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BIG PAPA AND THE TCB

INLAND EMPIRE'S
NEWEST SUCCESS

CD REVIEWS

Tommy Castro, Big Papa & The TCB,
Albert King & Stevie Ray Vaughan
Homemade Jamz Band, Sue Palmer

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Big Papa & The TCB

Band Wins National Exposure from Papa John's Pizza

It was a lucky break, a fluke, that landed Big Papa & The TCB (www.bptcb.com) national airplay this year when Papa John's Pizza chose their song, "Go Big Papa!" for a national TV and radio ad campaign. Rather than taking credit for this major coup, band leader Chris "Big Papa" Thayer credits it to "a whole lot of luck and being in the right place at the right time."

"I wish I had a really cool story about how we worked really hard and brokered a deal with Papa Johns," says Chris, "but the truth is they tracked us down last April - It happened really quickly. I think they knew they wanted the song before they even contacted us."

The commercial features Papa John Schnatter driving around in his car randomly delivering pizza to people in their homes. Right from the start, "Go Big Papa!" commands your attention in the ad. The song is off the band's live CD, "Nice 'n' Greazy" recorded in 2007. It is also featured as an 'emphasis track' on their upcoming CD "12 Gauge Insurance Plan," to be released September 12, 2009 at their CD release party at the Fender Museum in Corona.

As a result of Papa John's national campaign, Big Papa's CD sales are spiking and the band is receiving heightened attention. The ironic thing though is that the cut almost didn't make it onto the recording.



Chris recalls, "At the time, we had so much more interesting material to choose from. Basically, I thought it was sort of a silly song. But my dad said, 'If you don't record this song, you're an idiot,' so we ended up using it."

In retrospect, he notes, "You have to find a balance between what you like and what other people want to hear."

But was it really "luck" that led a national brand to this Inland Empire blues band? Not really - Big Papa & The TCB's music has been creating a buzz all along for its catchy blues style which they define as, "Back Alley Brawlin' Rhythm 'n' Blues born in the back alleys and seedy after hours juke joints of the So. Cal blues scene."

There is a rawness, an authenticity to their sound that has sparked interest from many well known blues artists. Since their formation in 2006, Big Papa has shared the stage

with Johnny Winter, Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Charlie Musselwhite, Tommy Castro and James Hunter. Clearly, Big Papa's music has an edge all its own that is keeping them in the spotlight as well as making them commercially viable. (The band also has received endorsements from Heil Sound microphones and Furman Sound products).

Named "Best Blues Band" in 2008 and 2009 by the Inland Empire Music Awards (IEMA), Big Papa won "Best Song" both years for "Go Big Papa!" and "Little Miss Mischief." Additionally, IEMA awarded them "Best Live Band" in 2008, while the Orange County Music Awards nominated them for "Best Swing."

When not on the road, the band calls Corona's Fender Museum "home." The museum provides a great performance space where the band plays to its following.

The band recorded both of its CDs at the Fender: "Nice 'n' Greazy" was recorded in 2007 at the Rhythm Lounge, while "12 Gauge Insurance Plan" used Studio FM. On September 12th, the Fender will host the band's CD release party for "12 Gauge" at the museum, 365. N. Main Street, Corona.

"12-Gauge" features a 16-song set displaying a variety of blues styles with featured guest artists: Jumpin' Jack Benny on harmonica, Gabe Hartman on tenor sax, and Marianne Keith and Kelly McGuire on backing vocals. The band's blues style comes from a medley of influences including Robert Cray, Louis Jordan, Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers, and Jumpin' Jack Benny.

On a more personal note, Chris credits the Mighty Flyers with giving him the initial inspiration to play the blues. "I started playing this music after I saw Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers at Carlos O'Brian's in Riverside," says Chris, "and they just blew me away. For the past few years, I've been lucky enough to become friends with Rod and Honey. They've been a huge help to me in getting to know the business better."

