



SMOKEN NEWS
October



351 Washington Street, Brighton, MA 02135 617-254-5227
Special Eddie's Allstars Anniversary Edition

Dear Family and Friends,

Welcome to the October edition of the Smoken' News.

We have a very special Tuesday night coming up. October 4th is Eddie Sheer's Allstars first anniversary and we have a big celebration in store. Be sure to make a reservation or show up early for this great big party. In honor of the celebration, one of our Tuesday night Usual Suspects - Soul Alley has produced a surprise video for the event. You can view it at <http://www.youtube.com/soulalley421> . While you are there please check out the new material she has been working on. She will be back at Smoken' Joe's next month on November 11th.

This month we have scheduled two special weekends of music. The first is a weekend of guitar featuring 2 incredible players with vastly different styles. Starting on October 14th Willie McBlind features guitar player Jon Catler. This is a blues band of the original tradition. The "blue note" which defines the early 20th century blues comes from use of tones in between our 12 tone western scale. For us slightly older folks, remember Robert Fripp from King Crimson? Contrast this with the swampy delta sound of Barrett Anderson the next night, October 15th. Here you will find that thick sweet melodies that characterized a lineage from John Lee Hooker to George Thorogood. Barrett has written a nice article in this issue of the newsletter on the influence of Son House to his music.

The following weekend we will feature two contrasting sounds of women singers. Friday October 21st the Tristates return with a night of girl-group harmonies and blues-rock sounds. On the following night, Lydia Warren belts out her own contemporary blues sounds while trading guitar licks with her co-conspirator Josh Fulero.

Back by popular demand we have introduced a new brunch from 10 to 2 on Sundays. Joe and his kitchen crew have put together a limited menu of southern favorites that I think you will really love. Our opening day on October 2nd was a huge success.

We have details on these and other stories below. I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I have. Ken out-did himself.

Cheers!

October Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Geoff Bartley w/ Special Guest 7PM	Alan Arena Open Mic 7PM	Eddie's Allstars 1st Anniversary Party Toni Lynn Washington, Mike Williams, Mario Perrett 7:30PM	Chris Renna's Chromatophones 7:30PM	First Thursday of Each Month: Nate Stringfield's HouseKwake 8:30PM	Track 44 9PM	Johnny Bluehorn & The Caretakers 9PM
October 9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sara Thompson 7PM	Bruce Marshall Open Mic 7PM	Eddie Scheer Halfway to Mardi Gras Night w/ Henri Smith & Amadee Castenell 7:30PM	Alizon Presents: Ricky "King" Russell 7:30PM	Dave B & The Hotshots 8:30PM	From New York: Willie McBlind 9PM	Barrett Anderson Trio 9PM
October 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Geoff Bartley w/ Special Guest 7PM	Bruce Marshall Open Mic 7PM	Eddie Scheer w/ Racky Thomas & Pete Henderson 7:30PM	Alizon Presents: Quartet w/ Erin Harpe, Rosy Rosenblatt, Ed Scheer 7:30PM	Michelle Willson 8:30PM	The Tristates 9PM	Lydia Warren & The Neurotics 9PM
October 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Geoff Bartley w/ Special Guest 7PM	Bruce Marshall Open Mic 7PM	Eddie Scheer Guitar Summit w/ Lydia Warren & Big Jack Ward 7:30PM	Alizon's Monthly Jam 7:30PM	Tokyo Tramps 8:30PM	Bruce Marshall Group 9PM	Shirley Lewis Band 9PM

Upcoming Featured Artists

Blazing Blues Guitarists Weekend



Willie McBlind
Friday, October 14



Barrett Anderson Trio
Saturday, October 15

Photo by Ken Boege

Dazzling Women of Blues and Rock Weekend



The Tristates
Friday, October 21

Photo by Ken Boege



Lydia Warren & The Neurotics
Saturday, October 22

A *SMOKEN' Joe's* NEW BAND PREMIERE!

