

Sound Waves

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Volume 32
Issue 10
October 2022

Plus

- Lauren Anderson
- Johnny Rawls
- Chris Canas
- John Speziale
- Kevin Danzig
- Drake Milligan
- Randy McAllister

Also

WCTY-FM

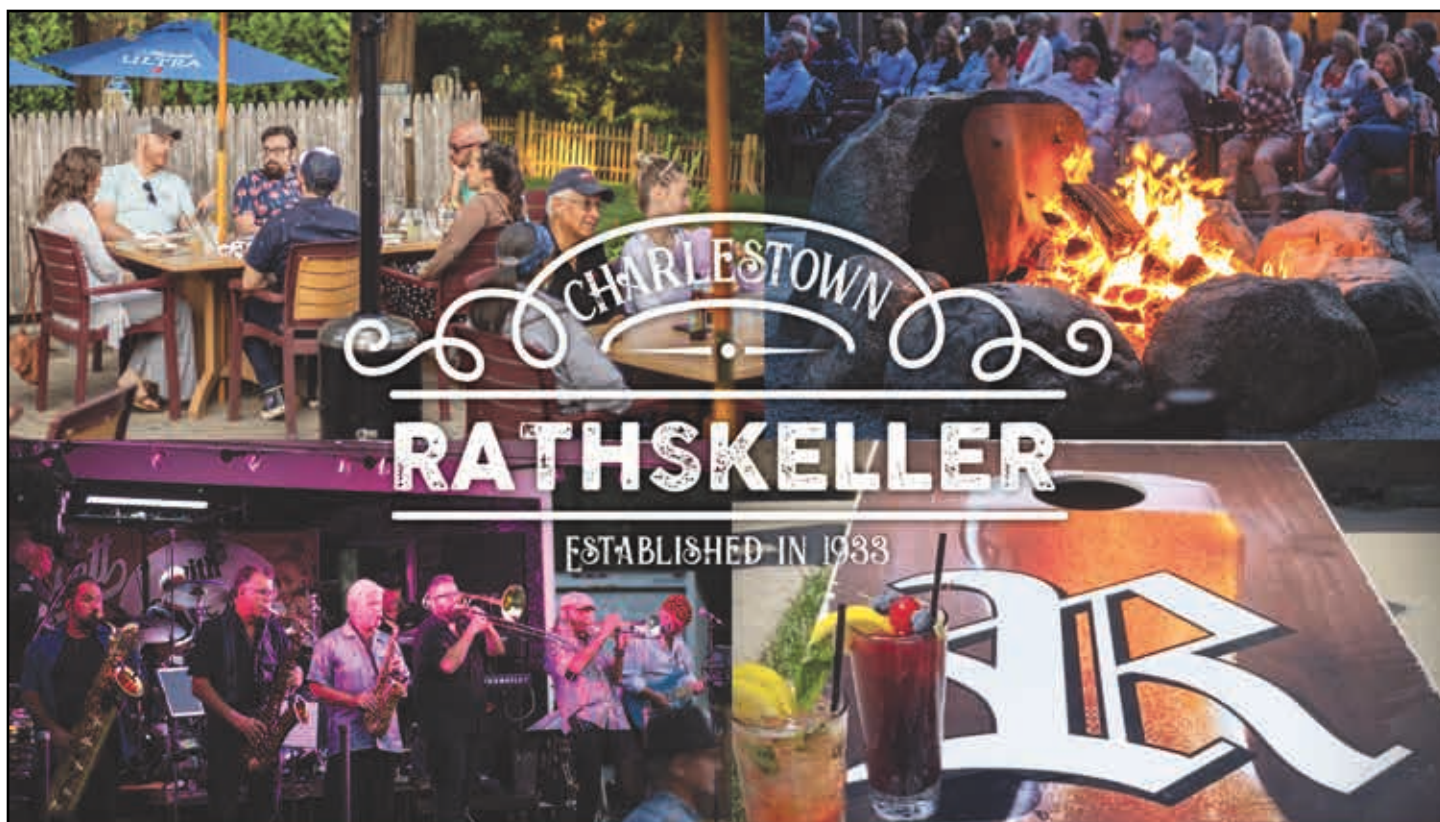
An Interview
with

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SUN • 2 PAULA CLARE
4 - 7 PM

FRI • 7 AMERICAN HONEY
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8 - 11 PM

SUN • 9 COUNTERFEIT CASH - JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE
4 - 7 PM

FRI • 14 TAKE IT TO THE BRIDGE
8 - 11 PM

SAT • 15 STEVE SMITH & THE NAKEDS
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SUN • 16 ANNIE BROBST
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FRI • 28 HALLOWEEN BASH!
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Cover & Story Photos by Ross Halfin

**FRIENDS
DON'T LET
FRIENDS
DRINK
AND
DRIVE**

Sound Waves

October 2022

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 10

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"The books, engrossing spy thrillers, masterfully interweave past and present with the story of "Sonny" who idealistically joins up in 1944." - By Stacy Trevenon; Half Moon Bay Review.

Ken is the award winning author of The Code Name Series of books. The series is based on his father's experiences behind enemy lines in World War II. He has won awards in the Readers' Favorite contest, The NABE Pinnacle Awards in Military Fiction, and Hollywood, Paris, and New York Book Festivals.

Author Kenneth Pottie

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MUSIC NOTES

“Drake Milligan’s Got Talent”

By Mark T. Gould

With all due respect to Jon Landau, I saw country music’s future, and I think its name is Drake Milligan.

Country music can be a bit convoluted these days, much like rock ‘n’ roll back in the day when Landau was salivating over some guy named Bruuuuuce.

There’s, ugh, pop country, with a bunch of soundalike, mostly male, performers who are, frankly, all hat and no cattle. But, thankfully, we still have real, downhome country music artists who proudly continue a legacy that started with Jimmie Rodgers, worked itself through Hank Williams (senior, the real Hank Williams), and extends to the wondrous, ageless Willie Nelson.

Milligan, thankfully, appears to be from that latter group. One part Elvis, another part Dwight Yoakam, but, most of all, his ownself, Milligan was the standout musical performer on this year’s “America’s Got Talent.”

Unfortunately, he didn’t win (The Mayyas were not of this world), but he did finish third, and, judging by his performances, he may have set the country music establishment on its collective head.

But, “AGT” wasn’t Milligan’s first rodeo, not by a long shot.

Milligan was born in Mansfield, Texas, where he was inspired by the country music his father listened to, particularly Merle Haggard, as well as an Elvis impersonator he saw sing at a nearby restaurant.

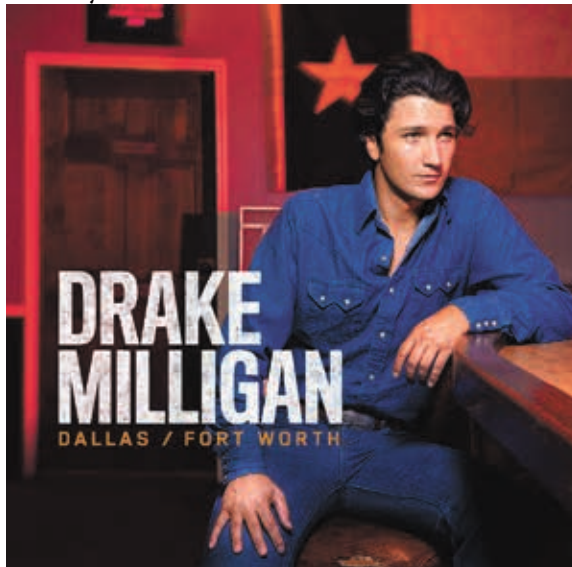
After performing locally as an Elvis impersonator himself, Milligan let his life imitate his art by answering a casting call by Country Music Television for the role of Elvis in the TV series “Sun Records.” He ended up landing the part, which required him to move from Texas to Nashville during his senior year of high school.

From there, the road continued to open for him, albeit slowly.

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Milligan competed on “American Idol” in 2018, but ultimately dropped out, saying, at the time that “I decided that I wasn’t quite ready for that platform yet, and that it would be a better step for me (stay in) Nashville and focus on my music first.”



While there, Milligan also auditioned for a recording contract with BBR Music Group. After initially rejecting him, the label signed him six months later. In July 2021, he released his self-titled debut extended play record, followed by the holiday single “Cowgirl for Christmas.”

Milligan and his band then appeared on “AGT” this past June, debuting with

a power-packed performance of an original song, “Sounds Like Something I’d Do.” A couple of weeks later, he performed another song, “Kiss Goodbye All Night,” and advanced farther along.

Milligan couples his musical chops with an uncanny marketing sense, reminiscent of Garth Brooks’ career arc (believe me, that’s the only thing they have in common) as he able to find room to interject from the “AGT” stage that both of his performances shot to number one on the streaming charts.

