

FEBRUARY 2026

Volume 34 Issue 11

Art | Music | Dining | Recreation

BREVARD LIVE FLORIDA

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Vero Beach

**BLUES
FESTIVAL**

**GRANT SEAFOOD
Festival**

**INDIAFEST
SigFest**

WISNEY

**JOSEPH
WILLIAMS**
of Toto
Interviewed

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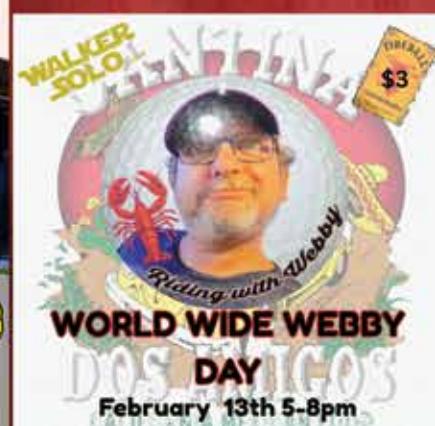


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GRANT SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

For the 59th time the township of Grant comes together as a community to produce an all-volunteer 2-day event, definitely one of the largest fish-frys in the South East.

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Joseph Williams was the lead singer for Toto in the 80's, and then took a hiatus before returning some years later. 1994 he voiced the songs for Simba in Disney's *The Lion King* as well as the theme song for the Disney cartoon *The Gummy Bears*. Matt Bretz had a chance to speak with him.

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WISNEY

Wisney can be found dabbling in many outlets: jumping on stage with various bands, he's an emcee, DJ, video producer, voiceover for movies, a character in a Mad Illz comic book series, and a member of the band Neon Souls.

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MATT CLARK

Matt is a talented multi-media artist who is new to Brevard but determined to offer his talent. After working years as art director, he returns to photography - wedding photography.

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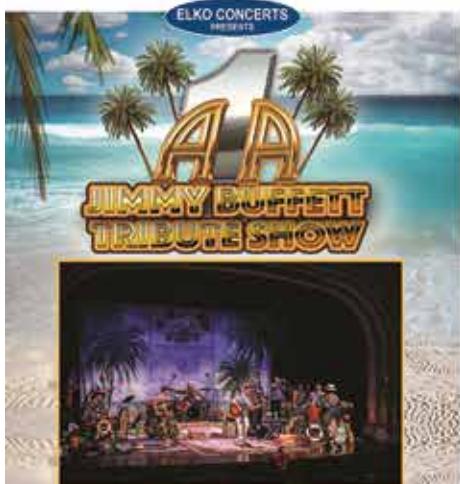
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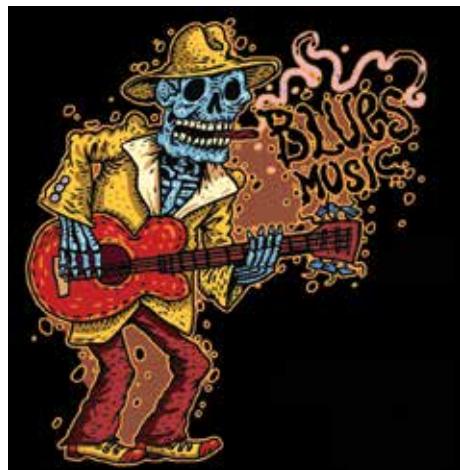
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**BREVARD
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Concerts & Festivals



February 28 & March 1
Indian River County Fairgrounds

Vero Beach Blues Fest

The 5th Annual Vero Beach Blues Festival will be held February 28th and March 1st, 2026, at the Indian River County Fairgrounds, proudly produced by Latitude-88, Inc.! This unique 2-day music festival will feature 12 amazing bands performing nothing but the blues in a beautiful outdoor setting.

Here is the schedule! Saturday 11:30am **Dottie Kelly & the Rockhouse Band**, 1pm **Ray Fuller & the Bluesrockers**, 2:30pm **Solomon Hicks**, 4pm **Ally Venable**; 6pm **Mud Morganfield** (he's Muddy's oldest son), 8pm **Eric Gales**. Saturday 11:30am **The Blues Crusaders**, 1pm **The Cash Box Kings**, 2:30pm **Annika Chambers & Paul Deslauriers**, 6pm **Sue Foley**, 8pm **Bobby Rush**.

The festival's main stage will be set up on a 30-acre grass field with ample standing and sitting space for attendees. Those looking for a more intimate concert experience can take advantage of the big blues lounge which features seating for 650 visitors as well as a huge full liquor bar serving all kinds of drinks. There will also be plenty of food and beverage vendors offering a variety of delicious options throughout the entire duration of the event.

