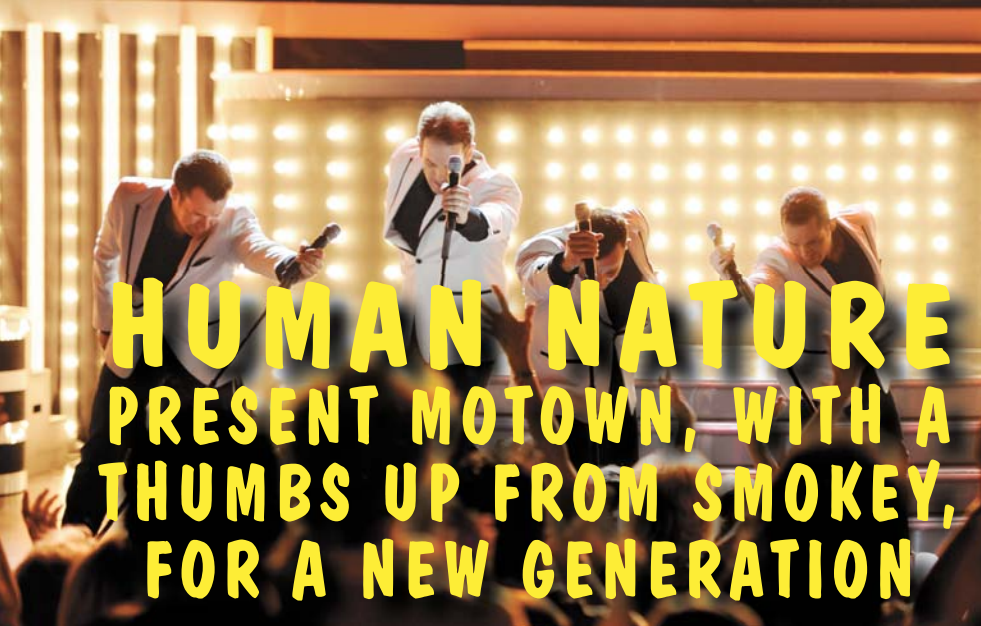
Thu, May 3
Joe Fletcher & The Wrong Reasons

Thu, May 10 **The Silks**

Thu, May 24 **LoveWhip**

Thu, May 31 **John Fries**

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By Rex Rutkoski

They've performed in the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, sold millions of records in their native Australia, toured internationally with Celine Dion and Michael Jackson, and now have PBS and no less than Smokey Robinson on board as their biggest supporters.

Though they have forged one of the most successful careers in Australian music history, releasing nine albums, five of which went to number one, the vocal group known as Human Nature are well aware that, despite an ongoing number one Las Vegas show, "Human Nature: The Motown Show," and a PBS television special, "Human Nature Sings Motown with Special Guest Smokey Robinson," can take nothing for granted in introducing themselves to a new audience in the United States.

...All of which brings brothers Andrew and Mike Tierney and fellow former high-school classmates Phil Burton and Toby Allen, to their first-ever American tour supporting their new album release, "The Motown Record," featuring songs made famous by the Four Tops, the Supremes, the Temptations and Stevie Wonder, among others. Harvey Mason Jr., who is behind hits from Justin Timberlake, Beyonce, Mary J. Blige, Elton John, the cast of "Glee," Jennifer Hudson and many others, produced new recordings.

They perform at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence, May 2; Orpheum Theater, May 4, Boston and Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Ct., May 5.

"Coming to the states has certainly been a challenge, but it's one we really wanted to take on. We were very successful in Australia, but if we were to continue growing as a group, we had to make an attempt to branch out," says Burton. "It has been trying at times going from household names to unknowns, but we always make sure to remember that we were unknowns once in Australia too, and breaking out of that was one challenge we really enjoyed, so we're more than happy to go through it again!"

The response to their music so far has been quite positive, he is happy to report. "Americans seem to really appreciate the fact that we perform this music with such passion and integrity," he says. "It's actually really exciting to be on this ride."

Burton believes that one aspect people find interesting about these brothers and friend is, "We are four guys from the other side of the world who have discovered Motown, a purely American type of music, and have fallen in love with it. The fact that we pay tribute to this amazing music and don't try to alter it or believe we are better than the music is something that audiences respect."

In addition, he says, they make sure that every aspect of their show is top notch too: the band, the sound, the lights, and their voices and blend. "Also, I think our story of four school friends who grew up together listening to this music from another country, has quite a poetic ring to it too!"

16 SOUND WAVES

FRIENDS FIRST

"We have been friends for a long time now, longer than the group has been together, and that really shows in our combined passion for what we want the group to achieve," he explains. "Because of our longevity we have also managed to create a really special bond on stage. Vocally we match very well and have a great blend, and we also function as a 'group,' not as four individuals," he adds.

In high school they were captivated by the harmonies of soul, gospel and R&B.

"In Australia there isn't a great tradition of vocal groups like the college scene here in America," Burton explains. "It is more about guitars, drums and rock'n'roll. We were a bit of an anomaly I think."

