

INTERVIEW WITH MARSHALL CRENSHAW

By Hellen Marketti

Appearing Friday, May 31 at The Beachland Ballroom

The Bottle Rockets will be the opening act and then join Marshall as his backup band.

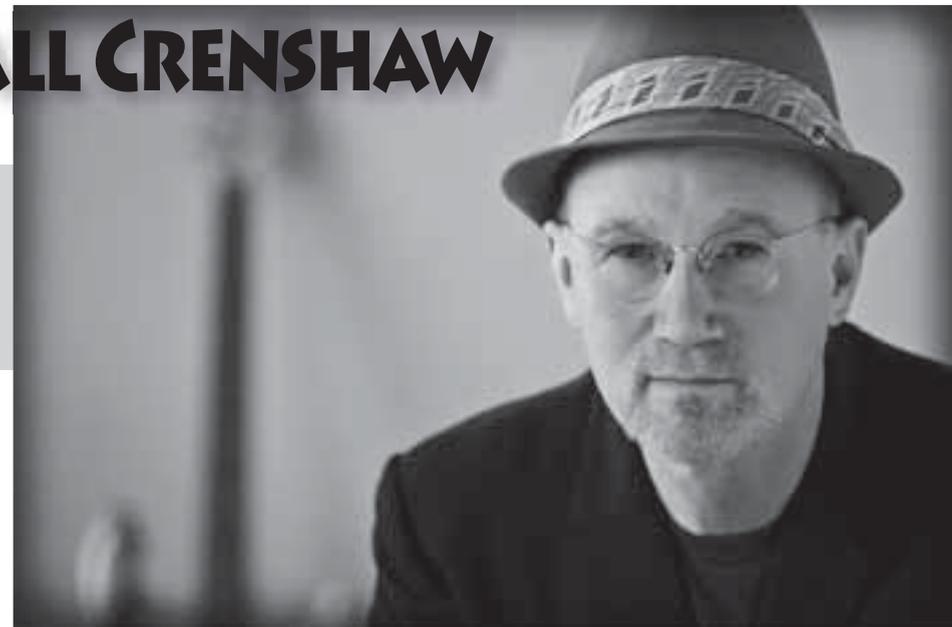
Marshall Crenshaw's career has spanned over thirty years. Many will remember his 80s chart hit, "Someday, Someway" and he has been creating music, writing songs, touring and working on a variety of projects ever since.

"My musical taste comes from my dad. He was the only adult I knew who didn't despise rock and roll. He actually listened to it and liked it and this was during the 50s!" recalls Marshall. "While I was growing up I was listening to Buddy Holly and Chuck Berry when it was all new. My dad played guitar because he loved music. He was never in a band but had such an appreciation for rock and roll. He bought me my first guitar when I was around ten. He once took my brother and me to see Jimi Hendrix. My mom on the other

hand was into Broadway show tunes and big bands. I didn't care for that too much. I liked my dad's music better because it was rock and roll." (laughs)

Marshall knew early on he would not work a traditional job and stay in one place for his entire life, "I grew up in the Detroit area where there was a conformist style mentality. Detroit being a factory town, there was the boxed in thinking that you learn a job, do that job for many years, retire and you're set for life. As I was growing up, I had my own mind set and I never shared those same views. I had a different outlook on life."

Marshall discusses his inspirations for music and the longevity of his career. "There are always two steps in the process for me. First, it's writing the music, which comes easy,



and then I try to stay out of the way and let it happen. An idea can start small and then it builds from there. It's based on whatever I am feeling at the moment. When I write lyrics, I like to use clear, plain language. I like to tell a cohesive story. The music part comes from my psyche whereas the words are more concrete and earth bound. It's always music first then the lyrics."

"I love doing what I do. I'm conscious of the fact that I'm growing old. I feel great but I do know there is a time limit. I feel I'm worthy of the longevity that my career has had. It's hard to believe it has been 30 years. It seemed so far away back then but now that I lived it; it didn't seem like it took that long. It went by in a flash."

Marshall currently has an EP available which has three songs. The three songs consist of a classic cover, a remake of an original from his catalog and a new song. "It seemed like something cool do to," he said. "The cover on this EP is "Close To You" (The Carpenters) and it's supposed to be a fun song to put a smile on your face. I really love this idea of releasing a few songs at a time on an EP. I think it's better than an album. You can continue to have a steady flow of new material instead of dumping it out all at once on an album. EP's are a cool concept."

Fans can listen to Marshall's single, "I Don't See You Laughing Now" through his web site. A beautiful song that says those words we sometimes wish we could say to someone when we have been mistreated. Marshall explains, "I describe this song as an expression of moral outrage. It's about a person trying to put the screws to their fellow man but then got the tables turned on them. There is so much of that going on in our

world."

Marshall also has a radio program called The Bottomless Pit (WFUV, 90.7 FM) which is broadcast from New York. "The program is at 10:00 pm (EST) on Saturday nights. It can be streamed or you can listen to the archived shows. The listeners seem to love it. I have a lot of knowledge about popular music. I play records from my personal collection on the program. Everything I play has some sort of personal connection to me. Since I am on the road a lot, I do prerecord several shows at a time."

The Beachland Ballroom is a venue that Marshall enjoys. "I have played there several times and always have a good experience. Cindy and Mark who run the place are great people. I like playing there. On May 31, I will play with The Bottle Rockets. I've been with them for two years and we have a nice thing going. I love playing music. I can't sit still and I can't stop being productive. I have a lot of respect for the art form. I want to keep doing it and doing it well. I love putting energy into a room."

The Beachland is located at 15711 Waterloo Rd. Cleveland. Doors open at 7:30 pm with the show beginning at 8:30 pm.

For more information about Marshall Crenshaw: www.marshallcrenshaw.com

For more information about The Beachland Ballroom: www.beachlandballroom.com

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