Wednesday, October 5 at 7:30

Chris Renna's Chromatophones

Many fans will remember Chris Renna's previous band, the Rennagades, with popular Sir Cecil on drums and vocals. In this new trio, Chris is digging ever deeper into the blues. This is how Chris describes his the new band and sound:

Like the changing colors of a sonic octopus, Chromatophones weave the melodies and rhythms that keep your Wednesday night flowing. Genre-bending Chris Renna on guitar and vocals, local blues and jazz veteran Justin Meyer on string bass and the dynamically groovy Mike Migliozi (of Moon Boot Lover fame) on drums and vocals. Chromatophones bring their version of blues, bluesy jazz and soulful latin-tinged jams.

Thursday, October 6 at 8:30PM

Nate Stringfield's HouseKwake

You asked for more Nate and we're giving you more Nate. From now on, Nate Stringfield and his high energy band will be performing at Smoken' Joe's on the first Thursday of every month.

Nate the great returns for another unforgettable night of great entertainment. Drums, vocals, MC, music arranger, music director, bandleader, and former member of The Stringfield Family, Nate Stringfield has done it all. While in Pittsburg, PA, Nathaniel and band members of the Stringfield family took to the road at a very young age, touring with such luminaries as Albert King, the Temptations, Three Dog Night, and many others. Today, Nate gives every minute of every performance his all. He is a supreme entertainer playing everything from John Lennon to Al green but what makes his music so unique are the complex arrangements and multi-layered harmony crafted for each song. Nate likes to say these songs are given the "Stringfield seasoning." We guarantee that when HouseKwake plays, the house will "kwake, rattle and roll".

Friday, October 7 at 9PM

Track 44

Track 44 is the team of Jimmy Pircio (guitars, vocals), Dan Savush (piano, Hammond organ, vocals), Joe Bellomo (drums, percussion) and Steve DuBois (bass, vocals). Ironically enough BBQ is what brought them together. Collectively, their work embodies a reverence for traditional blues playing with a contemporary feel. As music editor Bill Copeland puts it, "Blurring the distinction between blues and classic rock... Track44 puts to rest the notion that blues is a simplistic form..."

Saturday, October 8 at 9PM

Johnny Bluehorn & The Caretakers

Johnny Bluehorn has entertained countless fans of music in Boston and the Northeast region for more than twenty-five years. He has since become a double-barreled performer as both a trumpeter and vocalist encompassing a varied range of musical styles, from gritty Memphis R&B to rhythmic New Orleans second-line jazz; from swingin' Kansas City blues to heartfelt '70's soul. During these years he has put his talents to work by performing with a plethora of regional artists who have called upon the Blue Horn to add some special magic to their sound. These artists include the Love Dogs, Diane Blue, Mario Perrett, the Hot Tamale Brass band, Chris Fitz "Sax Gordon" Beadle and many others. A year ago Johnny Bluehorn launched a new phase in his career by fronting his latest project, Johnny Bluehorn and the Caretakers. Backed by some of the region's best instrumentalists, JBH sings and plays a soulful repertoire of music by a variety of artists, including some original compositions.

Thursday, October 13 at 8:30PM

Dave B & The Hotshots

Dave Birkin began his musical career as a member of the legendary Boston/Washington D.C. group "Powerhouse", sharing the stage with many blues masters of the time including Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, James Cotton, Matt "Guitar" Murphy, and James Montgomery. Together for almost 2 decades, Dave B and the Hot Shots retains three of its original members, Dave Birkin (sax/vocals), Mark Shelford (guitar/vocal) and Ken Steiner (acoustic bass/vocal), performing authentic New Orleans sounds from the late '40s through the mid '60s. Joining them will be Richard Malcolm (Shirley Lewis Band) on drums, and Jim Heffernan on keys.

Friday, October 14 at 9PM

From New York:

Willie McBlind

We are thrilled to have national recording artists, Willie McBlind, returning to Smoken' Joe's after their exhilarating performance last June to a packed house.