For that reason, he says, they needed to search outside the box for music that suited them. When they first started, a lot of people suggested that they listen to some of the great vocal groups, including the Temptations, the Four Tops and the Miracles.

"It really captivated us and has always been our biggest influence," he says.

DISTINCTIVELY MOTOWN

Human Nature is known for offering its own distinctive versions of Motown hits.

The challenges of trying to make something so familiar their own might intimidate some musicians.

How do the members of Human Nature approach accomplishing that and bringing something fresh to material that seems to be known by all ages?

"Our main aim when we approached these songs was not to try to 'improve' on what was already there. The Motown catalogue is so incredible in all aspects -- the songwriting, the production, the performances -- that it's not anything anyone should be arrogant enough to think they can improve," he says. "We simply wanted to pay tribute to the music by asking, 'If these songs were recorded today, how would they sound?' That way we weren't altering the magic already present in the material. We were just updating the sound. Adding our own stamp was something we didn't have to think too hard about, as we were confident that our vocal blend was strong and that it would shine through. We're very happy with the result!"

"It originally came at a time when there was a lot of division in the world, and from talking to Smokey and the original artists who created the music, it really helped unify everyday people by making them feel good and had everyone 'dancing to the same beat' if you will," Burton adds. "Hearing it reenergized today by us I guess brings back that feeling for a lot of people who remember the golden days of Motown, but also highlights how amazing these songs are to a generation who are now hearing them for the first time."

Burton: "I think deep down, everywhere in the world people have somehow, somewhere heard and loved Motown songs, whether its through movies, cover versions, TV ads etc. But maybe only in the States does everyone know that all these great songs came from the one record label MOTOWN."

SMOKEY ON BOARD

Smokey Robinson has advised, collaborated with and promoted Human Nature since 2007 when he dueted with the group.

The vocalists say it is not intimidating working with a legend like Smokey.

"When we first met Smokey, rather than being intimidated I just feel we were deeply honored and thrilled to be working with him," says Andrew Tierney. "Our main nervous anticipation was that we hoped he would love the way we were interpreting this legacy he helped create, and that he knew how much the music meant to us and has influenced us. We wanted him to know we are never trying to impersonate ANY of the Motown, but more be inspired by what they all created and perform it in our own way."

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What have they learned from him?

"To continue believing in ourselves and what we have as a group. An endorsement from him means the world to us and his friendship means even more," Tierney says. "He is also so incredibly gracious to his fans and supporters, as we always like to be ourselves, and it's amazing to see him be so giving all the time."

From the start, Tierney says, Robinson always has been very complimentary about the way they sing this music.

"He loves that we invest the same passion and integrity in the songs and the music that he and the original artists (Human Nature also dueted with Mary Wilson, the Temptations and Martha Reeves) did themselves when they first made the songs," he explains. "He says the way we have mixed the Motown Sound with our own Human Nature sound and created something unique and wonderful is just a treat for him to be a part of."

Tierney says Human Nature's primary aim at a concert is to have people leave feeling better than when they came in. "It's a feel good night full of amazing songs, dedicated entertainment and performances from the four of us and you will leave understanding completely why these four guys from the other side of the world are bold enough to perform what they call 'Human Nature: The Motown Show.' It's in our soul."

ENTERTAINING EVENT

Their publicity material describes their show as "much more than just a concert...it is an entertainment event."

"We want to sing great, move ourselves and move the crowd, make people laugh with us and also move them emotionally with our music," he says. "This is our aim every night and I guess that is why I feel we give more than just a song after song concert, it's a journey we all go on together from beginning to end and we all finish on our feet having had a great time."

In a live show, you can instantly tell how the audience is going to react with you. "They let you know from song one if they're with you for the night or if they're going to take a little convincing to bring them along," he explains. "I love this part of performing live --- it really tests your commitment as a performer and is so rewarding. The nights, though, when the crowd is as excited to be there as you are to be on stage are like the greatest party you've ever been too --- we live for those nights."

OPENING FOR CELINE AND MJ

Touring with Celine Dion and Michael Jackson were solid learning experiences, Michael Tierney says.

They were just beginning as a recording act and growing as live entertainers, he explains.

"Celine is one of the most exquisite singers of all time and live, her vocals are just relentless and amazing. This was inspiring to watch as a singer every night," he says. "Michael Jackson was almost surreal and he captivated up to 100,000 fans every-night, often with just him being on stage."

They learned a lot from watching him about pacing a night of entertainment and how to almost "lead" the audience along on the emotional journey of a show. "He was perhaps the greatest single entertainer ever and we just tried to soak up being in that moment every night, learning and being inspired by his greatness," he says.

"We met Michael briefly, which was a treat as a fan of his, and we have met Celine many times. She is just lovely and truly genuine. She performs across the road from us now in Vegas and remarks that she looks out at our billboard from her hotel room each night, proud that we are 'sharing the strip' together now."

Michael Tierney says it is difficult to predict what direction the group may go in the future. "Five years ago we would never have thought we'd be where we are today," he says.

ONWARD AND UPWARD!