Powered by the release of a studio cut of “Something I’d Do” as his first single, a staggering combination of both youthful cool, swagger, and classic country, the release hit number two on the charts, paving the way for his debut album “Dallas/Fort Worth,” on September 15, the day after the “AGT” final. He also managed to squeeze in an announcement of the release from the “AGT” stage, plugging its release to a huge audience, the night before it came out.

Instead of bowing to the distinctly bland possibility of pop country, and perhaps a more lucrative, albeit it shallow, career choice, Milligan actually doubled down on the album, opting

for a traditional country base within the confines of being a dynamic entertainer.

The album has the best possible combination of muscle and charm, with just enough hooks to appeal to a wider audience, without Milligan forgetting where he came from.

Of course, not even a mega-talent like Milligan can avoid the media hype machine. He’s already being described as the “new Elvis of country,” which, ironically given his pedigree, might be close to the truth.

Yet, it seems that Milligan may avoid the glare.

“I had done no work, on being an artist, on finding out who I was, on building a sound. I had done no work on that,” Milligan told Fox News. “It was a decision to back out and move to Nashville and put the work in, put the hours in. I hadn’t put the hours in yet. It was writing every day, it was being in a studio, it was working on my voice. To go on a platform like that, I wanted to just totally know who I am and be able

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to stick to my guns and be prepared to showcase who I am to the world.

"A lot of the responses I've gotten from 'America's Got Talent' is 'I'm not a country music fan, but I love your performances and your voice and I'm a country music fan now,' which I think is amazing," Milligan added. "As somebody who just so passionately loves country music, to be able to bring people in the genre has been a really special thing.

"I just want to keep staying true to myself and making music that I think people want to hear and people need to hear and telling stories," Milligan said. "Country music has been such a big part of my life, it helps me get through tough times or it's just a great way to have fun on a Saturday night. It's such a big part of my life and I just want to hopefully be a part of people's lives too and keep making music that people can use in their life."

That country music legacy from Jimmie Rodgers to Hank Williams to Willie Nelson may have found its next link.



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GRAMMA'S ATTIC REVUE

"John Speziale Coming Full Circle"

By Gramma

John was born in Torrington, Ct. several years ago. He grew up to the music of the Beatles and the groups that filled the airwaves of the 60's. Although his family made their home in Torrington John's parents owned a summer home near the water in Westerly RI. Coming to Westerly as a youth of the tender age of thirteen was a special time for John and formed a lot of how he felt about playing music out in the public. You see John and his young teenage friends would wander the streets of this quaint little town and hear the music wafting out of the doors of the clubs that they would go by. One of these clubs was The Knickerbocker Music Center on Railroad Ave. The Knick started putting music on stage in 1933 so it had already proven itself as a solid place for music to be presented. John was enraptured!

When John was young, he was given formal classical piano lessons. He went on to teach himself how to play the guitar. When he was fifteen and a sophomore in high school, he started his first band playing covers from the bands of the day such as The

Dave Clark 5 and of course the Beatles.

One of the musical memories that John shared with me was about when he took a month-long business trip with his dad to Boulder, Colorado. There was a record store there and John bought two records... Paul Revere and the Raiders - Midnight Ride and Bob Dylan - Blonde on Blonde. Bob Dylan was such an inspiration to him that he formed a harmonica holder out of a coat hanger (much to his parent's chagrin) and started adding harmonica to the songs that he and the band were

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playing.

In John's senior year of high school John got together with a couple of friends and formed a trio. He was the keyboard player in the band and there was a guitar player and a bass player.



They called themselves The Prodigal Sun and played all over New England including Collages such as Vassar and Smith. This trio did quite well, and they played together until John went away to Grad School in Baltimore. While He was away studying, he was not doing any music. Grad school demands a lot and to be out playing in clubs into the night does not bode well with trying to get a master's degree.

After Grad School John moved to Gloucester Mass and got together

with a cover band called Johnny and the Tygers. They had a lot of fun and were quite popular, but the part of that band that was the most fun was that while other cover bands were working hard to sound just like the originals the Tygers were taking the covers and making them their own. They did what they wanted to do with those covers and John loved doing that. The band gained enough popularity to actually have a residency at The Crow's Nest which is the bar featured in the movie The Perfect Storm. It was during this time that John really started to get serious about his song writing. He stayed together with his bass player and a harmonica /mandolin player and started a folkish band that they called Sweet Mercy. He and his bass player did a lot of running around playing open mics during this time and they cut an EP of just John's covers. The true concept of the band Sweet Mercy came to John in the early 90's with John playing his covers and the response being not bad. It was at this time that he really started taking his song writing seriously and he feels that some of his best writing came to him during this time of his life.

In the late 90's John and his wife moved back to the New Hartford area. He needed to be there for his parents and work to put his children through school. Even though he was not doing a lot of music he was still writing. It was during this time that John really had to concentrate on having a "Day job". For several years John worked as a GED teacher in a couple of AIC's (Alternative Incarceration Program). This program takes people that may otherwise be incarcerated and gives them the opportunity to do their time getting training and GED's so that they can become productive members of the community rather than spend time in the prison system. It was during this time that John's music had to take somewhat of a back burner as working with this population can be very intense and take up a lot of time, it was also during this time that he and his wife found jobs in the Westerly area and moved to the one place that John had always wanted to live. This move

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was made in 1999.

The move to Westerly was a good one for John . He and his wife met and became exceptionally good friends with guitarist Jim Tarbox's sister. She introduced Jim to John, and they started Jamming. The rest is Sweet Mercy history. Through Jim John met several musicians . During this time, a friend from Gloucester passed away and when John was at his funeral, he met Larry Luddecke who owned a recording studio. Larry asked John if he wanted to record some of his originals. Larry put together the back up band that included very prestigious players that had all played for popular bands such as Mary Chapin Carpenter and Richard Thompson. The name of this album was "Some things Have Happened Since We Last Spoke" John feels that this is the best recording of his career up to this point. The album never did well commercially but many area musicians got ahold of it and were extremely impressed with John's songwriting. During this time John and Gene Parise put together a duo turned trio called "Men with Guitars." Although there was a fair amount

of popularity with this group, John still wanted to reestablish some form of his old band Sweet Mercy.

Sweet Merch is now a thing. They had their record release party on Saturday September 24,2022 and it was Held at that "dream come true establishment. The Knickerbocker Music Center. John had come full circle. It was a dream come true for him.

Players in the band Sweet Mercy are Craig Edwards (whom some of you readers may remember from an article written a few months ago), Sandy Allen , a well-known area musician that is involved with several musical acts, and Jamie Douquette. Sometimes Chris Gonsalves and Jim Tarbox join this trio. This band classifies itself as "AmericanaRootsRock" music and has put out an album in this authors opinion to be one of the albums to keep an eye on this year it is going to go places. John says his songs examine the human con-

dition in a humorous way. When you listen to this album SWEET MERCY you will understand why. It is an amazing musical treat full of fun stories and fantastic musical talent.

Sweet Mercy can be found on Facebook . zit can also be found on iTunes and Spotify. In the upcoming weeks it will appear on all of you favorite streaming platforms. Sweet Mercy plays out as a trio, a quartet, and sometime a six-piece band . to hire them you can reach John at www.JohnSpeziale.com





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20 Clay Allen 5-7	21 Nick Bosse 8-11	22 Southern Voice 8-11	23 Ken Barber Duo 4-7
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LOCAL BEAT

“Hot Rod’s Hip-Hop Highlights”

By Andrew Kerbs

Seeing that an Octoberfest in Mass fell through due to rain, I decided again to visit Hot Rods in New London to dance to some more great rap music . . . something with the sex appeal of the kind of throbbing electronics you could swing your hips to.

At first there didn’t seem to be any place to dance as the once-empty floor was covered in seating. Similarly, the “Arcade” sign for downstairs seemed to have fallen into disuse. Pac Man and Galaxian notwithstanding, videogames at the venue have been scarce for over 15 years. But at least there were people there, many of whom were fashionably decked out in demine jackets, black jeans and leggings, hoodies and thick sweaters with gold chains. The venue also featured the delicious sights and smells of drum sticks and wings smothered in hot sauce – the kind the venue has been famous for almost 20 years.

DJ Easy commanded the stage this time and there were no interruptions. His homegrown rhythms kicked the night off around 9 or 9:30 after folks’ 1st drink. But nothing beat the familiar songs that came by 10:30 at night: songs the crowd has grown to love but with an original twist full of his own beats that expanded and improved upon the originals as he segued seamlessly from hit to hit. Highlights included “Go Crazy” by Chris Brown and Young Thug with its recognizable bright keyb-hook introduction and robotic voice. Next there was “Chosen” by BLXST with guitar intro, Peanuts allusions and nice beats worked into the riffs so thick and sexy I could feel them thump through the wood in the chair.