Recognized as both a blues great and an innovative music pioneer, Willie McBlind takes blues to new heights, drawing from a deep tradition as it heads towards the future. Based out of New York City, this trailblazing psychedelic electric Delta blues band is fronted by Jon Catler, the world's leading Harmonic guitarist (think Robert Fripp), and Babe Borden, known for her ability to sing any pitch Jon can play, combining forces to conjure up a fresh, dynamic and vibrant sound, and delivering a captivating live show. Willie McBlind's repertoire is expansive, ranging in mood from the explosive title song off their latest CD *Bad Thing*, to exciting new takes on Blind Willie Johnson's *Nobody's Fault But Mine* and Robert Johnson's *Stones in My Passway*. *Bad Thing* was named as one of the BEST CD'S OF 2010 in Downbeat Magazine in January 2011.

Reservations recommended for this special show.

Saturday, October 15 at 9PM

Barrett Anderson Trio

Since he was a teenager, blues singer and guitar player Barrett Anderson has been playing with some of the best in the business, sharing the stage with Muddy Waters' Band alumni Pinetop Perkins and Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin, and the internationally acclaimed Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters. In 2007, he went to North Mississippi and recorded his debut album, *All the Way Down*, with famed producer, Jimbo Mathius. He is currently back in the New England clubs he knows so well, performing in a trio, with veteran drummer Per Hanson (David Maxwell, Ronnie Earl) and Grammy nominee Ron Levy on B3, bringing his brand of "renegade" blues to ecstatic crowds and packed dance floors.

Be sure to read Barrett's feature story about Little Walter and how to approach a solo with dynamics later in this newsletter.

Thursday, October 20 at 8:30PM

Michelle Willson

A gifted swing and jump blues vocalist, Michelle Wilson — a native of the Boston area — began singing as a teenager, often fronting bands quixotically named after nonexistent members (for example, Mimi Jones and Alex Clayton). As a solo performer, she organized a well-received tribute to her singing idols Dinah Washington and Ruth Brown. Willson issued her debut LP, *Evil Gal Blues*, followed in 1996 by *So Emotional*. *Wake Up Call* marked her first release in the new millennium. She is joined by award-winning musician and songwriter, Scott Shetler on saxophone. He's been on the road all over the world with Michelle and on all four of her albums for Rounder Records, *Evil Gal Blues*, *So Emotional*, *Tryin' To Make a Little Love*, and *Wake Up Call*, and also did most of the horn arrangements.

Friday, October 21 at 9PM

The Tristates

Bringing together three members from the band, "Girls Night Out", one of the top New England girl bands of the 80's. The members include Didi Stewart on vocals, Alizon Lissance (vocals and keyboard), and famed guitarist and vocalist, Wendy Sobel. Wendy's scorching guitar riffs, riveting vocals and compelling songwriting is nothing short of electric. Joining them will be veteran drummer and singer, Ed Scheer. This collective force of musicians will heat things up with high energy girl group R&B, Blues, and Rock guaranteed to get your groove on.

Saturday, October 22 at 9PM

Lydia Warren and the Neurotics

At the core of The Neurotics is blues duo: Lydia Warren and Josh Fulero. Guitarist/singer Lydia Warren, a familiar face to New England blues fans, has been touring and recording since 2000. This summer she won the Granite State Blues Challenge, toured from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon, opened for Edgar Winter and Jonathan Edwards, and played the North Atlantic Blues Festival. Oregon native Josh Fulero is a veteran of the blues circuit and is fresh off the road from two national tours with Blind Pig recording artist John Nemeth and a recent tour of Europe. His guitar, harmonica and vocal skills have taken him from slots on the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise to sharing the stage with B.B. King at the 2009 Blues Music Awards.

Fans of Lydia will not want to miss her return performance with Eddie's Allstars on Tuesday, October 25.

Thursday, October 27 at 8:30PM

The Tokyo Tramps

"Don't be fooled by the look — or name. This three-piece band from Japan plays as if its musicians

were raised in the Deep South and brought up on Delta blues." - Boston Globe.

