

Helen Marketti's Music Corner



By Helen R. Marketti



Satisfaction will be playing at The Kent Stage on December 8th.

Chris LeGrand has always been told he resembles Mick Jagger. It was something he took in stride but never took seriously until one day it sounded like a good idea to portray Mick Jagger. The story, the concept and the band, Satisfaction/The International Rolling Stones Show have evolved from Chris's creativity to keep the Stones music on the road and deliver an authentic show to fans around the world. Chris LeGrand's portrayal of Mick Jagger is spot on with the look, the sound and the moves!



"When I was growing up my parents were musically split," remembers Chris. "My mom was more rock and roll. She loved Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly. My dad was more country oriented and liked Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard. I had an uncle who turned me on to The Beatles, The Stones, The Who and all those types of bands. By the time I was in high school, I was into Queen, Bad Company, Aerosmith and KISS. I have always been a huge music fan. As a teen, I had a few small garage bands. My uncle was a bass player and I learned how to play the bass guitar from him."

Chris found his footing and the wheels of inspiration started turning when he attended a Beatles tribute show. "As I was watching the show, it dawned on me that I had never seen a Rolling Stones tribute show. This was around 1999. I started thinking about all those times when people told me I looked like Mick Jagger. I started doing some research

regarding Rolling Stones tribute bands. I found one in Chicago, one in New York and one in Los Angeles but none of them were touring. I felt that I could pull it off because I have an extrovert personality and always have been able to mimic other voices. I started recruiting some guys that wanted to do this with me, just as a specialty show. I did not really have a vision of it being the entity that it is now."

Naming the band, Satisfaction came naturally. "Satisfaction is my favorite song by The Rolling Stones. I have always thought it was cutting edge and made a statement. It was the first song that popped into my mind when I was thinking of a name for the band," he explains.

Portraying one of rock's leading front men is a full-time job. "A lot of time and prep go into portraying Mick Jagger," said Chris. "I have studied videos and DVDs. The first thing I needed to get was his voice and make it sound as authentic as I could. If you cannot portray the voice, forget it. You can have the look but without the voice, you have nothing. You must sell it vocally, instrumentally, and musically. That's always the top priority. I have had to diversify myself into characters because Mick is different in 1985 than he was in 1965. You need to adapt. There is a lot of work required to maintain authenticity."

Speaking of authenticity, Satisfaction includes the Brian Jones era into their shows. For anyone who may not be familiar with Brian Jones. He was the one who started the band in the early 60s, influenced their sound and made his impact before passing away at the age of 27 in 1969. He sometimes is overlooked or forgotten yet he was a valuable spoke to the wheel and was an incredible musician. "We are the only Stones tribute band that reflects the Brian Jones era," said Chris. "We wanted to bring him back and pay tribute to him because The Rolling Stones were his band. Paying tribute to him gets attention. Fans love the nostalgia. We are happy to honor him."

Finally, what is the IT factor for portraying Mick Jagger for over 20 years? "Arguably, he's the greatest rock and roll front man of all time. A fantastic songwriter who is never afraid to take on any style of music with the Stones, whether it's blues, country, rhythm and blues, bluegrass, reggae or straight rock and roll. I love the classiness that he has always carried himself with and his extraordinary sense of style and fashion."

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