They definitely are always interested in moving forward, he assures, whether that be a new live show or a new record, either of original songs www.Swaves.com



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or songs that they love. "We currently are looking into the idea of making a Christmas record, which would be fantastic. It would be partly a cappella also, which is something we love doing," he says.

"I think whatever we do, we need to all feel passionately about and feel it's something we can do great," he adds. "I think if you can continue to enjoy what you do, and are proud of the work you do, that is the main thing."

Music, after all, is an amazing artistic expression, he says, and he feels very thankful that he gets to perform it and make it everyday. "It has an amazing ability to change your moods, bring back memories & create new ones. It really is my life," he adds.

Things are really getting quite hectic in their career right now, says Phil Burton. "Three years ago we made the decision to come over to the States, and we've been slowly building things up, but all of a sudden it has exploded! Our show in Vegas is going great, and we have also just released our first US album and are heading off on a tour. I don't think any of us thought it would be this way," he explains.

Having their concert broadcast on PBS was quite an honor, he says. "Not only did it really help raise our profile here in the States, but it also put us up alongside such people as Michael Buble, Chris Botti, Andrea Bocelli and so many other musicians who have received a great deal of help from PBS in the past," Burton adds. "Not to mention that even us Aussies grew up watching Sesame Street!"

The group would love to continue working with PBS in the future. "They do so much for groups like us and are such an important part of the media," he acknowledges.

Human Nature has always been passionate about its career, he says. "Ever since we started we have made sure that what we do is the best we are able to do. Andrew is basically the driving force of the group, but all four of us have our hands on the wheel."

They are all perfectionists, he says, and very keen to keep the group moving onward and upward.

"I think the fact that we started as four friends in high school -- no audition process or TV show competitions here! -- has kept us tight as a group," Burton says, "and the freshness comes from being in front of a different audience every night. The reaction is always different, and always a little new."

Burton: "Apart from the hope that people see that we are talented singers and performers -- and who doesn't want people to think they're good at their job? -- our only hope for people who listen to our albums or come to our shows is that they are in a better mood afterward than they were before! We aren't particularly political or out to project any important messages. We are entertainers. If the audiences leave feeling like they've been really entertained and had a great time, then we have done our job well."

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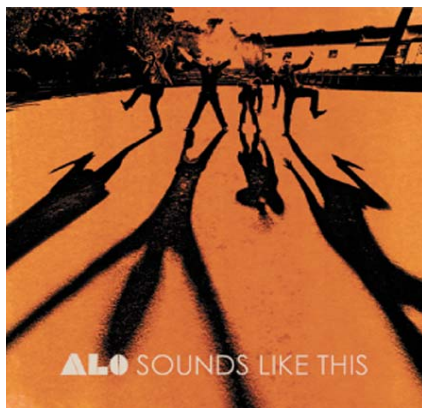
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ALO (Animal Liberation Orchestra)

"Sounds Like This"

Brushfire Records

On ALO's *Sounds Like This*, the band combines accessible pop-rock melodies, elastic jamming, and bubbly disco grooves into one rich and colorful package. From front to back, the album packs the listener with creative twists and turns, reference points that reveal the band's jam roots, and memorable hooks. The result: Ten tracks that do a little bit to delight the musically ambitious, those faithful to the jam genre, and the mainstream listener.

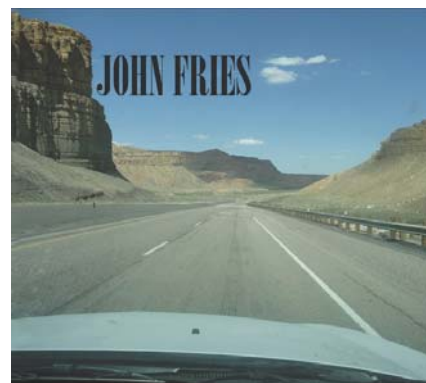
ALO kicks the album off in territory familiar to jam vets with the track "Dead Still Dance". While the tune could easily pass for a cut off of Phish's space-funk LP, *Story of the Ghost*, it does its job as the driving and danceable album opener. ALO lays down its stamp of originality on the second track, "Blew Out the Walls", which introduces the bright, endearing, and cartoon-like aesthetic that characterizes several songs on the album. Adding just a bit of bite with its growling organ, the tune's friendly bass-and-drum disco groove gently nudges the listener to come closer. Already having grabbed you with the allure of "Blew Out the Walls", ALO continues to take you down their fun and whimsical road with the Caribbean-tinged "Falling Dominoes" and the single, "Speed of Dreams". Before long hollow oscillating synths and vocoders paint a sunny picture, conjuring up an image of a cartoon island where little orange and green monsters dance

to the rhythm of smiling palm trees and swirling colors.

