

V NOW WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

An Interview with Rodney O'Quinn of FOGHAT

Sonic Mojo is a new album from FOGHAT that will be released on November 10.

Bass player Rodney O'Quinn shares his thoughts about his start in music, the new album, the longevity of FOGHAT, and playing with Roger Earl. Roger is the original drummer for FOGHAT and is the driving force that keeps the band going. The current line up is Bryan Bassett (guitar), Scott Holt (vocals, guitar), Rodney O'Quinn (bass), and THE Roger Earl (drums).



Photo Credit: Jake Coughlin

Left to right: Scott Holt (Lead Vocals/Lead Guitar), Rodney O'Quinn (Bass), Roger Earl (Drums), Bryan Bassett (Lead/Slide Guitar)

"I went through a crazy period when I was young," explains Rodney. "I was interested in all of the artists that were advertised on K-tel Records. Then I jumped from that to *KISS Alive*. I thought that was so cool. About that same time, I was listening to *FOGHAT Live* and that's when I started becoming interested in playing the bass. I would actually try to emulate the sound of the band and sometimes played my 'air guitar'. Then I ended up playing with them later in life.

"I started playing the bass guitar out of necessity. My best friend had gotten a guitar and joined a band with three brothers. They asked me to join and asked if I could play bass and that's how it started. So, I asked my parents if I could get a bass guitar. To be honest, I just wanted to be part of what my best friend was doing. But playing the bass actually stuck and stayed with me."

Rodney continues, "I had left music for a while and got a real job as they say. I was a windows and doors salesman in the construction business and I still do so to this day. But in 2007 a friend had mentioned that Pat Travers was looking for a bass player and the transition to join his band went pretty smooth. I was with the Pat Travers Band from 2007 to 2015. I overlapped a little because in 2015, I joined FOGHAT. Craig MacGregor, who was the long-time bassist for FOGHAT, was having health problems and could not continue with

the band. Craig would tell Roger Earl, 'Rodney is a mini-me' and felt that I would be a good fit with the band. I have been with FOGHAT ever since."

The new album *Sonic Mojo* has 12 tracks. Fans are going to love the mix of these songs, which most definitely have the FOGHAT feel and sound. "FOGHAT was established in 1971. Roger Earl is the original drummer and he is the main reason that the band has endured over 50 years. He loves playing. This new album reflects the longevity of the band and the history of its musicians," explains Rodney.

FOGHAT has a new wine on the market called FOGHAT Cellars. "You can order the wine from the FOGHAT website," said Rodney. "It was Roger's idea. He met with a wine maker in the Sonoma, California area and together they created this great wine."

Fans recognize FOGHAT's hits from their early days such as "Slow Ride," "Fool for The City" and many more! The hits from the early days as well as new material make for a rockin' show that fans of all ages will enjoy. Rodney has lasting thoughts for fans who attend their shows. "We are all fans of FOGHAT. We are not reinventing the wheel. Our shows have positive energy and everyone has fun. It's all about the music."

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