Then there was the synth beat “Drop It Like It’s Hot” by Snoop Dog then segued into Wale’s irresistibly danceable “Stick It Out.” Who could pass up dancing to that . . . or to DJ Easy’s fast beat mix of Saweetie’s “She’s My Best Friend.” And don’t forget the Kehlani’s cameo on

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T-Pain’s “I Like Dat.” Once the crowd swelled and people got dancing Easy spun the infectious thumpy groove “Act Up” by City Girls. The DJ also spun mixes of other fantastic songs like Megan Thee Stallion’s “Body” (perhaps one of the sexiest dances ever written) and Cardi B’s well-known, hip-gyrating staccato piano groove “Up.”

Easy was creative, weaving hip hop beats where there were none in such songs as Peaches by Justin Bieber. The DJ also went old-school at one point, reconnecting to the rap roots with remixes of “Pump Up the Volume” by MARRS and Digital Underground’s provocative “Humpty Dance.” Easy was a good spinner.

This is about the time Jason S. and his romantic side-kick (the very smi-

ley, fashionable and engaging Althea) waltzed into the restaurant like they owned the place. Both explained how they met at 3 Rivers Community College riding bikes with no hands and have since fallen in love with cutting edge synthesizer technology. They enthusiastically gabbed about micro-KORG synths, keytars and wireless loop pedals they got from Guitar Center. They run images and soundtracks through MIDI and Macbook software with controls for Reverb and other sound-effects. Althea told me she wanted to modulate and robotize her voice for their songs and Jason and I debated the differences among different types of sound waves as Saweetie’s buzzy bass synths blared from Easy’s speakers during the infectious catchy rap remix “Tap In.” We drew pictures of white noise and sawtooth sound waves before I corrected him on pitch and on drawing the bell-curves that characterize pure tone sine wave sounds. The couple also appreciated the visual arts and described using both printed and greenscreen images as part of their performances. What a night to chug beer nerding out over dance music.

Rock purists may be skeptical of the greatness of hip hop music. Indeed there is something questionable about the sexism and pornography in much of the lyrics. Boy can it get you off your butt and dancing however, and those who defect to stereotypes and deny that kind of sensuality on Bank St. on a Friday are missing a very fun night out.



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BAND DATES

THE CARTELLS

8,23 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3-6pm
15 - Shoreline Swing, E. Lyme 8-10pm
16 - Bill's Seafood, Old Saybrook, CT 3:30-6:30pm

CHRISTOPHER JOHN

5,12 - Shortstop, Westfield, MA 5-8pm
6 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 5-8pm
7 - Glendale Grill, Easthampton, MA 6-10pm
8 - Old State House, Hartford, CT 8am-2pm
8,27 - Stumble Inne, Old Lyme, CT 7-10pm
9 - 2nd Home Lounge, Winsted, CT 6-9pm
13 - Rosy Tomorrows, Danbury, CT 6:30-9:30pm
15,28 - Village Pizza, Preston, CT 8-11pm
16 - Kent Pizza, Kent, CT 2-5pm
20 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 8-11pm
21 - Yarde Tavern, S. Hadley, MA 6-9pm
22 - City Sports, Vernon, CT 7:30-10:30pm
30 - Arrigoni Winery, Portland, CT 1:30-5:30

CHRIS COFONI

21 - The Preserve, Chapel Hill, NC 7-9pm
22 - Farmers Market, Holly Springs, NC 9am-noon
22 - Catch 109, Morehead City, NC 6-9pm

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

7 - Jameson Pub, Watertown, CT 9:30p
15 - Geraldines, Chicopee, MA 9:30p
21 - Sonny's Place, Somers, CT 7-10p
29 - Chicago Sams, Cromwell, CT 9-11:30p

DON'T TELL LISA

21 - Tavern on the Hill, W. Greenwich, RI 8-12pm
22 - Town Hall, Montville, CT Noon-2pm
29 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT 7:30-10:30pm

DOS AMIGOS

7 - Angies Pizza, Mystic, CT 6-9
15,28 - Haversham, Westerly, RI 9-12
21 - Surf Cantina, Westerly, RI 10-1

JAMES HARRIS

5,12,15,19,26,28,31 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9pm
7,28 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 4pm
8 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 9pm
14 - Village Pizza, Preston, CT 8pm
15 - Woodfellas, New London, CT 4pm

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16 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
16 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 8pm
21 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 5pm
25 - Angies Pizza, Mystic, CT 5pm
27 - Shunock Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 5:30pm

MYSTIC PROPHETS

6 - Knick Tap Room, Westerly, RI 8-11pm
7 - The Bridge Westerly, RI 7-10pm
8 - The Haversham, Westerly, RI 9pm
16 - Shunock Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 4:30-7:30
28 - Surf Cantina, Westerly, RI 10pm

NICK BOSSE

14 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm
15 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8-11pm
16 - Taylor Brooke Brewery, Woodstock, CT 2-5pm
21 - The Barn, Groton, CT 8-11pm
22 - Stone Church Coffee House, Bristol, RI 7:30pm
28 - Thirsty Beaver, Westerly, RI 8-11pm
29 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI 8:30-11:30pm

THE NIGHT SHAKERS

8 - Buttonwood Tree, Middletown, CT
15 - BlackEyed Sally's, Hartford, CT
28 - Hartford Road Cafe, Manchester, CT

RAMBLIN' DAN STEVENS

4,11,18,25 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
6,22 - Woodfellas, New London, CT 6pm
7 - Witchdoctor Brewing, Southington, CT 6pm
8 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9:30pm
9 - The Barn, Groton, CT 3:30pm
13 - My Place, Newtown, CT 7:30pm
21 - 40 Thieves, Groton, CT 7pm
23 - Note Kitchen, Bethel, CT noon
27 - Los Charros, Ivoryton, CT 6:30pm
28 - Stumble Inne, Old Lyme, CT 7pm
29 - Home Range, Canaan, NY 3:30pm
30 - Hops On The Hill, S. Glastonbury, CT 4:30pm

THE SECOND CHANCE

16 - Harvest Market, N. Stonington, CT 10:30am-12:30pm
22 - Festival, Hebron, CT 2:30pm

WOOLITE

20 - The Barn, Groton, CT
22 - Packer Inne, Mystic, CT 10pm

WOOLY MAMMOTH

11 - The Barn, Groton, CT 7-10pm

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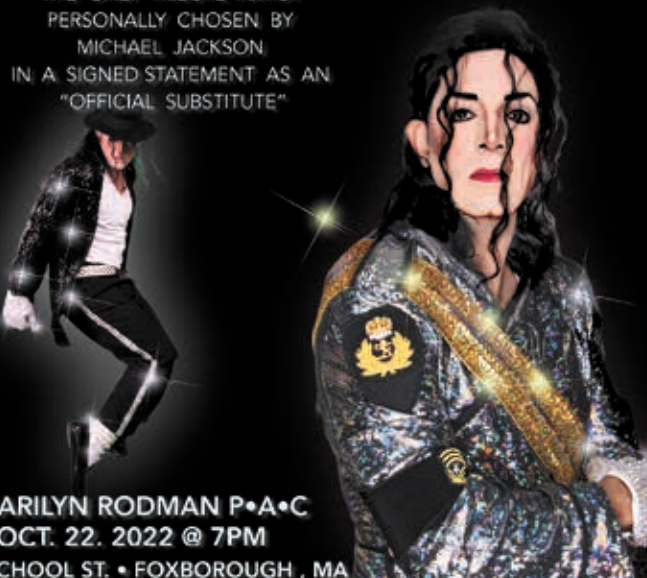
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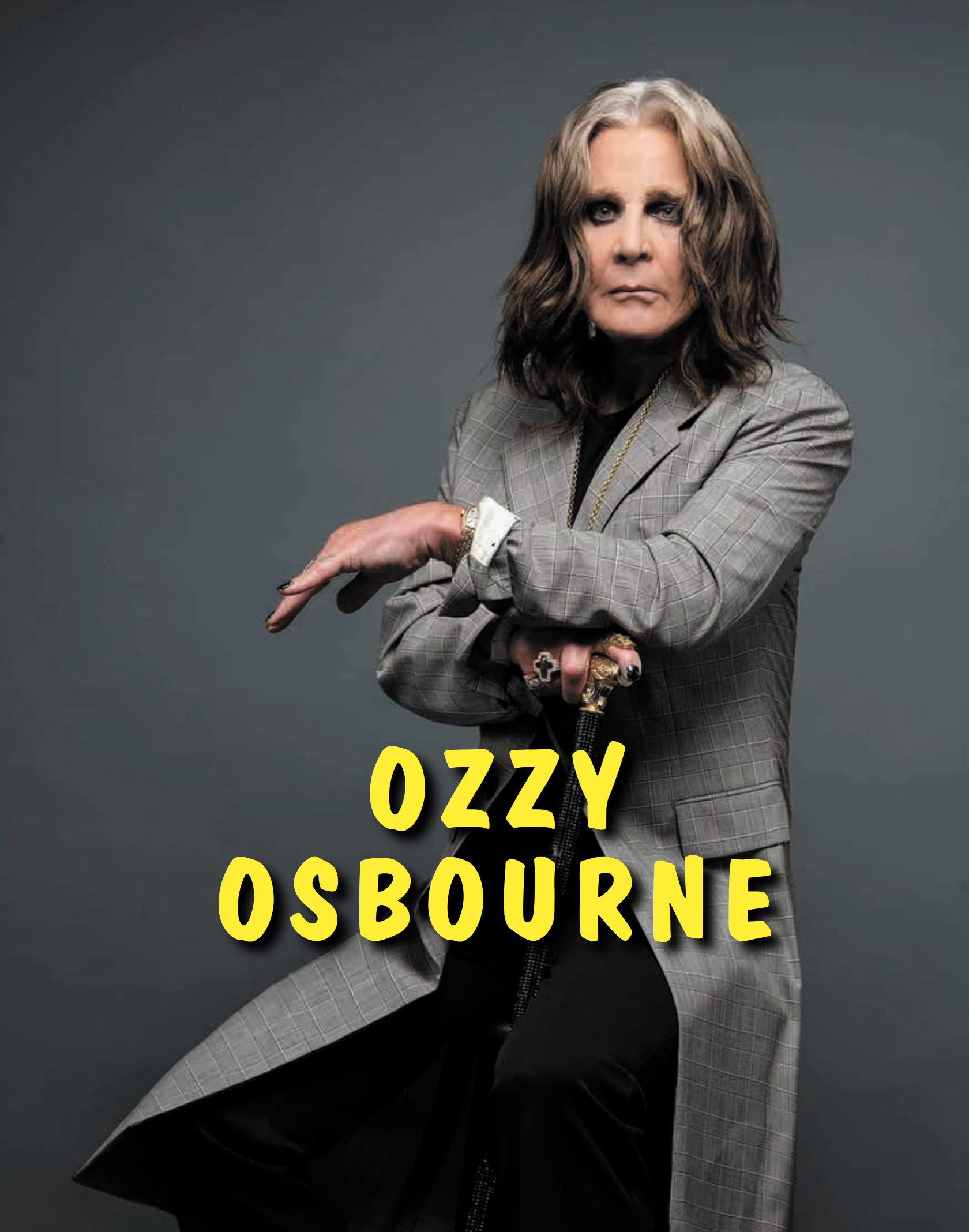
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SOUND WAVES 11

