

EDDIE MONEY

One of music's truest rockers smoothes over his rough edges to let fans know what great things he has been up to.

By Helen Marketti

Hearing his name alone brings hit after hit to mind, *Two Tickets To Paradise*, *Baby*, *Hold On*, *Take Me Home Tonight*, *Shakin'*, *Walk On Water*, *Think I'm In Love*, *I'll Get By* and *I Wanna Go Back* plus so many more. Eddie Money is a rock and roll history lesson, music icon and lasting legend rolled into one. Talking with him was an electrifying experience as he was dashing and darting from one subject to the next. He has many projects going on and finds the time to work on all of them, tour, promote a play and still write new material. He said he is up each morning by 5:00 am to start his day which is usually a nonstop "to do" list that demands his time and attention.

Taking us back in time to the early days, Eddie said, "I was in a rock band in high school. I always wanted to be a rock and roll star just like the song says. I had also thought I wanted to be a cop. I thought if I joined the military, I'd have to wear their uniform for a few years, which didn't seem so bad. I looked at my father who was a police officer and thought, "Jesus, am I going to have to wear that uniform for the next 25 years or more of my life?" That was during the late 60s. I was 18 when I worked for the police department and I was still in a band on the side. My father had been voted

"Policeman of the Year" the same year I decided to quit the police department. He was pissed off but rock and roll was where I wanted to be. I've had between 24 - 26 songs in the top 100." One would agree that he made the right decision for himself.

Two Tickets to Paradise is the name of Eddie's play that he is working on turning into a Broadway production. "I went to see *Jersey Boys*," explains Eddie. "It was a stage production about the life and career of Franki Valli and the Four Seasons. I had the opportunity to meet Franki Valli and talk with him. What I liked about the play was that it showed the comradery between the members and it reminded me of the first band I was in, Grapes of Wrath."

"So I decided to write the play, *Two Tickets to Paradise*. I wrote the whole thing. It's about my life and my career. When I quit the police department, my brother was in Vietnam at the time. I moved out to

California because that's where my band went," said Eddie.

He continues, "I had always loved Broadway shows and music. My parents would bring home the records and my sisters and I would act out the plays. I've been to New York to promote my play. I'm also working on a song that is going to be in a movie."

Eddie sang part of his new song, *One More Soldier* which is about a soldier who passes away in Iraq. The song is moving and beautiful. It causes one to pause for a moment and think about what we are grateful for. "I've met people who have lost family in Iraq," Eddie said. "It moves you. You want to do something."

Traveling the road for many years, Eddie has his thoughts about life as a rock star, "It pretty much stays the same," he said. "It's a job. You need to set a good example for your kids. My daughter tours with me and sings. You can't keep being an alcoholic pothead. You can get by with that when you're younger but when you get older, you need to



keep up with what you are doing and do what's right. I've learned my lessons over the years."

The best advice Eddie ever received was from his late manager, Bill Graham. "He told me, "You're not out there to party or think about yourself. You're out there to make sure the audience has a good time." He always told me to do my shows in a reasonable state of mind," said Eddie. "You've got to have fun and enjoy what you're doing. That's what it's all about."

For more information about Eddie Money, please visit:
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