Enjoy 80 retail vendors at the vendor village, delicious food, and full liquor bars. Good times and epic memories all weekend. For tickets and updated information visit www.verobluesfest.com

March 7 & 8, 9am-5pm
Grant Community Center

Grant Seafood Fest

There was a time when life was slower, folks went fishing, had cook-outs, and talked to their neighbors. We refer to it as the "good old days," and if you like this lifestyle, you can still find it in some places. Grant is one of those communities where traditions matter and folks help each other. Once a year they come together for a big fish fry - this year for the 59th time. This is an all-volunteer event provided by the township for generations with some good old southern hospitality. No regular food vendors have ever been on site. The total commitment of the community and all their volunteers make the Grant Seafood Festival a time honored tradition unlike any other. All proceeds are put back into the community of Grant. The various projects include a scholarship fund, the community library, the Grant Historical House and Community Center. Yes, these folks are all about tradition.

Grant is located in South Brevard along US 1, and the festival is open on Saturday from 9 am to 7 pm, and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm. The admission and parking is free; over 200 crafters exhibiting, and the stage features continuous live entertainment. Saturday: 9:30am-1pm **Mixtape Kids**, 1:30-3:30pm **Eli Mosley**, 4-7pm **Luna Pearl**. Sunday: 9:30am-1pm **Cypress Creek**, 2-5pm **Almighty Queen**. www.GrantSeafoodFestival.com



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Feb 28, 1pm, Siggy's American Bar, Palm Bay

13TH ANNUAL SIGFEST

The event was created by musicians to honor David & Shawn Sigafoos for their commitment to support local musicians and charities. David's legacy started in 1979 with the opening of The Holiday Inn Oceanfront, now Crowne Plaza. David was committed to book the highest levels of live entertainment and brought in name acts with Ray Charles, Spiro Gyra & more. Siggy's American Bar opened in 1990 and has been Palm Bay's "family affair" where many local bands had their start.

Amy Sigafoos took charge of the family business after the sudden passing of her husband David and her son Shawn over a decade ago. She says: "I'm honored to keep their legacy alive with the celebration of live music and SIGFEST." Many people are involved: The entertainment is planned by Merissa Rudkin and Sammy Hill. DJ Chris keeps the music on schedule. Devon Gillespie runs the bar, Tritt Productions the sound. There will be raffles and auction prizes.

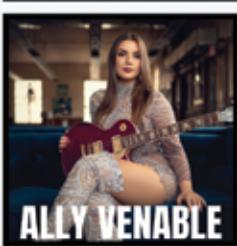
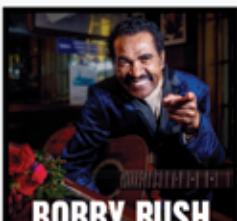
This year's entertainment is provided by **Beck's Brotherhood, Switch, Phoenix, Blue Diamond Band, Top Hill Crew, The Day After, Ruckus, Short Circuit and Hail Mary**. The event benefits The Genesis House, Brevard Music Aid, and Homeless Veterans in Brevard (NVHS). www.siggyamericanbar.com

March 7 & 8, Wickham Park, Melbourne

29TH ANNUAL INDIAFEST

The 29th Annual Indiafest celebrates *Dynamic Women of India* on International Women's Day Weekend, March 7th and 8th at Wickham Park in Melbourne. This year's theme honors the incredible contributions of Indian women which coincides with International Women's Day, making the celebration especially meaningful. Launched in 1996 as a humble community effort, Indiafest has grown into a beloved cultural tradition on the Space Coast. The festival showcases the richness of Indian heritage through music, dance, art, food, and interactive experiences, drawing visitors of all ages to enjoy a weekend of learning, fun, and connection.

In keeping with its mission of cultural harmony and community service, Indiafest proudly supports local causes through charitable giving. This year, *WAYS for Life*, a nonprofit offering wraparound youth services to at-risk young adults, including those transitioning out of foster care and experiencing homelessness, has been selected as the festival's beneficiary. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12 and, children under 5 are free. www.indiafestbrevard.org



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JOSEPH WILLIAMS of Toto INTERVIEWED!

By Matt Bretz

If you were to make a list of huge iconic bands that have impacted the world and multiple generations of music lovers, Toto is always going to be on it and near the top. With 14 studio albums, 50 million records sold worldwide, Grammys on the shelf and a large quiver of hits this band has been adding to the soundtrack of our lives for nearly five decades, and they are still at it. Last year they toured with Men at Work and Christopher Cross to sold out shows across the globe. This year they have decided to take to the road in smaller venues for a more intimate experience. Of course, for these juggernauts intimate means *The Hardrock Live* as opposed to the Staples Center, but you get the idea.

Joseph Williams was the lead singer for Toto in the 80's, and then took a hiatus before returning some years later. In 1994 he voiced the songs for Simba in Disney's *The Lion King* as well as the theme song for the Disney cartoon *The Gummy Bears*. Williams has also composed for films like his uber famous father John Williams, best known for pretty much everything Steven Spielberg does. Last month I got the chance to sit down with Joseph and talk about all of that. Here is what happened.

Joe Williams how is your day working out so far?