A full-length portrait of Ozzy Osbourne against a dark grey background. He has long, wavy, greyish-brown hair and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is wearing a grey checkered blazer over a black shirt. His right arm is extended forward, pointing his index finger. His left hand is resting on the hilt of a sword, which has a gold-colored hilt with a cross-shaped guard. He is also wearing a gold watch on his right wrist and a gold chain around his neck.

OZZY OSBOURNE

By Ken Summit / The Interview People

Ozzy Osbourne is back – almost a miracle to say after the life he led. But now he's releasing his new album "Patient Number 9" and talks about his inspirations, technology changing the way music is produced, missing England and his secret for a 40 years marriage.

So Ozzy, the new record is brilliant - "Patient Number 9". You made it pretty quickly after "Ordinary Man"

OZZY OSBOURNE: Well, with this pandemic and me being laid up anyway with my neck – I had nothing else to do. Making these records kept me from going crazy.

How did the surgery go?

OZZY OSBOURNE: It went very well.

How do you feel about the new record?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I'm happy with the way it turned out but I must confess, I'd be lost without technology these days. It's so much quicker now to make records.

So you like using technology?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Yeah. Yes or no. Because every time a new generation of new technology comes out, a little bit more of the art disappears. When you had to do one layer on tape for a 24-track tape, you had to know what you were doing. But nowadays it's just press buttons, you know? I don't know how to work the machines. Andrew Watt, who produced it, he's got a great guy who works with him.

You did the last album and the new one with Andrew Watt - You have a great chemistry together?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Yeah, we have great chemistry.

Who is Patient Number 9?

OZZY OSBOURNE: It's a fictitious story. It's about being in a mental hospital.

You sing "When they call your name you better run and hide"? Are you fascinated with the mental hospitals, is it something that scares you?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I've been in a mental hospital.

When was that?

OZZY OSBOURNE: In the early '70s I had like a mental breakdown.

How did you recover from that?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I was on medication for a while and then got better. But, you know, people don't like to say they've got mental health problems.

It's very common. Especially with this pandemic thing, the virus has been killing everybody. People must be so f—cked up in the head from being locked in their houses for three years.

How about you? You had Covid earlier this year?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I had the coronavirus. It knocked me for six. I had one day when I was f—king out of it and then I

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took the pills, you can take two pills in the morning and two pills in the evening for five days and it was great plus the vax. I've been fully-vaccinated.

Was your life pretty different during the pandemic than it normally is?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I was writing songs. I had my surgery on my neck where I couldn't do anything anyway. So I thought fate and luck was on my side.

Nobody else can work and I can't work. So I thought, 'By the time it's all back to normal, I should be OK'. That's my next goal to go on the road.

So your planning a tour?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Yeah, as soon as I get my health back, I'm out on the road.

You work hard on your health - right? Doing Physiotherapy every day and stuff?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I have a physical trainer every day. No, five days a week I have a physical trainer and I do things on my own.

Was patient Number 9 actually your number?

OZZY OSBOURNE: It wasn't anything. It just came out.

You also sing, "I'm not getting out alive"?

OZZY OSBOURNE: It's only a song! [laughs] I'm not going to say, 'This is what people do!'

You also sing, "Im immortal" - Do you believe that?

OZZY OSBOURNE: No, I know I'm not immortal. There was a time when I used to think this is never going to end. But it does. Everything comes to an end.

That's still a long way off for you hopefully?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Oh yeah.

Would you like to reach the same age as the Queen?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Erm, I think I'll do another album with Andrew but I'm just carrying on like, keeps me alive.

You said that "Ordinary Man" helped you stay alive. Is it the same with "Patient Number 9"?

OZZY OSBOURNE: When you are sitting in your house and you can't go out, you can't enjoy yourself. So you either go crazy or make records or do something. My way of getting through the pandemic was making records with Andrew. At the end of it, that's all it was.

Did your health battles get in the way of making the record?

OZZY OSBOURNE: When it got too much I stopped. It gave me something to think about other than, 'Am I ever going to walk again? Am I ever going to be able to do a show again?' It gave me something to think about rather than think about my health.

This album seems a bit darker than “Ordinary Man”?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I don’t know. I just made an album. I didn’t think anything of it, I just made an album. If you think it’s more darker, then it’s more darker. I didn’t go, ‘Oh we’ve got to make a darker album than ‘Ordinary Man.’ It just came out that way.

And the songs are pretty long, many of them, like seven minutes. Does it remind you of early Ozzy, of Black Sabbath?

OZZY OSBOURNE: The Tony Iommi track would have made a great Black Sabbath track – ‘No Escape From Now’.

Zakk Wylde plays a big role on the record, again, tell us how you get together and work on stuff?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Oh yeah, I mean I only have to pick the phone up and he’ll be there.

And can you talk about working with Tony Iommi?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Actually, while I’ve been laid up, Tony has been very supportive of me.

“No escape from now” is really an epic song - Can you talk about it? What is it about?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I don’t really know how to explain what the songs are about. I like to let people make their own mind up. I never write to discuss what I write about.

Why do you say, “You asshole” at the end of “Mr. Darkness”?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I was just f—king around in the studio. You can’t be too serious about it all the time.

Humour is a big part of your music?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Yes, it is. Tongue-in-cheek.

Jeff Beck and Eric Clapton - How did collaborations with them come about?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Eric Clapton – I’ve met him few times. And Andrew and I said, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if we could get someone like Jeff Beck or Eric Clapton?’ And I said to Andrew, ‘The only way you’ll find out is if you ask them. So we asked them and they said, ‘Yes’. I was like, ‘F—king hell that’s great.’ I think Jeff Beck’s solo on ‘Patient Number 9’ is mind-blowing.

Were the Yardbirds an inspiration for you?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I loved them.

And is it true you asked Jimmy Page to be on the album?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Yeah, yeah.

Why didn’t he do it?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I don’t know. I wrote to Jimmy Page but he never responded. He must be busy doing something else.

The late Taylor Hawkins is on there too? That must be one of his last recordings?

OZZY OSBOURNE: A few weeks before he died he played on my record.

Is it true you’re planning to leave Los Angeles and return to England?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I want to go back to England because the taxes are getting really bad. And the thing is, I want to tour Europe. I want to try and do Europe before anywhere else.

Did you miss leaving England?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Not really. I’m Anglo-American. I’ve spent a lot of time over here. But I miss my family. My sisters, my brothers and my next of kin, you know?

