

NORTH COAST ARTIST REVIEW

By Helen Marketti

INTERVIEW WITH COLIN DUSSAULT

Colin Dussault's Blues Project is so much more than the blues. The schedule for 2013 is full and more shows will be added. In addition to his band, he also plays with the Acoustic Side Project. It all leads back to music and his passion for doing what he loves.

"The earliest memories I have are listening to songs by Elvis Presley on the jukebox at the Warren Tavern. My dad used to play softball and he would give me money to play the pinball machines and pool table because they lasted longer than the other games. I would also play the jukebox," recalls Colin. "I also remember going to the library and getting The Beatles first album. As I got older, I started buying my own records. My dad had a good record collection and I would get his doubles. I would bring home "Tommy" by The Who and The Yardbirds Greatest hits among others."

He continues, "I stopped at garage sales on my way home from baseball practice and once bought a John Mayall album that was called, "Back to the Roots" and I really didn't know anything about him but I saw that Eric Clapton played on it. It was such a cool record and as I became a musician and tracing lineage back, I discovered that John Mayall was the godfather of British blues. The Yardbirds too are the touchstones because then you discover Beck, Clapton and Page. The Yardbirds were bluesy and I could imitate it."

Colin shares how his interest in music seemed to hit a peak and kept on going. "Growing up, my parents were divorced. I had always been aware that my dad (Artie Dussault) was in a band. They did make a 45 record, which received airplay. He lived in Westlake and I would stay with him on weekends. It was during that time I discovered my aunt's Elvis Presley record collection. I think she had everything he ever recorded. I used to lock myself in the

bedroom and play those records forever."

"When I was in high school I met a friend named, Dave. He had long hair and played the guitar. He was one of those kids who never paid attention but when the teacher called on him, he always knew the answer. He was a smart kid," remembers Colin. "We struck up a friendship and he started to teach me about Duane Allman, B. B. King and Stevie Ray Vaughn. We started hanging out at my house and he would bring his guitar. He taught me Stormy Monday Blues and I would sing it in my mom's bathroom. We started a band and recruited some other kids from school. We played parties and dances. I played the harmonica very badly but learned as time went on."

Colin's instrument of choice is the harmonica. He is sponsored by Hohner Harmonica and has used their equipment for years. "I play a loose harmonica style. It's not that I made a conscious decision to play harmonica. It seemed like an instrument that wasn't too difficult to play," said Colin. "I'm not so much an innovator as I am an interpreter. I haven't struggled and sought out the holy grail of tone that many guys do and try to sound like Little Walter because I can't. I can get different sounds using different equipment and of course, usually get the sound I want whether I'm playing with the band or with the acoustic trio."

"Our band (Colin Dussault Blues Project) was an all blues band in the beginning but then we started mixing it up a bit with classic rock and folk. We play at wineries, private parties and clubs. The band name says "blues" but we are a mixture of everything. We have ten CDs under our belt and we've been together for a very long time."

As things sometimes change with venues and economy, Colin also found himself adjusting to those changes as well. "I have noticed that duo and single acts



From left Jim Tigie, guest Alex Bevin, Eroc Sosinski, Harpersfield Vineyard owner Adolf Ribic, Colin Dussault - Acoustic Side Project (Jim, Eroc, and Colin) summer of 2012.

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Colin Dussault Blues Project

seem to be popular so I decided to reach out to Jim Tigue and Eric Sosinski as they are already established musicians. We play as the Acoustic Side Project. We started doing shows as a trio a couple times a month then it turned into doing a couple of CDs and now we have a lot of gigs scheduled."

Colin has been in the music business for many years and has accumulated quite the resume of accomplishments and recognition. Some of the highlights of his career have included being interviewed by Jane Scott, meeting Dan Akroyd for the opening of the House of Blues that aired on FOX 8. Colin was able to jam with Dan onstage for a song or two. He has met Hilary Clinton and played at the John Kerry

Election Eve Rally.

"I'm content that I'm able to play, pay my bills and do something I love," said Colin. "I think you would go crazy if you try to chase something that you might never get. The only way to survive is to work your ass off. I still carry my own gear and pull my own trailer. I would never ask anyone to do something that I wouldn't do myself and I feel that fosters respect. I am indebted to *all* of the guys I work with. We spend a lot of time together and it's like family."

For more information about Colin Dussault including his show schedule for the upcoming spring and summer season, please visit: www.colindussault.com

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"I'll take the little one, please" - Mary Kay Letourneau

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