Palm trees and monsters aside, *Sounds Like This* is no joke of an album. The sonic richness of every song clearly resulted from meticulous and thoughtful effort from the band. The album tactfully combines power-chord pop rock, disco drumming, Latin piano tones, and wispy ukulele strumming, all of which transition and overlap in a seamless mix of styles and sounds. ALO showcases the broad emotional spectrum of *Sounds Like This* with the album's closer, "Reviews". From the start of the tune, a drum machine chugs away with a mechanical, midrange-heavy disco beat (yes, more disco beats), followed by curdled guitar harmonies run through an octave pedal. The quirky yet slightly melancholy backdrop eventually evolves into a piano ballad of sorts — expect the dance beat still remains.

If the range of sounds and styles here are any indication, ALO had fun making this record. They want you to have fun too. *Sounds Like This* is an album that you celebrate life to, an album that you dance to, and an album that you cruise down streets on a nice day to. Without a doubt, ALO invites you into a world open to sophisticated or mainstream music listeners, one filled with color, excitement, and sounds that keep you coming back again and again.

*** 1/2 - Jeff Howard



John Fries *"US 50"*

Forget about pigeonholing John Fries, I've tried. Just when you think you know who he reminds you of, he slips into another groove and you realize he is an original, through and through. I

think what you pick up on is this, he has a voice that you feel like you should know, and you will, if John Fries continues to work his craft and put out music like we find on his latest release, "US 50". Scheduled to drop on May 12th, John and his band will be welcoming the public to come celebrate the release with a party at the Rose Barn at the Eugene O'Neil Theater in Waterford.

This independently released effort showcases 7 original tunes recorded at, Aberrant Sound in Wrentham MA with Brian Sargent.

The single that jumps out at me is 5 cuts deep, "Technicolor You". This is a fantastic combination of John's guitar prowess shining on an upbeat, joyful tune, coupled with his strong voice that you can hear a smile in. It's a nice contrast to the other more soulful, introspective tracks.

John has the ability to convey feeling with his guitar. This is often true of musician's live performances but translating that to recorded material is not always successful. In this case it is. "Another Love" grabs your ear from the first note then the lyrics keep you interested. The guitar solo seems like part of the story he is telling. Nice example of his range in some of the sexy growls he throws down.

"Defeat" is the cut that follows and it's lighter, more upbeat flavor is nicely juxtaposed against the more brooding titles. The very groovy drum solo by Ron Lewis is a fantastic surprise on the end. It blends seamlessly and makes an already good song, great.

If you've ever held a new baby, you instinctively start to sway, "We Can Lie" is the musical equivalent. You can't help but rock a bit. The hook is there and you are going to bite. "We Can Lie" slows down the groove, yet builds to a wail. More lyrics that feel like we are getting a peek into the writer's journey. The words pour out in a way that many listeners will identify with. The guitar is strong without overpowering, the solo again helps to convey a message or feeling. I think my favorite vocals may have been on this song and finishing it with the moment of acapella vocals is like a nice bow on the gift.

"Tomorrow" and "US 50" round out the CD. They are both nice choices. Background singers in "Tomorrow" are a perfect touch, you might not notice but they are there doing their part to create a solid song. Come to find out, those background singers are more of John, laying down separate tracks.

I would say these last two songs are

more "guy" music. Chicks will dig John Fries for sure but "US 50" is music their plus one will like also.

US 50 is a good, solid release that has moments of greatness. I am sure this CD will be part of my summer soundtrack and I look forward to seeing what this talented local musician has for us in the future.

For more information about John, his band, CD's and the Release Party go to Johnfriesmusic.com

Band members:

John Fries Guitar & Vocals

Ron Lewis Drums & Percussion

Pat Perry Bass guitar

Guests:

Kerry Pulaski keyboards on "Technicolor You" We Can Lie" "U.S 50"

Nancy Parent pedal steel & backing vocals on "U.S. 50"

**Curt Ramm Trumpet & Bill Hollo-man Saxophone on "We Can Lie"

They both have worked with the East Street Band, Curt is on tour with Bruce now.

**** - Ali Kaufman



Jack White *"Blunderbuss"*

Third Man Records

Since the nineties, the musical world has been graced by the prowess of many great (and many not-so-great!) musicians whom will hold a place in the history of music forever. In the 2000s era, there was a great change in the style of music being written and produced. It was a time when authentic, original music began to lose its edge and the genuine love for music in society began to falter. Granted, there have always been those who keep the sacred element of music close, those who will continue to see music as a means of expression and value the true meaning behind music. Those are the people who will keep music alive; those are the people who will never let rock music die.

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Jack White has always thrived at keeping the rock scene going, having been in numerous alternative bands since the birth of his most well known project the White Stripes began in 1997. While juggling the thriving career with the White Stripes, White has also been the lead man and song writer for successful alternative style bands the Raconteurs and the Dead Weather. White has kept the music pumping for a decade and a half, and he proves to keep the energy flowing with his new release of his first debut solo album Blunderbuss.

The eagerly anticipated album has been in promotion for the past couple of months, with the release of one of the two singles off the album, "Love Interruption" debuting on January 30, 2012. Since the start of the new year, White has also made an appearance on "Saturday Night Live" to perform as the musical guest as well as promote his new album. However, one cannot judge Blunderbuss solely by the singles that were released prior to the album release. Although "Love Interruption" and "Sixteen Saltines" both have their places strategically located in the track listing, they are by no means a fair representation of the 13-song album as a whole.