Is it true you’re planning a bat protection project in your house in Buckinghamshire?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

This whole pandemic was said to have come from some animal and once you bit off the head of a bat some years ago. Looking back on that now, you wouldn’t do it again?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Revenge of the animals! [laughs]

You and Sharon celebrated your 40th wedding anniversary recently?

OZZY OSBOURNE: That’s a miracle. I didn’t think I’d be alive 40 years.

I’ve proved everybody wrong.

What’s the secret to your long lasting marriage with Sharon?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Keep your head down. [laughs]

What are your thoughts on the war in Ukraine?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I think it’s very, very sad because I thought we’d all got over that f—king 80 years ago. In this day and age, it’s f—king insane. I’m dead against it, I am.

Are you pleased Boris Johnson has now gone? You called him a clown?

OZZY OSBOURNE: He was about as much good as a fucking tit on a nun. [laughs] I don’t know how he got the job in the first place. He’s fucking useless.

Finally what do you think about the future of Rock’nRoll? Is it here forever?

OZZY OSBOURNE: I sincerely hope so.

THANK YOU

This interview was before the passing of Queen Elizabeth. The Osbournes released separate statements.

Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, separately broke their silence about the tragic news. Ozzy posted a photo of the queen in her younger years on Twitter with the caption, “I mourn with my country the passing of our greatest Queen. With a heavy heart I say it is devastating the thought of England without Queen Elizabeth II.” Ozzy’s wife, Sharon, also paid tribute to the late monarch on Instagram with an emotional note: “The embodiment of strength and dignity, upholding and performing her vow to The United Kingdom. Unwavering,” Sha-

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ron wrote. "May you be at peace beside His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Long Live The King."



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SOUND WAVES 15

BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello my sweet Bar Flies! October! Goblins, Ghouls and Ghosts galore!! One of my favorite months. But first a recap of my September Shenanigans!

Stopped to pay tribute to our local firefighters at a fundraiser in Mystic for B.F. Hoxie! Thank you, Rock Star Responders!



Quite the crowd, tons of vendors, some food trucks..and of course the music! DAN WATSON was up on stage when I got there, NICK BOSSE was up next then a LYNRYD SKYNYRD Tribute Band! Pretty cool! Hope this is the first of many to come!



Also, made it to my 8th?? HANGAR PARTY at DONNEY AVIATION! Always a good time when SUGAR plays and the Girls are with me! GERI, BARBARA, GINA, AMY, TAMI, BROOKE and oh yeah JOHN TRAVOLTA and UMA THURMAN from PULP FICTION! Dancing like no tomorrow! The theme was dress as your favorite movie character. I chose BETH DUTTON of YELLOWSTONE Fame. I wore my stetson. I was kinda amazing. Just sayin' :)!

Just got home from my 11th??

16 SOUND WAVES



MITCHFEST at the KNICKERBOCKER CAFE! The whole damn town was there, as well as many travelers. I met so many new people! And hung with people I haven't in years!



LUCKY from back in the day New London Bar Owner Days was there with his girlfriend looking Fly in his fedora, just about the Entire CHRISTINA Clan was there, including BOBBY, BUFFY, FRAN, DAVE and BUFFY CHRISTINA'S grandson who just wanted to see the trains!

I had drinks with LAURI LEE, picked the brain of SHAWN the sound guy, and MARK, the manager of the KNICK! Met SAM PICCOLO'S wife TRISH, RUFUS on piano guy, some cool saxophone and trumpet guys and finally got my pic with CHRIS LEIGH!

Absolutely Fabulous event! O! And saw Miss KIT CHRISTINA, who along with a friend, was up on stage, continuing the family legacy! Go, girl!



Yikes! And I heard I missed Rock and Roll crowd at PHOENIX to see KILLIN' IT! I promise! Next time! Keep on Rockin'!

Romper Stomper Bomper Boo! Who's celebrating a Birthday in this Super Scary Month? I see NICHOLAS CONSTANTINE, PAUL FURMAN, GERI HALPERIN-MORAN, DAMIEN CARSON, JOE BOMSTER, JIM "BUFFY" CHRISTINA, JEN FLAHERTY WHIPPLE, ROY JARVIS, DAWN DINWOODIE FERREIRA, MIKE BOMSTER, ALICIA O'NEILL, TOM BELL, SUE MITCHELL, ALENE WHIPPLE, RICHARD ELVIN, ED CULLEN, ED HABEREK, RHONDA RUSSELL DEMPSEY, JOHN MAXSON, MELISSA BSIN, the Twins JIMMY and LEVEN and JOEL REID! Happy Birthday to All!

This month? All weather dependent. May head to FANTASY FEST for another year of costumes,, body paint and debauchery.. or may just head to a couple of local HALLOWEEN PARTIES! Maybe SAMANTHA'S, maybe AMY'S?? We'll see!

DEAN ROCHA will be playing with a Super punk MISFITS cover band At the GERMAN CLUB in Mystic.

I'll keep you in the loop!! Oh, btw THIRSTY ANGEY BEAVER is kinda awesome if you go when 10 million other people aren't there! And Congratulations! COCO'S SALON! #1 in the WESTERLY SUN READER'S CHOICE AWARDS. Freakin' Awesome! Love you long time, my sweet Flies! Ciao..for now!



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DINING OUT

“Mañana Café: Comfortable, Authentic Food ”

By Elizabeth Saede

A wood plaque inside Mañana Café declares, “As for me and my house, we will serve tacos. Margaritas 24:7.” The open room emanates warm colors, sun and fish images, upbeat music, and smiles. I discover this is no deep-fried haven of mediocrity but is a thoughtful representation of authentic Mexican cuisine in a casual package. The Café opened ten years ago at 970 Poquonock Road in Groton across from Big Y supermarket.

Frequent diners favor chef’s specials like today’s Baked Flounder Primavera with Warm Spinach Salad. The regular menu includes familiar enchiladas, tortas, chiles Rellenos, carne asada tacos, and Tex-Mex favorites like burritos, taco salad, and fajitas. The vegetarian-friendly menu also offers fish tacos, grilled chicken tacos, and tuna ceviche, but I trust a friend’s recommendation and order flounder.



A virgin tamarind margarita provides a sweet counterpoint to an order of mild salsa and freshly-made chips. The salsa bears no resemblance to the tomato sauce bases and intense heat common in jarred sauces. My dining companion, Amber, ventures into new territory with grapefruit soda and declares it delicious with the salsa and chips.

Jalapeño tamales enrobe a mixed



cheese center and nestle in tangy tomatillo salsa with crema drizzle. The heat from the pepper is minimal but delicious with the vibrant salsa. A carrot, zucchini, and red cabbage slaw and a mound of perfectly flavored tomato rice adorn the plate. Wide planks of cooked carrot and jalapeño slices overlay Baked Flounder Primavera which is accompanied by flavorful rice and warm spinach salad. The creamy Mañana dressing on both salads ends with delightful warm note, a reminder of Mexican influences. Fresh lime is the perfect accent to moist flounder enveloped in warm seasonings and vegetable flecks. Cheese-filled Chiles Rellenos arrive battered, deep-fried, and served with tomato sauce. No food is overly spicy or unnecessarily complicated as flavors and textures enhance rather than mask fresh ingredients. It feels slightly decadent to dine on beautiful food that would command higher prices in a different zip code. #eatGroton

An observant New York City chef was first to recognize the culinary skills of his dishwasher, Martín Zavala. Martín worked hard to produce his family’s traditional recipes while also developing vibrant modern Mexican cuisine. Once Martín found someone who truly understood and loved

food the way he did, he and Genine Primeaux married. Then, the pair relocated to Southeast CT to launch Zavala in 2002 in New London with her family, then Milago in Stonington Borough. Mañana Café came along a few years later. Comforting, authentic Mexican food inspires a devoted following.

The industrious owners of Mañana Café, Justin Primeaux, Genine and Martín Zavala, and Janice Loomis support Martín’s culinary dedication. Gracious servers Erika, Erica, and talented bartender Carlos provide excellent service. Most of the cohesive team has been together for years. Justin regularly treats staff to lunch from nearby restaurants and encourages time off to visit distant family. Justin respects the people he works with and supports their well-being in meaningful ways, but he never planned to run a restaurant.

Justin was planning an extended tour of Europe when his family and sister, Genine, talked him into opening a restaurant. Covid’s devastating limitations dimmed the lights for a while, but Mañana Café expanded take-out orders and was buoyed by a temporary allowance to include alcoholic drinks. The entire team is grateful for ongoing community support.

For months, Justin fed a stray cat outside the restaurant before bringing him to his Noank home. With a twinkle in his eye, Justin says, “Orange Kitty came for the food but stayed for the love.” Justin also adopted a mostly-blind kitten and dubbed the short-legged, long-torso newcomer “Queequeg” (from Moby Dick). Both felines enjoy indoor life, companionship, and pampering while Justin heads to a quiet cottage in Scotland for well-deserved rest. Martín and the staff enjoy experimenting with new recipes but will likely resist the urge to



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create Mexican haggis.