Quickly becoming a fan favorite here at Smoken' Joe's, The Tokyo Tramps were first formed in 2002. They are a popular blues/rock trio playing frequently throughout New England and beyond. In 2010 they won the River City Ohio Blues Competition and went on to compete at the 2011 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN. In February, 2011, The Tokyo Tramps were the runner-up in the 2010 WFNX best local R&B act category and in 2007 they won the WFNX best local blues act category. Please join us for an exciting night as we welcome the return of The Tokyo Tramps!

Friday, October 28 at 9PM

Bruce Marshall Group

Bruce Marshall, who coordinates Boston's best open mic every Monday night, returns with his entire band for this highly anticipated performance. Formed in 1991 the Bruce Marshall Group has been performing and recording steadily throughout the US since their inception, delighting crowds and garnering rave reviews at every stop. The Bruce Marshall Group live show treats their fans to a soaring ride as they rip through a catalogue of original material that truly sets this band apart. They love to mix it up, whether it's pulling off exciting jams that build with dynamics and layering, or playing the concise arrangements of their songs with discipline and taste. The sound defies categorization, slipping seamlessly around touches of Blues, R&B, Country Blues and Southern Boogie. Be sure not to miss the Bruce Marshall Group performing songs from their newest CD, "Misspent Youth".

Saturday, October 29 at 9PM

Shirley Lewis

We end the month with what will certainly be another amazing show by Boston's "Regal Queen of the Blues", Shirley Lewis. One of our favorite performers at Smoken' Joe's, Ms. Lewis is an award-winning blues artist, member of the Down Home Blues Society and all around legend in the Blues community. She began her career opening for such artist as BB King and Ike and Tina Turner. For Shirley, singing is like poetry and dance all in one, making people have fun while she is on stage. Shirley always fills the house so be sure to make a reservation early.

Smoken' Joe's Resident Artists



Photo by Ken Boege

Sundays at 7PM

Geoff Bartley and Friends

Geoff Bartley has been called both a prophet and the "Godfather of the Boston Folk Scene". He is best known for his prolific writing (having songs performed by the likes of Mary Black and John Gorka) and touring as a soloist and accompanist for Tom Paxton. He plays some mean acoustic blues and smoken' bluegrass, too. Each week he is joined by a special guest.

Schedule Changes:

Sunday, October 9 at 7PM

Sarah Thompson

Mondays at 7 PM

Bruce Marshall Open Mic

Bruce Marshall is a veteran musician of 34 years with national experience. He is a talented song writer, vocalist, guitarist, and he has led his own bands for years in the NE area and nationally as a member of the Toy Caldwell Band. Bruce Marshall brings these collective talents as he hosts our Open Mic night at Smoken' Joe's. It's an evening where seasoned pros and emerging artists share the stage to rock the house with their fiery fortitude. You'll hear original music, blues, folk, jazz, rock, cutting edge, old timey, to name a few. Come on in where the vibe is warm and the riffs are hot. All musicians welcome.

Schedule Change:

Monday, October 3 at 7 PM

Special Guest Host: Alan Arena



Photo by Ken Boege

Eddie Scheer's Tuesday Night Allstars



Eddie Scheer

Photo by Ken Boege

Eddie's Tuesday Night Allstars has become a Boston institution. It has earned the reputation as *the* place to be in Boston on any given Tuesday night. This music sensation has packed houses for every show and it's no wonder why. Eddie Scheer has filled the stage with the finest talent around and it has become a mecca for the finest blues musicians as they stop by late at night to join Eddie for a song or two.

All shows start at 7:30. This Fall, Eddie's lineup is stronger, cooler, and more exciting than ever. Here's what Eddie has in store for us this October:

***** Tuesday, October 4 *****

Please join Eddie for a very special night as we celebrate the one year anniversary of his amazingly popular Allstars series. With him will be the original guests from the inaugural show: Toni Lynn Washington, Mike Williams, and Mario Perrett. And how exactly do you celebrate a show that is known as the best party in town? You throw an even better and wilder party with even more talent and greatness. No one in their right mind, or otherwise, will want to miss this. Be sure to get there early. This will be fun!

