



Helen Marketti's Music Corner



ERIC SARDINAS

A career that has passed the twenty-year mark, Eric Sardinias is on the road at least 300 days per year bringing the preachin' pipe blues to venues all over the world. His new album, "Sticks and Stones" was released on August 30 (Provogue Records).

There are eleven tracks on the album, each one bringing its own personality, reflection, message and above all great music. Cherry Wine, Road to Ruin, Burnin' Sugar and Behind the Eight are a few of the new blues rockin' tracks that will get fans geared up for more. "When I write, I write objectively," said Eric. "I write from the angle from the present or from the past. It's moving yourself through a situation. When I get into an emotional energy, it's taking a personal experience and expressing it in a way that everyone else can relate to. Most people will probably have a story that parallels."

"In the recording process there is more structure to the songs. The goal of all the records I have made is to capture the energy and essence of a live band," explains Eric. "Big Motor is very much a live band and we try to capture that even when we're in the recording studio. It's important to get the magic or you'll lose it. The emotional energy is what makes or breaks a recording especially with an instrumental. I never play the same song in the same way twice." Eric is on the road most of the year but he always finds time to write and work on new material. "Basically, I am always writing no matter where I am," said Eric. "I am always thinking. I jot

down notes and ideas on napkins, paper bags, anything. When I am traveling, it provides the catalyst for getting the ideas down because I do have time to think when I am on the plane or in a car. Once I'm off the road, that's when I put everything together and work with the band. There is no set list at all for my shows. Everyone in the band follows me. It's never the same show twice. If I'm playing with BB King, then of course it will be a different style then if it's a club, festival and so on."

Eric has always been around music ever since his childhood. "Growing up, I was listening to Motown, soul and gospel and that was from my mom's side. I listened to Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley and all that stuff. I had an older brother who listened to music from the 60s and 70s. Listening to all of these different sounds were the strands of the rope that brought it all together."

"I think I always had a blind drive. I love music so much that I knew I wanted to be in music. I knew there was nothing else for me that I wanted to do," explains Eric. "I pretty much put all the eggs in one basket, so to speak. It was what I did all the time for ten years until I was signed in 1999. I was already doing what I love doing."

Eric is known for his slide guitar and using the preachin' pipe as he calls it to deliver the sound. "Playing the slide is very emotional, very primal and very human. There is no right way or wrong way to play the guitar or the slide. It's very personal and makes the connection. When you are playing, you have

something to say so that's what the preachin' pipe is for."

Eric never tires of doing what he loves. "I love playing live very much. As much as I give, I receive. It's a very circular thing for me. With that being said, my worst day is still my best day as long as I'm writing music. It may sound cliché but I can't imagine myself doing anything else. It's very much a pleasure to do what you love, no matter what it is."

Music fans are in for a lively show that never seems to stop. "My shows are for music lovers, for blues lovers. I hope people walk away with a great music experience and feel the energy that I do. Expect the unexpected and expect to have a good time."

For more information on Eric Sardinias, please visit: www.eric Sardinas.com



Photographer: Neil Zlozower

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