I return at lunchtime, intent on flan, but my rational brain presses me to eat healthy food first. No regrets; the black bean soup is creamy simplicity topped with minced onion, cilantro, and a decorative drizzle of crema. I devour it. Black bean soup is a lunchtime staple, while tortilla chicken and other soups are available at dinner. I finish with house-made flan custard in a pool of slightly smoky caramel sauce. My server, Erica, and the kitchen produce both dishes quickly for me to enjoy a leisurely bite. Nearby, a cross-section of folks savor meals and comfortable surroundings without appearing rushed.

Families are always welcome, and staff graciously accommodate food sensitivities. Several friends mention how fabulous the hand-crafted margaritas, Mexican beer, and mixed drinks are. Justin says, "I want people to come in, have a good time, and enjoy some food." Regular customers return for good food, exceptional drinks, friendly staff, and a visit with Justin. Quick stops often extend into dinner, but there's no rush to go home when the food and drinks are

this good.

970 Popuonnock Rd. Groton 860-440-8301 Closed Mon. Open Tues. - Fri. 11-3 and 5-9 pm, Sat. & Sun. 12-3 and 5-9 pm. Reservations are suggested, and specials are posted daily at Mañana Café on Facebook.



Elizabeth Saede is a freelance writer and the author of Lobster Summer who has published articles and photos in ThisIsMystic.com, Mystic Neighbors magazine, The Day, and elsewhere. She loves to kayak, boat, fish, and promote this gorgeous shoreline community where notable food and entertainment thrive. ElizabethSaede@gmail.com





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LAUREN ANDERSON

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** From her website: This soulful rocker, originally from Chicago, has had a passion for singing throughout her entire life. Growing up in a household that was rich in music, her influences were widely varied from artists such as Susan Tedeschi, Bonnie Raitt, The Pointer Sisters, Eva Cassidy, Etta James, Joss Stone, Jason Mraz, Black Eyed Peas, Christina Aguilera, and many more. In 2012, Lauren began performing solo gigs around the greater Kansas City area and eventually put together a full band. Lauren released her first, full-length CD titled, "Truly Me" in August 2015. And two of the singles were recorded in the legendary Ocean Way Nashville Studios. In 2016. Shortly after these releases she finally made the leap into becoming a full-time musician and moved to Nashville in February 2017. Since moving to Nashville, Lauren has continued to tour and release new music. Her album, "Love on the Rocks" that was released in the summer of 2021 debuted at #14 on the Billboard Blues Chart, #4 on Roots Music Report & #21 on the NACC Blues Charts. Anderson has opened for bands such as Beth Hart, Ana Popovic and Mike Zito.

Speaking of Mike Zito, back in 2019 he was one of my earlier music reviews I did for Sound Waves Magazine. Mike is also an excellent music producer and has either produced or performed as a guest guitarist in eight of my previous music artist reviews. Getting back to Lauren Anderson, when I found her assignment on my desk there was a sticky note attached from our editor giving Anderson the thumbs up and this time I definitely do agree as you will see when we

get into her music. Anderson's band consists of: Matt Doctor- Drums, Hutch- Bass, Don Wecht- Guitar, Jonathan Smith- Keys, Joe Douglas- Sax/Flute. Guest Guitarists, Al Castiglia, and John Salaway.

Right out of the gate on her first track "Burn It All Down" starts her album with a heavy duty rock tune that would get anyone going. A strong steady beat ala Matt Doctor on drums and the whaling guitar playing of Dan Wecht, a killer combination. On the second track "Soul Is Mine" Anderson shows she is not afraid of trying different effects to add texture to her music such as the very noticeable compressed de-esser effect on her vocals (sounds like vocals through an old telephone). Speaking of not afraid of trying new things, how about a totally different genre? In "Lose My Head" Anderson delves into a fun country style tune. Where the bass of Hutch, and the keys of Jonathan Smith really shine. And no blues album is complete without a sultry, bump & grind tune and on this album it's the track titled "I Know" where the band gets down and dirty, and the heartfelt vocals of Anderson are layered on top. Perfect tune for a smoky, gin joint as couples strut the dance floor.

On "Hit The Spot" Anderson showcases the entire band and everyone gets their chance to shine with exceptional guitar, great drumming, and love that touch of fuzz on bass. On the track titled "Still Here" is yet another genre as the band plays with a country, waltzy flair and "Rain Down On Me" is another smoky blues rendition where Anderson showcases her amazing voice from soft and smooth to rock hard and determined. The Hammond organ style keys on this track is an unexpected treat, I think I also hear an electric xylophone with echo effect playing in the background. This track and the title track "Burn It All Down" just might be my favorite. One thing to add that I didn't notice until I heard the album a couple times is what an incredible song writer Anderson is. And it took a couple times because her music just takes you away but when you really listen, you'll find her lyrics are heartfelt and really say something. Lauren Anderson is a double threat (song writer/performer) in the music industry and there is no doubt one day she will have her day in the sun. With all that said I obviously give this album a strong BUY recommendation, and a great addition to your CD collection. Available on LaurenAndersonMusic.com/shop, and

on Amazon.com.

Until Next Time – Adrian Webb



Randy McAllister

"Power Without Power"

Reaction Records

Randy McAllister remains true to his East Texas, down home origins with his latest album, Power Without Power. Featuring ten original songs and one Sam Cooke cover, McAllister's gruff voice demonstrates surprising tonal range (that is, he hits some high notes) and a remarkable range of expressiveness and emotion. To this he adds some free-ranging, bluesy harmonica, with inflections conjured to embellish and expand on the accompanied song.

What makes this album even more special, is the Power Without Power aspect of it: this is an acoustic, unplugged album, featuring Brandon Hudspeth and Howard Mahon on various guitars, including some mean slide guitar. The sheer simplicity of this arrangement (with added vocals by Heather Newman and Jack McAllister) demonstrates the sheer power that a vocal talent like Randy McAllister can bring to a musical work. On (Somebody) Ease My Troublin' Mind, McAllister's voice is all one really needs to hear to be fully entertained and informed: the substantial, acoustic guitar solo adds a flavoring that is just a pleasure to hear. All this is delivered over the rhythmic strumming of a single, acoustic guitar (McAllister has not utilized his other musical talent, as a drummer and percussionist; one assumes, to spotlight the acoustic and organic sound he clearly was seeking).

Sweet Spot unleashes the harmonica of Randy McAllister, seasoning this swamp blues number with some well-addressed spice, with a taste of resonator guitar. C'mon Brothers and Sisters gives the guitars room to move in still new directions, and the music rolls on. The next song brings the pace down to a slow, bluesy pace, with guitar fills answering mournful reminiscences for a past of childhood abandonment; answered by

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Not Everybody Leaves (Her Words), a song about letting go to make space for a new life.

Randy McAllister's Power Without Power is a must-have album for fans of somewhat gritty, Texas backcountry, swamp blues, played to an exceptional level on a talent-exposing arrangement of all-acoustic instruments. More info may be found at www.randymcallister.com.

- Jon Persson



JOHNNY RAWLS

"Going Back To Mississippi"

Third Street Cigar Records

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as a solo artist and made his first solo recording and has released more than 15 albums since his debut solo album, *Here We Go*. Johnny has released albums under various labels such as Third Street Cigar Records, and his own label Deep South Soul, which he created in 2002. The Blues Music Awards frequently recognize Johnny's work and to date, ten of Johnny's albums have been nominated for Soul Blues Album of the Year with "Ace of Spades" winning in 2010, and "I'm Still Around" winning in 2019. Johnny has been nominated for Soul Blues Male Artist eleven times, and received one nomination for Blues Song of the Year. Roots Music Report declared Johnny's 2017 release, "Waiting for the Train," one of the top 50 blues albums of the year. *(taken in part from his BIO page; JohnnyRawlsBlues.com).

When I saw this assignment on my desk I was thrilled to get a chance to re-review an artist I reviewed two years ago when Johnny Rawls came out with "Where Have All The Soulmen Gone" back in 2020. Most of you know that my reviews contain specific technical suggestions directed to the artist and believe it or not, on a rare occasion an artist I reviewed would actually contact me and thank me for those suggestions. No, Johnny Rawls did not contact me this time but the improvements in his latest album "Going Back To Mississippi" speak for themselves. This body of work is a huge improvement over his last album I reviewed, so let's get into it -

Johnny Rawls band consists of Johnny Rawls: vocals, guitar, and keyboard - Alberto Marsico: vocals and keyboard - Kenan Ozdemir: vocals and guitar - Levent Ozdemir: vocals and drums - Erkan Ozdemir: bass - Larry Reid: guitar solo on tracks 6, and 7. The horn section consists of Travis Geiman: trombone - and Mike Williams: alto sax.