Be sure to read the article Eddie wrote for this occasion later in this newsletter.

Tuesday, October 11

Halfway to Mardi Gras with Henri Smith and Amadee Castanell

Henri was born and raised in New Orleans, and spent many years entertaining in his native city as a musician and actor. A gifted vocalist and consummate entertainer, he has thrilled audiences all over the US and Europe with his New Orleans Jazz, Blues, Creole and Cajun flavored music. Joining him will be his old time friend, Amadee Castanell, the great tenor saxophonist from New Orleans.

Tuesday, October 18

Racky Thomas and Pete Henderson

Simply put, Racky is Boston's *coolest* bluesman. His gutsy vocals and down and dirty harmonica style are straight out of post-war Chicago and the Mississippi delta, and his music has been heard all over the world. Pete Henderson was the founder and leader of the once popular blues band, Fatwall Jack. These days he often freelances with Racky Thomas.

Tuesday, October 25

Guitar Summit with Lydia Warren and Big Jack Ward

Guitarist/singer Lydia Warren, a familiar face to New England blues fans, has been touring and recording since 2000. Last summer she won the Granite State Blues Challenge, toured from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon, opened for Edgar Winter and Jonathan Edwards, and played the North Atlantic Blues Festival. For this special night of blues she is joined by the queen of Boston's ivory whites, our resident keyboard artist extraordinaire, Alizon Lissance. Joining Lydia on guitar will be Big Jack Ward, a perennial favorite on the New England blues scene. For over ten years, Jack has been Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson's right hand man on guitar and vocals. His eloquent guitar playing and wry sense of humor will make you laugh, cry, and beg for more!

Another Great Show from Last Month's Allstars (September 6)



Eddie Scheer, Randy Bramwell, and Anastasia René

Photo by Ken Boege

Alizon Presents:



Alizon Lissance

Photo by Ken Boege

Alizon Lissance is one of New England's most intriguing performing and recording artists. Playing piano since the age of six, her gutsy rock n' blues style has been honored at home and across the world. Each week she invites a guest performer (or two) to sit in, creating a dynamic and innovative resonance. All shows start at 7:30.

Wednesday, October 5

Schedule Change:

Chris Renna's Chromatophones

Like the changing colors of a sonic octopus, Chromatophones weave the melodies and rhythms that keep your Wednesday night flowing. Genre-bending Chris Renna on guitar and vocals, local blues and jazz veteran Justin Meyer on string bass and the dynamically groovy Mike Migliozi (of Moon Boot Lover fame) on drums and vocals. Chromatophones bring their version of blues, bluesy jazz and soulful latin-tinged jams.

Wednesday, October 12

Ricky "King" Russell

Ricky "King" Russell is one of the Blues' most seasoned performers and brightest talents. Taking his cue from Blues masters past and present, Ricky plays with passion and style. His 4 CD'S are radio favorites and the song, "Big Boy" has been featured on the House of Blues Radio Hour with Dan Akroyd. Described as "The Kingpin of the Blues" by the Boston Globe, Ricky always delivers from the heart.

Wednesday, October 19

Quartet with Erin Harpe, Rosy Rosenblatt and Ed Scheer

Please join us for a very special evening of music when our own queen of the ivory whites, Alizon, joins forces with Boston's "authentic blues chanteuse", Erin Harpe. Erin Harpe and her Delta Swingers recently won the Boston Blues Challenge and represented Boston at the Blues Challenge in Memphis where they were semi finalists in the international competition. With her is long time partner on the harp, Richard "Rosy" Rosenblatt.

Reservations recommended for this show.

Wednesday, October 26

Alizon's Monthly Blues Jam

The last Wednesday of every month is always a special night at Smoken' Joe's when Alizon hosts her monthly blues jam. Both serious amateurs and professional musicians are welcome to play. First the house band warms up the crowd, then, the jammers are invited onto the stage. Under the warm spotlights and in front of an enthusiastic crowd, these jam sessions are always full of surprises.