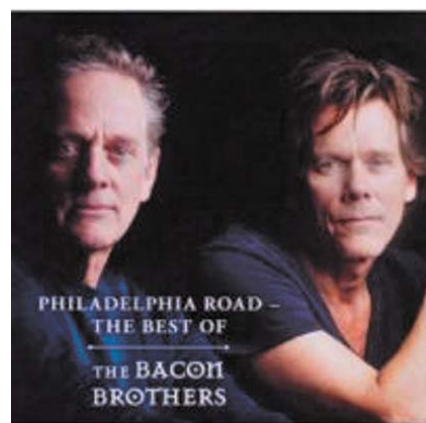
White has managed to keep the tone of his album in the same 'garage rock,' grunge feel that he helped to mold upon the start of the White Stripes in '97. However, unlike a good amount of the other material that White has produced, the compilation of songs on Blunderbuss holds a greater impact on the emotional and expressive extent to which the songs were written. White claims he has never put an album out under his own name, simply because it was not ready. Yet, after much suspense, he has finally deemed these songs suitable as a fine representation of a successful debut album.

This is an album meant to be listened to in its entirety to understand its full effect; the fluency of the varying melodic styles in each track further the craftsmanship that White put into the work of the album. So many records are simply Frankenstein records, they have little tid-bits of this or that and switch from one song to the other, leaving the listener wondering whether it's the CD on the stereo or the neighbors cat coughing up a hair ball. No, Jack White uses a careful blend of hard and soft, epic and subtle, piano and his infamous screeching guitar to gain an effect on the listener that provides the album with a unique vibe, one that consists of the passion used

to produce the album in the first place. This is a trick that White has mastered over his years of producing for Third Man Records for all of his projects, and of which we hope will continue further on in his career as a musical pioneer.

White is currently scheduled to play dates throughout spring and summer, beginning the first leg of his tour at the end of April in the U.S. and continuing on through May. Included in these dates are several big name music festivals, including the Hangout Music Festival in Alabama (5/18-20) and Lollapalooza in Chicago in early August. Beyond that, he plans on extending out onto a European tour, hitting 12 shows over there and moving onwards to the Pacific to play the Fuji Festival in Japan, as well as two or three shows in Australia. Essentially, if you're a Jack White fan and really dig his new album, there's a chance he'll be in your area of the world at some point this summer, so keep your eyes open, and, naturally, your ears open to the music he has to offer.

**** - David Fidrych



The Bacon Brothers

"Philadelphia Road - The Best Of"
Forosoco Music

It's nice to see Michael and Kevin Bacon and the Bacon Brothers Band taking a look back on all they've accomplished in their 15 years as recording artists. It's actually out of character for them because this is a band that is always looking forward and rarely looks back. They continue to write new music and in concert, they always play the new songs. Once a song is dropped from their set list, it rarely if ever returns. At this point in their musical journey they've earned the right to re-

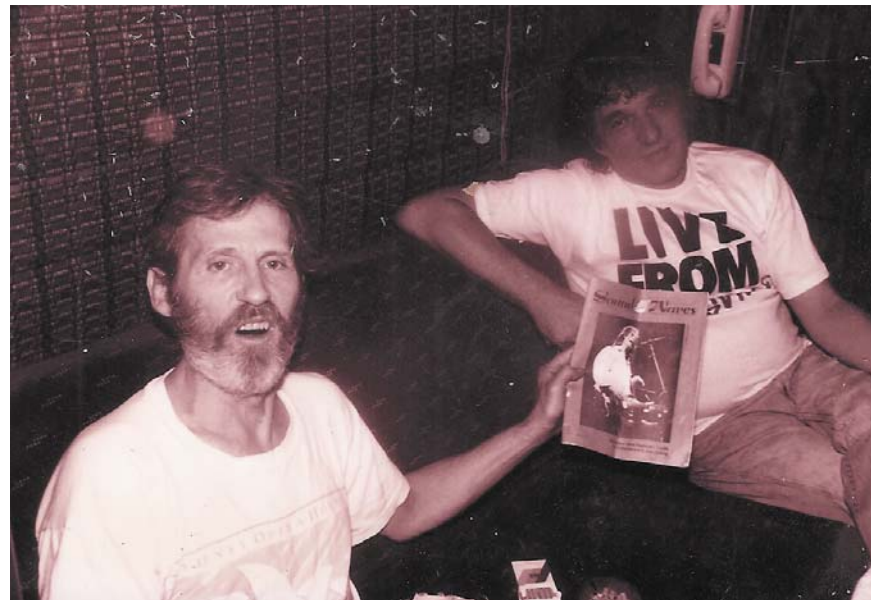
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The Bacon’s have recorded five studio CD’s throughout the years along with one double live disc and companion DVD. This new CD focuses almost entirely on their first three records, “Forosoco,” “Getting There,” and “Can’t Complain.” The only exceptions on this nineteen song disc are the opening track called “Unhappy Birthday” from their 2005 release called “White Knuckles.” This is a song that Kevin wrote one year after the September 11th terrorist attacks that’s been rewritten here to coincide with the 10 year anniversary of that fateful day. The other new track is a Bellamy Brothers song called “Guilty of the Crime” that the Bacons sing backup on.