As I delved into the first track "Midnight Train" you can immediately hear Rawls' great guitar paying taking center stage, and what stands out in "Reap What You Sew" is the great blend of his horn section. Most listeners who hear horns on a track don't realize the complexity of horn arrangement and when and where the horns are placed into a song. The title track "Going Back To Mississippi" is where Johnny Rawls' vocals really shine. He shows his love of his home state with a soulful and heartfelt rendition. Of course his guitar playing and the horn section also give a great performance but it's the vocals that stand out on this one. "If You Ever Get Lonely" shows Rawls' tender side but I don't think he realized how repetitious the horns sound. In "I Got It" Rawls gives Motown music the nod and does a

great job. On this track Rawls adds a sprinkling of back up singers which is only icing on the cake.

I can easily see the Temptations or the fictional band Otis Day And The Knights from the 1978 film National Lampoon's Animal House (Remember them? Great movie!) performing this song. And "Nooki Nooki" is another feel good Motown style song. How can you not grin when a grown man is singing about Nooki-Nooki??

On the other hand, the bluesy ballads of "Your Love", and "Amazing Love" are not only repetitious but very vanilla, especially "Your Love". You almost feel they were added as "fill". But as we move on to the next track, it's clear the best was saved for last with "Love Machine". An unmistakable straight-up boogie woogie tune with a great rhythm and blues theme. On this track it's the keys and horns that take center stage. Think of "The Blues Brothers" playing with their smooth horns, and the band following to a steady rhythm that makes you wanna dance. The only regret I have for "Love Machine" is that it ended too early. This song created an ideal situation for an all out band-jam where every member of the band would show-off their talent with a little improvising. As I said earlier, on this album Johnny Rawls has made great improvement over his last. The song structure is more complex and the track placement is much better too. Overall I give this album a strong buy recommendation. As a matter of fact I am placing a couple of these songs on my personal play list. Johnny Rawls, "Going Back To Mississippi" available on Amazon.com

Until Next Time - Adrian Webb



Kevin Danzig
"The Holland Cafe"

Kevin Danzig has been plying his craft of singer/songwriter in the folk world of storyteller, complete with guitar and harmonica, for over thirty years. His travels across

America have of late been more centered around his home base in Colorado, though with the release of his eleventh studio album he is venturing forth to the further reaches of America, beginning with a trip to our own northeastern States in October.

The new album opens with *She's An Artist*, from whose lyrics the album title derives. This song has been kept simple and direct so as to not distract from the story it tells: of young Sara, who works at the Holland Cafe in London, England, and thereby supports her true passion for painting. Her workplace offers a space for the displaying of her "masterpieces," giving patrons a glimpse into the world seen through the mirroring eyes of the artist, who observes her subjects in their most unguarded moments.

As the album progresses, Danzig is joined at various points by producer Ken E. Keller on bass, Jimmy Brotherton on drums, Doug Rees on slide guitar, and Taylor Miinch on vocals. The result is both a variety and greater depth to the music, a bit of rock, soul, and swamp blues that accentuates the underlying theme of telling stories. *The Shadow Of The Arch* takes this to the future time of 2103, a look at our world falling to the inevitable wearing down of time. Another *Side Of New York* is a 9/11 tale, poignant as any such story must be, set to some very nicely done, Spanish flavored acoustic guitar.

The First Tourist in Outer Space harkens back to a recent time when Russia was engaged in peaceful, often quirky, relations with the world, including Dennis Tito's self-funded trip for nearly eight days in space, via a Russian Soyuz ship. Throughout this album, Kevin Danzig provides vocals which are easy to listen to, and to understand. His guitar work is clean, often quick and driving the songs in a light and entertaining way. This is an album for the followers of folk stories, with the prospect of some local live performances in the coming weeks. More info may be found at www.kevindanzig.com, or [kevindanzigmusic](https://www.facebook.com/kevindanzigmusic) on Facebook.

Kevin Danzig is visiting friends in CT and will be playing at Angie's Pizza Friday October 28th. Check him out if you get a chance.

- Jon Persson



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CHRIS CANAS

"Detroit"

Third Street Cigar Records

Before I get into the music of Chris Canas I want to tip my hat to "Third Street Cigar Records" for continuing to provide Sound Waves Magazine with fresh, up and coming artists as well as the proven winners like Johnny Rawls. Why do I say this? Because my last review on a Third Street Cigar Records artist was less than favorable and yet they are not afraid to continue our relationship. Most of the time when a record label gets a tarnished review we never hear from them again. Kudos to Third Street Cigar Records because this time it really paid off with earning two winning reviews.

Third Street Cigar Records really found gold with Chris Canas because when you add funk to blues you get "Detroit" blues and this is what Chris Canas does so well. At age 15 Canas wrote his first album "Shades of Blue", and at age 18 he hooked up with the legendary "Queen Of Blues", Thornetta Davis who took him under her wing. This opened his eyes up to the rich Detroit Music scene as well as exposed him to countless experienced musicians. His main blues influencer was BB King. In 2003 Chris formed the Chris Canas Band and has shared the stage with many great performers such as: Joe Bonamassa, Johnny Bassett, Oscar Brown Jr, Ralphie Armstrong, and many others. The Chris Canas Band has a well-blended set of coaster like originals that keep the audience captivated and coming back for more. With their diverse mix of Blues, Funk, and Soul they are always well equipped to bring the party wherever they go.

Chris Canas Band consists of: Chris Canas – vocals & guitar, DC Washington – bass, and Marc Anthony – drums. Danny Pratt – Harmonica, Mickey Biddle – organ, Nicki Brown – lap steel guitar, Travis Geman – trombone, Ben DeLong – trumpet, Bob Manley – tenor Sax, Ray Benson – backup vocals. All the music on this album was composed, arranged, and performed by

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Chris Canas. Canas' selection of seasoned musicians to form his band is excellent. They meld together beautifully, while drummer Marc Anthony keeps a creative beat going throughout. When reviewing an artist I usually listen to the album three or more times but on the first time around I could feel the energy with heart-wrenching vocals, pulse pounding rhythms, and the amazing guitar talents of Chris Canas. Seriously, if you remain still while listening to this album you better check your pulse to make sure you're still alive...

"Detroit" opens with the title track "Detroit" with a heavy, hard hitting funk rendition. A listener is immediately taken by storm with Canas raspy, commanding voice and amazing guitar playing. You can hear the influences of Tower of Power, Average White Band, and Earth Wind & Fire on this track as well as many of the other album tracks too.

In "Blues, Blues, Blues" Canas introduces his horn section that blends beautifully with their funky blues harp and it definitely steals the show. "Juke Joint Jive" is an old school Jump and Jive style song, a fast paced soul shaker. I dare you to try and be still during this one, and "Queen Of My World" is an all out love lost, cry in your beer, bluesy ballad where Canas does an amazing emotional vocal performance while the guitar, organ and horns are equally amazing on this track. A strong contender as one of my favorites of this album. Definitely going on my personal play list. And when I heard the next track "You Don't Give A Damn" it quickly brought a smile to my face with memories of the S L O W songs playing at my high school dance. Yep, I was forced to attend parochial school and the Nuns would walk around the gym to make sure there was a visible gap between the couples. Thank God they never figured out we spiked our cans of Pepsi with rum... In "A Good Man About To Break Bad" is a hard driving blues, and no ifs, ands, or buts about it Canas pulls all the stops and invites every band member to strut

their stuff. Although "Shoot From The Hip" has a similar rhythm, that's where the similarity ends with Canas delivering different twist on every track. I don't consider myself a Funk connoisseur but with "Smoke In The City" I hear whispers of Kool And The Gang, and MC Hammer. Parachute pants anyone? And stranger than strange, the last track "Put It In The Pot" reminds me of the British band "Haircut One Hundred" which only attests to once again show the diverse talent of Chris Canas. It's a great high energy tune, heck – it's a high energy album and it will put anyone in high gear. Combine listening to "Put It In The Pot" with a cup of strong coffee and it's Go Time!. On a final note, my hats off to the sound engineers on this project showing their excellent skill and experience by producing clear, crisp tones throughout. Everyone sounds great on this album. Chris Canas "Detroit" available on Amazon and Apple Music.

Until Next Time – Adrian Webb



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“Jimmy & Shelly”

97.7 WCTY-FM

By Adrian Webb

When it comes to local Country Radio Celebrities there are none nicer, or more down to earth than Jimmy Lehn (spelled “Lane” on all his social media), and Shelly Martinez who are the morning radio show jocks at WCTY-FM. Jimmy and Shelly have been nominated twice for an ACM award, and one CMA small market radio personalities award. They have also been the Reader’s Choice Best Radio Personalities for five years in a row. Before I get into my interview with Jimmy & Shelly let me briefly digress. How did I snag a tour of the inner sanctum at WCTY and an interview with two of the top country music radio jocks? Funny you should ask that... While at our family reunion BBQ this summer my cousin Ed Gauthier introduced me to Jimmy, and as it turns out Jimmy is a Gauthier family friend. Upon our meeting I could immediately tell that Jimmy was friendly and very approachable and while we were talking, the Sound Waves writer gears were turning in my head. Sound Waves Magazine has been a local icon for over 30 years, and WCTY has been around for over 50 years – What a great match to combine forces. I ran my idea by our Editor, got the green light and the rest is history. Within a few days Jimmy contacted me and offered a very generous invitation for a radio station tour and interview. And a big thanks to Ed for helping to make this happen. As I always say; “If you shake the family tree – You never know what you’ll find”.