A **SMOKEN' Joe's** SUPER SPECTACULAR EVENT

Tuesday, October 4 at 7:30

Eddie Scheer's Tuesday Night Allstars

Wicked Cool 1st Anniversary Party!



The One and Only - Eddie Scheer!

Photo by Ken Boege

A message from Eddie:

Howdy Folks — I can't believe it's been a year since we kicked off Eddie's Tuesday Night All-Stars! Along with my newest daughter, Juliana, (who also just turned 1) this series has been my other "baby" and it's been a ton of fun watching it grow. Last fall when we were putting the promo together for the first month, Ken Boege told me he thought it was going to be something really special, but I have to admit, it's been a bigger success than even I expected. Over the course of the last year we have featured no less than 68 musicians as our special guests, and countless others who have stopped in to contribute to the madness. It's been a real thrill watching our core group of "regulars" in the audience multiply to the point where these days most of our shows are standing room only. As Wendy and I agreed at the beginning, if we make putting on great shows our priority, the people will come! I have so many people to thank, and you all know who you are, but especially Ken, Nate Dow, and Heather Balchunas who have put in a ton of their own time to help this series succeed, and my main man, Randy Bramwell, who has been with me every week making our guests sound so good.

But the atmosphere and hospitality at Smoken' Joe's are as much a reason for our success as the music. Rarely have I worked with a venue where the owners really care as much about the music as Wendy and Joe Dodd, or where the staff is as enthusiastic and involved as the terrific crew at Joe's.

Everyone's been hugely supportive and encouraging, and let's face it, the food don't hurt either!! I hope you all can make it to our anniversary party on Oct 4 featuring our inaugural All Stars lineup of Toni Lynn Washington, Mike Williams, Mario Perrett, and of course Randy and myself. To all of you who have been part of the fun, I promise never to take this opportunity for granted, and to continue to put on the best shows I know how. To any of you who haven't yet made it to Joe's on a Tuesday night... *what're ya waitin' for??* In the weeks to come we'll be continuing to bring in new faces and invite back some of our favorite musical friends. Here's to another year of great music.

- Eddie

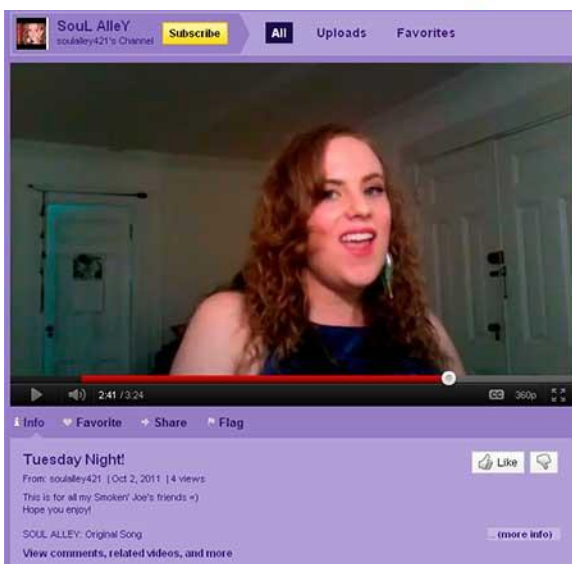
Opening Night, Eddie's Tuesday Night Allstars, October 5, 2010



Mike Williams, Eddie Scheer, Toni Lynn Washington, Randy Bramwell, Mario Perrett

A **SMOKEN' Joe's** SNEAKY SURPRISE

Hey Eddie, Guess Which One of Your Favorite Singers Just Wrote a Song for Your Tuesday Night Allstars!!!



You can watch the new video

Tuesday Night!