The Bacon Brothers are big brother Michael on acoustic guitar, cello, and vocals, little brother Kevin on guitar, percussion, harmonica and vocals, Ira Siegel on electric lead guitar, Paul Guzzone on bass and tenor vocals, and Frank Vilardi on drums. The newest member of the band is Joe Mennonna on keyboards. Joe has been an outstanding addition to the band but he’s new to the scene and wasn’t around when these tracks were first recorded.

Some of the highlights include “Old Guitars” which is a song that will forever have the distinction of being the first song on the first record. It’s a tune Kevin wrote about his early musical influences. There are forty-seven different bands or singers mentioned in the song but who’s counting? Another Kevin song called “Guess Again” was inspired by a run in he had with some local rednecks down in North Carolina. He found out that he wasn’t quite as tough as he thought he was. Like so many of his songs it’s clever and catchy. Other songs by Kevin include “Only a Good Woman,” “10 Years in Mexico,” and “Grace.” These are just three of several songs he’s written throughout the years for his beautiful wife Kyra.

Michael’s most personal song on the disc is undoubtedly “Don’t lose me Boy.” This is a coming of age tune that was written for his son Neil. Another song called “Grey Green Eyes” was written with Martina McBride in mind after she witnessed a performance out in L.A. where the band “crashed and burned.” A personal favorite of mine is “Baby Steps.” On this track there’s a live audience that hand claps throughout the song. The clapping that you hear was from the Yale Repertory Theater on 12/08/00. I remember being in the front row at that show which means that

I’m part of this recording! I know it’s a stretch but it’s true!

For those of you who are new to the Bacon Brothers music this is an excellent look back at their earlier years together. However, I also recommend their 2008 release called “New Year’s Day” as a companion to “Philadelphia Road.” It’s their best studio work to date and you can hear how they’ve progressed as a band. The Bacon Brothers, who in recent shows have rolled out a number of new tunes, are due for another new release probably by the end of the year. Log on to www.baconbros.com for more information this wonderful band and their unique blend of folk, rock, soul, and country (Forosoco). Or better yet, go check them out in concert the next time they’re in our area which will be July 8th at the Indian Ranch in Webster, Massachusetts. It should be a festive occasion. After all it will be Kevin’s 54th birthday.

*** - Bill Harriman



Alabama Shakes “Boys and Girls” Rough Trade Records



Punch Brothers “Who’s Feeling Young Now”

Nonesuch Records

It’s all about the buzz! This Spring the pre-South by Southwest chatter was all about an authentic, retro, Memphis soul-rock band, from Athens, Alabama

by the name of Alabama Shakes and the all virtuosic musicianship of the progressive bluegrass band, the “Punch Brothers”!

Buoyed by a sold out, four song, self-titled EP that provided wide spread media attention and increasingly amazing live shows, (Shakes) and the finest of a trio of superior releases, each surpassing its predecessor. (Punch Brothers). Produced, recorded, and mixed, by Jacquire King, “Who’s Feeling Young Now”, was released by the Punch Brothers in February 2012, on Nonesuch Records. The band is also the focus of an independent documentary film, directed by Mark Meatto, entitled “How To Grow a Band” and contributed the song “Dark Days” to the soundtrack for the 2012 blockbuster film ‘The Hunger Games’.

The excitement generated by the Shakes leading up to SxSW seemed as hot as the buzz out of Seattle over Nirvana before “Nevermind”. Both Alabama Shakes and the Punch Brothers killed SxSW in Austin, TX and are continually proving worthy of the ever-pyramiding clamor! The pessimistic, glass is a half empty lot, no need gander further than the media link on the Punch Brother’s web site www.punchbrothers.com for video footage of some jaw dropping acoustical wizardry. (Be certain to check out WFUV at SxSW Tuesday, March 2, 2012). If a nomination for The mtv U. Woodie Award for best live performance fails to impress, NPR’s website www.npr.org/series/sxsw/ is running a stream-able concert video of the Shakes performing live at Stubbs Barbeque during SxSW that might jar your judgment.

The Shakes, “garage rock Janis” lead vocalist, Brittany Howard, quit her post office day job the week prior to SxSW. The band’s first full release “Boys and Girls” was unveiled just weeks later (April 19th) on Rough Trade and ATO records and its first cut “Hold On” could just be the song of the summer! The “Boys and Girls” slow burn soul ballad “You Aint Alone”, sounds like it could be some unearthed lost Janis Joplin track and is featured in a new Zales commercial.