Likewise, Jumpin' Jack Benny has been a great influence. Chris jokes that meeting him was like going to "Blues School" and that Jumpin' Jack taught him to play blues the "right way." Jumpin' Jack

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LIVE REVIEW

JOHN LISI & DELTA FUNK
Arcadia Blues Club, CA
June 20, 2009

John Lisi hopped off the plane from New Orleans, and headed straight into the studio with local So Cal musicians Sandy Vasquez (bass), AJ Cavalier (drums), and Billy Webb Jr. (guitar) to record a new CD. He appeared a week later at Arcadia Blues Club for an inspired night of both old classics and original new music. Delta Funk's blues are heavily seasoned with funk that John Lisi describes as "greasy", as evidenced by fat bass lines and sliding dobro riffs.

Delta Funk worked their way through the best of their original tunes, though the band solicited requests as well and did a great rendition of Led Zeppelin's "Lemon Song". The club

had an ample dance floor, and those who chose not to move to the funky rhythms were treated to the lyrics of a man who has the self-honesty to be able to laugh at himself through life's twists and turns. They played a favorite off John Lisi's first CD, "No Good Man" and gave a taste of the new CD in the works with "Got Cleaned Up" and "Break in the Rain".

Always one to invite guest artists on stage, John Lisi and Delta Funk closed the show with the addition of Billy Webb Sr., who's played with the Bobby Fuller Band, Ricky Nelson, and Alabama. Definitely looking for more to come from this band.

—Sharon Stanwick

(John Lisi and Delta Funk will be appearing at Arcadia Blues Club on September 19th.)

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appears on three cuts of the upcoming release: "Lovin' Man," "Another Ride," and "All I Need."

While Chris has performed different styles of music over the past 20 years, he says this band, more than any other he's played in, has made his career as a musician enjoyable. "The band brings together a unique array of talent spanning three decades and ranging in age from mid '20s to early '40s. We show up and take care of business and we have a really good time doing it."

As the band's songwriter, vocalist and guitarist, Chris is joined by Steve "The Ice Cream Man" Brown on bass, keyboardist Quinton "Dr. Q" Hufferd and drummer Ray "Mr. Pittz" Wilson.

Reflecting on the band's

music, Chris states, "I love how raw the band is. We purposely left little imperfections in the recording because that's what you would hear in a live performance - I think it gives it its character. It's not scripted, it's raw. I think that's what music needs right now. Everything is so perfect. If you listen to the old blues records - they weren't perfect; there were mistakes all over them but you knew it was real. You knew it was the real deal."



The Delgado Brothers

Learn to Fly

CD release party continues...

Sat. August 1st, 2009
Harvelles, Santa Monica
9pm, 310 395 1676
www.harvelles.com

Saturday August 15, 2009, 9pm,
Nick's Taste of Texas
"Joey D Birthday Party"
\$20.00 Dinner and Concert
626 331 2824
545 N. Citrus, Covina, CA. 91723
www.nicks tasteoftexas.com

Sunday August 23, 2009
Delgado Brothers Band
M5 Bluz Featuring Sherry Pruitt
Sage Restaurant and Lounge
www.sagerestaurantandlounge.com
Phone: 562-945-1204
6511 Greenleaf Avenue,
Whittier, CA 90601
6:PM - 10PM,
Tickets (888) 592-6116
<http://delgadobrothers.eventbrite.com>

Saturday Sept. 5, 2009
Simi Valley Blues Festival
www.simiblues.com

To Purchase the CD
visit our website
www.delgadobrothers.com

Dennis Jones

Pleasure & Pain

Sat. — Aug 1st The Cellar 9PM Long Beach, CA
Sun — Aug 9th 24th Annual Decatur Celebration - North St Stage
2 - 4 - 7PM Decatur, IL

Sat. — Aug 14th Harvelle's 9PM Santa Monica, CA
New CD {Pleasure and Pain} Available Now at CDBaby.com

More Info: <http://dennisjonescentral.com> www.myspace.com/dennisjonesband