Here:

www.youtube.com/soulalley421

A FOOD & BEVERAGE SPECIAL

**The Great Smoken' Joes Brunch is Back
and it's Better than Ever!**

Sunday Brunch
10 am – 2 pm

The creative team in Joe's kitchen have really outdone themselves this time. We believe this is one of the best brunch specials you will find anywhere in the Boston area. Beginning this Sunday, October 2, Brunch will be served at Smoken' Joe's between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm. Here's the delicious selection you can expect to enjoy:

* All items served with home fries and toast

Beef Brisket "Benny"

Buttermilk biscuit, shaved brisket, hollandaise sauce, poached egg

Deep Fried Banana French Toast

Egg battered baguette, caramelized banana, warm maple syrup, whipped cream

Ranch Omelet

3 eggs, peppers, onions, tomato, cheese, topping of chili (regular or vegetarian)

Eggs 'n Hash

Beef brisket hash, 2 poached eggs, Memphis hot drizzle

Andouille Egg Smashup

Ground andouille sausage, 3 scrambled eggs, potato hash cake, pepper jack cheese

Braised Pork Belly

House cured slow braised pork belly, bean ragout, toasted corn, red bliss smashed

Cornbread Dippers

Fried cornbread sticks, honey butter dip blended with whipped cream

And if that doesn't get your out of bed early then how about...

***** Make Your Own Bloody Marys *****

Coming Soon from the Smoken' Joe's Kitchen: New late night menu items plus some savory seasonal specialties.

A **SMOKEN Joe's** FEATURE STORY

The Son House Ingredient Essay by Barrett Anderson

During a three year tenure on second guitar in the Monster Mike Welch Band, I was introduced to a phrase that has since become a regular part of my vocabulary (as well as my psyche): the Son House Ingredient. "The Son House Ingredient" is a phrase coined by (as far as Mike and I could tell) legendary blues bass player (and Mike's bandmate in Sugar Ray & The Bluetones), Michael "Mudcat" Ward.

The Son House Ingredient is a philosophy of music; it's a way of approaching music and is perhaps hard to concisely describe, but I'll try. It is not about technique, but what you use it for. It is not about the notes you play, but what you say with them. It is the thing that makes music gripping, emotional, and important to the human spirit and soul. In my mind, the Son House Ingredient is the heart and soul of blues music. A more tangible way of understanding the Son House Ingredient lies in Son's music, and the best way to get into the music is to know a little bit about the man...



Eddie "Son" House, Jr.
(March 21, 1902 - October 19, 1988)

Eddie "Son" House Jr was born on March 21, 1902, in Riverton, the northern part of the Mississippi Delta. Son was raised in a landscape that was rich in more ways than just cotton fields, and he became a defining part of what I call "first generation" delta blues; a group including Charlie Patton, Tommy Johnson, and Willie Brown. Son's music (and delta blues in general), is a rhythm heavy, dance music; characterized by a strong backbeat (as opposed to the more complex ragtime rhythms of Texas or N. Carolina blues), frequent slide guitar, and a raw, guttural singing style. Son first recorded in 1930, then recorded again in 1941 and 1942 for the Library of Congress (probably his very finest). In late 1942, after a national recording ban and the death of his good friend, Willie Brown, Son retired from music and disappeared into the North.

In the folk-blues boom of the 1960's, Son was rediscovered and started recording again. It had been 20 years since he played the guitar; he was an older man, and didn't have the dexterity he used to. He had developed a serious tremor in his hands, and had an uncontrollable shake. On top of it all, he was deeply religious and believed that blues music was the "devil's music," and was sure he'd spend eternity in hell for his blues. Despite all that, the music he made is absolutely riveting. There you can begin to see the Son House Ingredient.

Son's tremor and shakes didn't matter... It didn't matter if he was hitting the right notes on the guitar, or whether or not the guitar was even in tune... Sometimes he wasn't singing words, but moaning instead... Son played his music with conviction, and the listener felt it and was moved. Even without

understanding a word Son sang, one could feel the story; the loss or salvation. Without the right notes, without words even, Son House transmitted the “soul of the man.”

That is the Son House Ingredient, and something I strive for with every note I play. Music is universal; it’s not just for the musicians, and the Son House Ingredient speaks to that universality; it’s something that speaks to the human in the musician, not the musician in the human. The next time you feel moved by a piece of music, maybe you’re responding to the Son House Ingredient?

