

MAKING A Scene

Well, here we are, finally at the doorstep of Spring. This month has always been one of my favorites, not only because it was the beginning of Spring, but also it is the month that I was born. I am a Taurus, tried and true. I am proud to say that I am thick-headed, driven, tenacious and a lover of the good things in life. Which is one of the reasons I wanted to make this the Blues issue.

I love the Blues, it's pure emotion and sits at the roots of all popular music. I think every musician and music fan owes it to themselves to seek out some of the masters of this art form and experience it. As you look at our cover, you will see the four masters of this art form that we have available on the Island. I cannot imagine anyone who is into music that has not come across one of these musicians. Little Buster has been a Long Island institution for as long as I can remember. Sam Taylor, Blues Hall Of Famer, with his impressive resume of songwriting and performing credits is a joy to watch. Doug "Harmonica" McClean is has been true to the art form for as long as anyone can remember. And Traci Robbins, a true survivor and an unbelievable talent, has been doing this longer than she will admit to. I know for me on my birthday (May 10th), I will be at the Westhampton theatre show getting my fix of the blues with Frank Latorre, Kerry Kearney and Lucy Bonilla.

I just recently returned from Atlanta where I had the privilege of working the main stage at the Dogwood Festival. Needless to say, Atlanta is very proud of their musicians and the musical heritage. The Dogwood festival itself is 67 years old with 3 stages. Caroline Aiken has run the music portion for the past 10 years and I have to say she did one hell of a job. Caroline, in case you don't know, was once a part of the band Father Time -- back in 1969-1971 -- here on Long Island and is now a very well-respected singer/songwriter down in Atlanta. Working with such artists as the Indigo

Girls and Mother's Finest, Caroline is now getting ready to go on tour with Derek Trucks as his opening act -- not bad for a girl who got her musical start here on Long Island!

But that is another story, what I found interesting was seen as I was leaving the town -- I saw a sign for an annex of Georgia Music Hall Of Fame. Here you had a museum that showcased not only the national artists that came out of Georgia, but also their regional stars. In addition to their normal exhibits and special exhibits they have a whole section that is dedicated to educating the children to the importance and wonder of music.

I started to think, now this is one hell of a great idea. I started to look at Long Island and the amount of great musicians that have come from our shores. The more I looked the more

I found some amazing musicians like Billy Joel, Harry Chapin, Mountain, The Ink Spots, Blue Öyster Cult, Vanilla Fudge, The Stray Cats, Zebra, Velvet Underground, Ramones, Pat Benatar, Joan Jett and Steely Dan's guitarist Denny Dias... This is just a scratch on the surface of the musical heritage we have here on Long Island. I'm sure if you stretch back to the big bands and the Jazz, Swing era or even further back, you will find an amazing collection of popular musicians that hailed from our little Island.

And then I started to think about how great it would be if we had a place here on the Island where we could collect this heritage and make it available to all of Long Island now and for the future. A place where people can go to learn,

experience and get inspired by the sheer scope of talent that has sprouted from this well spring that we call Long Island. Now I know that this sounds like some pretty lofty stuff. A Long Island Music Hall Of Fame, museum and gift shop; think about it. I can almost guarantee that if you look at the music that has come from our shores, Rock, Blues, Jazz, Swing, Folk, Country, etc., we would already have the makings of a very impressive institution. All it would take is the right people getting together for the right reasons and doing the right things and something like this could be a reality. Any takers?!

Richard L'Hommedieu

Publisher Long Island Entertainment

Still Smoking at Mr. Beery's