So, interview day arrived and it was raining cats & dogs. I was awakened from a deep sleep by a shrieking alarm at the ungodly hour of 6:30am, but it was definitely worth it. My regular readers already know that I am a Big country music fan and the radio in my car is always set to 97.7 WCTY no kidding, it really is! Needless to say this was a treat for me. As I walked into the radio station Jimmy was in the lobby waiting for me and after our meet & greet he proceeded to show me around the station where all the magic happens. Jimmy also introduced me to the station manager, Andy Russell, and their news director, Marty Hausberger. WCTY-FM is owned by Hall Communications, a conglomerate of seventeen AM & FM radio stations spanning across four states. Six of those radio stations are right here in Connecticut each with different genres such as Country, Rock, Pop, News & Sports.

Jimmy Lehn’s radio career started in 1980 and he has worked at several radio stations in Wisconsin, Texas, Louisiana, Ohio and Indiana. It wasn’t until he had been working at WCTY for 15 years that he felt secure in his job enough to start unpacking his boxes. For the last 15 years his partner has been Shelly Martinez and they have the most amazing relationship, with on air and off air chemistry. Shelly on the other hand got all her radio experience when she started as an intern for WCTY’s Jimmy and Karen in the Morning show. As their intern she would occasionally do fill-in’s, gained experience and when Karen Kowolski left WCTY, Shelly was invited as the replacement co-host on WCTY’s Morning Show. That’s how the award winning “Jimmy & Shelly Morning Show” was born.

After the radio station tour was over it was time for our

interview and Jimmy found us a quiet room where the three of us could talk. We had a pleasant back & forth conversation on several topics such as Jimmy giving great insight into his history and views on Country music, and Shelly shared her personal crusade supporting M.A.D.D. and her inspiring story as drunken driver victim survivor. Lets begin...

Adrian: You both have a great rapport with personalities that compliment each other but share with me how you keep having new things to talk about day after day?

Jimmy: Over time it becomes natural. I decide what topic is coming out of my mouth and Shelly plays along. She practically predicts what I’m going to say before I say it.

Adrian: So how long have you both been a team?

Shelly: Since “05”, 17 years. I was an intern here at the station and someone told me they were looking for women voices. Jimmy and his former partner Karen Kowolski were very supportive and encouraged me. They asked me to try out on the radio and liked my voice and when Karen left, Jimmy asked for me to be his co-host.

Jimmy: You know, Shelly was a victim of a terrible drunk driving accident and nearly killed.

Adrian: Oh my God Shelly, tell us about it.

Shelly: It was on Mother’s day in “07” when I was leaving a concert at the Casino when I was hit by a drunk driver and nearly killed. I had a broken neck and had to go through several operations and learn to walk again. I was out of the studio for five months. Although I was only at the station a couple of years they paid for me to broadcast from my bedroom. It was and still is terrible, I am in constant pain with neuropathy throughout my body, and I have a metal rod that runs down from the base of my skull to the middle of my back. This is very personal and painful for me to talk about and I didn’t like talking about it until I read in the paper that another young lady “Elizabeth Durante” was only 21 and also hit by a drunk driver and we decided it was time to talk about it.

Jimmy: This was very high profile on all the news station, and allot has come out of this. Mohegan Sun Casinos has adopted new drinking policies and awareness for all their bartenders to learn such as only serving 2 drinks per hour per customer and being more aware if a patron looks impaired.

Shelly: And Jimmy has a sister with Multiple Sclerosis (M.S.) and as I give my support to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Jimmy supports the M.S. Foundation. So we get to do things that are personal to us.

Adrian: That is so great how you use your radio platform to support causes that mean something special to you and create public awareness. Now moving onto music. So Jimmy, how did you develop your love of Country Music?, And do you feel country music is evolving into other genres so as to appeal to a broader audience?

Jimmy: Adrian, I get asked that all the time and all I can say is that I was a country music fan since very young, I remember at age nine never missing the Johnny Cash show. And as for your question on country music changing I see country music as always evolving. If you look at traditional country music in the 70's of Ernest Tubbs and Hank Williams, and then Ray Price came along who started what would be considered modern country music at the time and people would complain. I think one of the things that makes country music great is you have a country music artist like Walker Hayes that is very appealing to young-young people and may not appeal to the older generation of country music fans but the Walker Hayes fans would then stick around and listen to Kenney Chesney & Blake Sheldon and say that's pretty good stuff too.

Adrian: Yeah, we've come a long way since Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs performed the theme song to "The Beverly Hillbillies" back in '62.

Where do you see country music is going from here?

Shelly: Everyday amazes us when someone comes up with something new like Walker Hayes. We love his music, it's fun, we know the words and sing along.

Jimmy: I love discovering and a fan of new artists like Elle King. People say she isn't country because she gets played on pop radio but now gets played on country radio too.

Shelly: Look at Parker McCullum.

Adrian: What kind of music testing does the industry do to tell which songs hit the mark and which don't?

Jimmy: After a record has been played a couple hundred times on the radio they bring people in and ask if they like the song, if they want to hear more of the song, or less of the song, or if it's being played too many times, etc. This is also how the music charts are made.

Before I overstay my welcome I want to thank you both for allowing my readers a peek behind the WCTY curtain and get a little insight on all the wonderful work you do for country music and the community. I'll be catching you on the radio.

As we concluded our interview I walked away with a comfortable and pleasant feeling of just having spent the morning with old friends rather than country radio celebrities. Both of them as well as the rest of the station crew were very friendly and inviting. I only hope my readers enjoyed the behind the scenes look at WCTY-FM as well as the personal side of one of the areas beloved Country radio jocks. On a side note, thank you Jimmy for turning me on to Elle King. A suggestion to my readers is the Elle King, Miranda Lambert - "Drunk" video on YouTube. Great music and very entertaining too.

Some of the up coming WCTY events include M.A.D.D. About LOCASH at the Mohegan Sun Wolf Den Saturday Oct. 1 at 8:00pm, and from Fri Sept. 30th to Sun Oct 2 there's a SILENT AUCTION which will also be at Mohegan with many items donated by the shops at Mohegan Sun Casinos. All proceeds will go to benefit M.A.D.D. And WCTY will also be at the Norwich "Big Y" for their annual food drive on Nov. 3-4.

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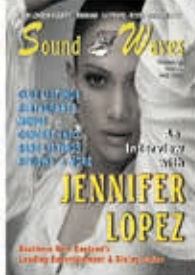
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HOLDING SPACE FOR EACH OTHER

New London's LGBTQ+ Community

TUESDAY, 10.11.22 | 7PM

An oral history of local activities, bars, politics, and organizations from the 1960s to today.

SPEED DATING LIVE! ON STAGE

FRIDAY, 10.14.22 | 8PM (OASIS ROOM)

Cheer on new love and cringe as strangers speed date live on stage, and help decide who is ready for love!

THE NEXT BIG THING! KARAOKE COMPETITION

FRIDAY, 10.28.22 | 7PM

The biggest karaoke competition New England has ever seen!
Compete and perform on the historic Garde Theatre's stage.

THE MACHINE PERFORMS PINK FLOYD

SATURDAY, 10.29.22 | 8PM

America's premier Pink Floyd show for more than 30 years is back on the Garde stage!

LINDSEY BUCKINGHAM

THURSDAY, 11.10.22 | 8PM

A Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee and 3-time GRAMMY winner, Buckingham is best known as the producer, guitarist, vocalist, and chief songwriter for Fleetwood Mac and as a widely celebrated solo artist.

MICHAEL W. SMITH

SATURDAY, 11.12.22 | 7PM

Awakening Foundation Events presents Michael W. Smith, The WayMaker Tour, with special guest Jon Reddick for an unforgettable night of music and worship.

BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY

SUNDAY, 11.13.22 | 4PM

From London to New London, the award-winning Broadway musical returns to the Garde, in this musical biography told through twenty of Buddy Holly's greatest hits.

INDIGO GIRLS

SATURDAY, 12.3.22 | 8PM

The GRAMMY Award-winning American folk rock music duo of Amy Ray and Emily Saliers began performing together in high school outside of Atlanta, GA, and are recipients of the 2022 Americana Music Association's Spirit of Americana Lifetime Achievement Award.

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