Be sure to see blues master Barrett Anderson and his Trio at Smoken’ Joe’s on Saturday, October 15, and decide for yourself if Barrett has the “Son House Ingredient.”

A **SMOKEN’ Joe’s** **INSIDE SCOOP** **Catching Up with Soul Alley**



You and Me

soulalley421 35 videos [Subscribe](#)



At Smoken’ Joe’s we are big fans of Alley Stoetzel, a.k.a. “Soul Alley”. If you have ever met her or seen her perform, you would know why. Alley often joins Eddie’s Tuesday Night Allstars for a song or two late at night but it has been a couple of months since her band last performed at Joe’s and we thought the SJ community might want to know what this talented, beautiful, and aspiring singer/songwriter was up to so we did the bold and audacious act of asking her. And this is what Soul Alley said:

“Sooo... yeah, I’m supposed to write something interesting about myself. Has this every happened to anyone else? Someone says to you, what have you been doing the past 6 months and all you can think is, ‘Well, nothing actually’. This was my initial reaction when Ken Boege asked me to write a piece for the Smoken’ Joe’s Newsletter. So, I did what I always do when I get stuck on a problem, I harassed all my friends. I asked everyone I knew, ‘What the hell have I been doing lately?’ Turns out, there are a few things I’ve been up to.

#1: I’ve been living. Yes, that’s right, just living. I’ve spent time with friends, and family, I’ve gone out to dinner, I’ve gone to New York and I’ve moved from my little nook in Newton Corner to a spacious nook in Newtonville with stained glass windows. In the morning, the sun creates the most beautiful, colorful patterns on the floor. It’s done wonders for my soul.

#2: I’ve been listening. A LOT. Sam Cooke (I die), Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, Elizabeth Cook, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan and Beyonce (don’t hate, “A Diva is a female version of a hustler.”)

#3: I've been writing. Turns out when you live, listen, and observe, you learn a lot about yourself. And if you're any kind of artist, all those lessons and observations need to come out somehow. I've written 12 songs altogether, 6 of which I've recorded and uploaded onto my YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/soulalley421

I can't wait to share this new material with you live. My first official performance on piano will be at The Right Turn in Arlington on October 15th. I'm absolutely terrified my fingers won't work, as I've never performed on piano but this is a step I think I am ready to make.

I have two gigs in November at Smoken' Joe's. The first will be on Friday, November, 11th with my band Soul Alley. I will also be the special guest of Eddie's Tuesday Night All-Stars on November 22nd with my FAVORITE guitar player Kevin Belz joining my dream team of Ed Sheer on drums and Randy Bramwell on bass. It's gonna be one for the books. =)

I want to thank everyone within the Smoken' Joe's community and beyond who has supported me and encouraged me to follow my own voice and my own sound and start to create more original music.

I am... yours,

Alley"

Do not miss Soul Alley and her band live when she returns to the stage at Smoken' Joe's on Friday, November 8th.

A  SUBTLE REMINDER
Because You Asked for It
The First Thursday of Every Month
Nate Stringfield's Housekwake



Soul Alley with Nate Stringfield

Photo by Ken Boege

A TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

Smoken' Joe's is Now an Official Demo Site for the New Sonos Play:3 Wireless Music System



For the past year Wendy has worked on the design team for the new Sonos Play:3 wireless hi-fi system. This is a state-of-the-art-music system that pulls music either from the hard drives and computers connected to your home network or from its own Internet connection, which can be wired or wireless. It can be controlled through a free app running on an iPhone, iPad, iPod touch or Droid, or through a separate Sonos controller. This is an infinitely expandable system that can play the same music or different music in any room in your home at the highest fidelity.

Six speakers have been installed at Smoken' Joe's. You can hear this phenomenal music system during the daytime or between our live music shows. For more information:

www.sonos.com

Yep, that's all folks. Another month goes by and things just seem to get better and better. It's all about the music and listening out loud with friends, old and new. We humans are a social species and so we love to eat together and play together and share our finest experiences.

I look forward to seeing you next time...

Wendy

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