Alabama Shakes pack a huge retro rock muscle shoals sound not heard since Joss Stone briefly and more accurately Aretha, Janis, and the Staple Sisters before her. It is both exciting and amusing to observe the rapid ascension of the Shakes as they conquer the world, the music press bloats in pursuit, and the promotion of “Boys and Girls” unfolds. What is beyond clear is that

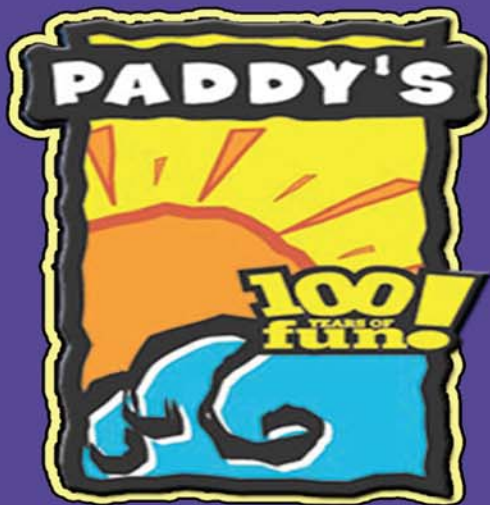
things are moving so incomprehensibly fast for the Shakes right now, that they can not possibly know what has hit them. Appearing on Letterman’s 65th birthday show April 12th, the band was sinewy and impressive but looked like deer caught in headlamps. Alabama Shakes are: Zac Cockrell - bass, backing vocals and guitar; Heath Fogg - backing vocals and percussion; Brittany Howard - guitar, lead vocals and piano percussion; Steve Johnson - drums, percussion, backing vocals; and touring member Ben Tanner – piano and organ. The simple heartfelt Cinderella Story of how this unknown working class act, that could only gig cover tunes in local bars, blossomed this spring into America’s next Rock and Roll Band is certainly an appealing one worth following. C’mon Brittany!

If the Punch Brothers, “The Blind Leaving the Blind” was an eye opening debut and “Anti-fogmatic” was immaculate and excellent, “Who’s Feeling Young Now”, is outstanding! Move over David Grisman Quintet, circa Tony Rice and Strength in Numbers, featuring Mark O’Conner on fiddle, the young lions calling themselves the Brothers Punch are picking up where these acoustic pioneers left off and are pushing the genre into the stratosphere! “The Punch Brothers are one of the most incredible bands this country has ever produced.” Hyperbole? Not at all! It’s only the assessment of king-maker producer, T. Bone Burnett. This band is as quirky as an acoustic Talking Heads!

Both these bands are cresting the best wave of their musical careers. In the case of the Punch Brothers that is truly remarkable. I essentially watched mandolin maestro Chris Thile grow up at Merle Fest in Boone County, N.C., each spring back when the platinum selling, child prodigy, bluegrass band he fronted, Nickel Creek, performed with Thile’s dad on acoustic bass. Thile’s amazing chops quickly earned respect and credibility enough to be welcomed on stage to jam with the A-Team of monster acoustic alchemists, Jerry Douglas, Sam Bush, Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer, and Mike Marshall to name a few!

T. Bone Burnett has compared mando ace Chris Thile to Louis Armstrong, explaining that both are virtuosos, who challenge genre norms while keeping one foot rooted in pop. “Thile remains inarguably one of the most accom-

Continued Page 24
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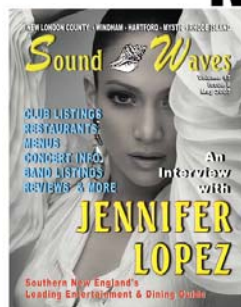
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The Punch Brothers are Chris Eldridge, guitar and vocals, Paul Kowert, bass and vocals, Chris Thile, mandolin and lead vocals, and Gabe Witcher, fiddle and vocals and Norm Pikelny, (the fifty thousand dollar winner of the inaugural Steve Martin Award for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass) banjo and vocals. Collectively, they are “the pinnacle of young lions and envelope pushing forces at the forefront of modern bluegrass, country and folk music today”. “The Punch Brothers are the best string band pickers of the new generation” and they are having a ball creating “acoustic mayhem and dropping jaws”. “Punch brothers! Punch with care! Punch in the presence of the passenjaire! “

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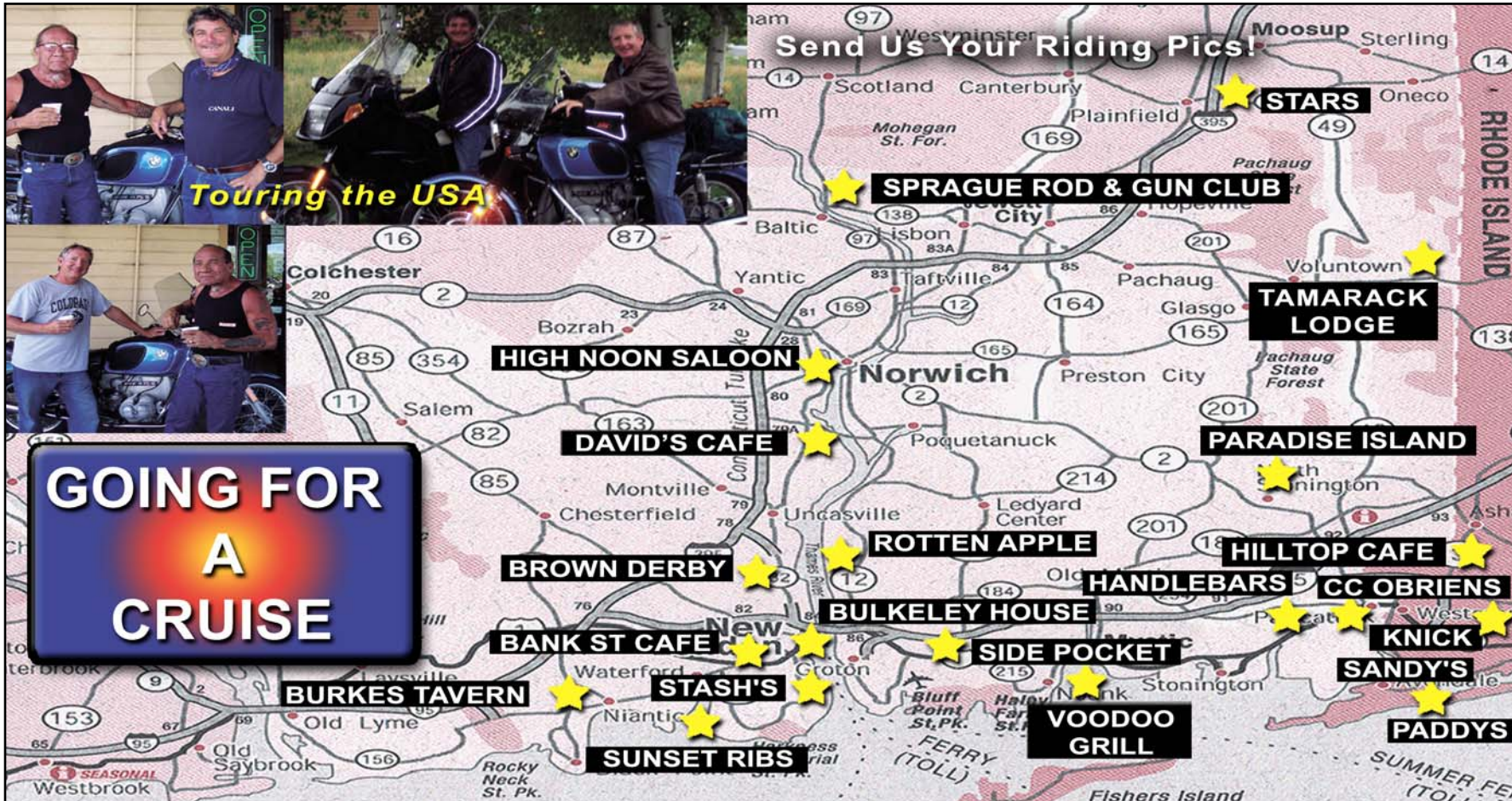
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Monday
May 28th
T-RAY

30 **Jay Dempsey Band**
7pm

24 **Seth**
8pm

31 **Marc Apostolides**
8pm

Fri	Sat	Sun
4 Steve Gregory 7pm	5 Doug Parkinson 7pm	6 Brandon & Waters 3pm
11 Dean Cardinale 7pm	12 Victor Cowles 7pm	13 Jamie 3pm
18 Dave Mac 5pm Guido & Blaze 9pm	19 T-Ray 5pm Those Guys 9pm	20 Get Low Trio 7pm
25 Tony Marshall 5pm Bloomer 9pm	26 Tony Gabriel 5pm Guido & Tony 9pm	27 Marc Apostolides 5pm BRANDED 9pm
1 Matt Kearns 5pm Brandon & Waters 9pm	2 Doug Parkinson 5pm Lee & Eddie 9pm	3 Full Circle 5pm

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Coming in June:

Mini Monday ~ 7oz Buds, Budlights and Limeys
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Tuesday ~ Open Mike with host Gene Parise
All ages 8-10pm 21+ after 10pm. Prizes for all participants!

Wednesday Trivia Challenge ~ 8-11pm
Free door charge for upcoming events and more for the winners !!!!

Poco Thursday ~ Corinitas "7oz Coronas"
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MEMORIAL DAY MUSIC LINE UP

Fri. 25th ~ **STEVE SMITH & THE NAKEDS**
R&B dance band - 9:30pm

10pm to midnight NARRAGANSETT PROMO
with the girls! Enter to win PATS TIX!!!



Sat. 26th ~ **JAMES HARRIS**
Acoustic solo act outside on the patio 1pm-5pm
9:30pm **THE JAMES ROAD BAND**
with lead singer Natalia Montrude
(former vocalist with the band SUGAR)
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Sun. 27th ~ **BOATCAKE**
Acoustic duo outside on the patio 1pm-5pm
9:30pm New England's most authentic tribute to the 80's

AQUANETT
Mon. 28th 1pm-5pm **HUMAN JUKEBOX**
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2pm-4pm MALIBU FISH BOWL PROMO



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