JW: Not bad. I woke up, had breakfast, hung out with my cat Jojo and now I'm talking to you.

You named your cat Jojo Joe?

JW: Haha! I know right? He came with that name, and he already knew it, so we just kept it.

I want to tell you I caught your tour last year with Men at Work and Christopher Cross when you played Tampa. It was fantastic!

JW: I remember that show because it was so incredibly humid and hot. The crowd was live though. You Floridians can really take the heat.

Yep, the air here is like 90 percent water. One day Floridians will develop gills. Anyways, that tour was such a killer combination of acts. How did that all come about?

JW: I do a lot with Ringo Starr's Allstar Band and so does Colin Hay and we got to know each other through that and became friends. We had always thrown around the idea of touring together and we finally decided to do it. Chris Cross has been a friend of ours for decades, we go way back. I guess the tour was us hanging out with old friends and hitting the road together.

I feel like you never stop touring. Your last tour literally just ended, and you are already launching another. What's different about this one?

JW: Well, this year (Steve) Lukather and I were talking, you know trying to figure out what we wanted to do, and we decided this year we want to play some of the smaller venues. We also wanted to get inside and let the fans hear the sound like it is in theaters. Outdoors is always a guessing game but inside we can really make it sound how we want.

When you say smaller theaters what does that mean to you? Something intimate? Are you scaling back the band?

JW: I say smaller, but we are playing places like Hardrock, and it will be the full band.

What can your fans expect in the way of a set list?

JW: They will definitely hear all the hits, all of their favorites of course, but we are probably going to bring out some deep cuts we don't normally play

or at least haven't in a long time.

By the way you probably don't know this, but you and I used to sing together.

JW: Get out! We did? When?

Every day after school when I was in 6th grade because I knew every word of the Gummy Bears theme song!

JW: Haha! That's great man.

I really loved that show. I'm also a huge fan of The Lion King, so when I found out you sang all of Simba's songs, I got really excited about this interview - Toto? What's that? This guy sang Hakuna Matata!

JW: You are killing me!

How did you end up in the Disney fold for a minute?

JW: Well, as you just talked about, I was asked by a friend of a friend to lay down the vocals for The Gummy Bears song and being my father's son, I'm kind of drawn to themes and soundtracks, so I did it. Some years later when they made the Lion King, they thought I might be a good match for Simba and asked me to come in - that's about it really. I had a great time and the movie, of course, went on to be legendary so that was nice, too.

Now, I know you have done some film compositions as well. I have to know - what was it like the first time you showed your dad, one of the greatest living composers, one of your compositions? Was it scary?

JW: I was a little nervous, but it wasn't scary. My father and I have very good relationship, and he has always been supportive of anything I do.

Between you and your dad the Williams have been supplying a lot of the music we live our lives to for five decades. How do you even grasp that?

JW: I don't. I feel like I have been very lucky to do what I love and people respond and let me keep doing it. I can't

speak to my father, but I know it's a labor of love for him too because at 93 years old he is still working. He's in the studio working on Spielberg's new movie as we speak.

Toto is such an iconic band your songs are going to outlive you by a lot; that must feel pretty good. I think I even read somewhere that an artist built a sculpture in the middle of a desert somewhere and it's going to play Africa on loop for the next 100 years or something.

JW: It does feel good to know that we are leaving something meaningful behind. To be a part of people's lives - it's huge. And yes, I heard about that too. I think it's solar powered.

Right! He won't tell anyone where it is either, so you have to just wander around in the desert and stumble upon it. No offense Joe but if I'm lost in the desert the last thing, I'm hoping to come across is a loop of Africa. You can't even use it as a landmark because you wouldn't know where you are.

JW: I agree! The good news is you can wander through Walmart and hear it on loop just as easily and with air conditioning.

Are you guys working on anything in the studio right now? Can we expect anything coming down the pipe?

JW: No, there aren't any plans for anything right now. I mean—we made 14 studio albums, is that not enough for you?

Haha! That's fair. When you do write what inspires you?

JW: There are so many great composers working right now. I really get inspired by the pure emotion they can put into music. Guys like Hans Zimmer, who I used to work with, James Howard. I love the work that was done on Game of Thrones.

What are you listening to right now?

JW: Honestly, I don't have a lot of bands I sit down and listen to anymore. I mostly listen to movie soundtracks if I'm by myself. If I'm with my wife or any of the kids, it's whatever they have on.

That's exactly what Paul Stanley said to that question.

JW: I bet! We can command thousands of fans at a concert but at home I am definitely not in charge!

Joe was an absolute pleasure to talk to and, if time hadn't been a factor, I'm confident we would've hung out for quite a while. It felt easy and friendly to talk to him, and I realize, now as I write this, that he conveys the same thing to the crowds he plays for. He makes you feel like you belong and he's happy you are there. Toto has such a solid list of hits and hidden gems in their vast catalog of music, there is literally something for everyone. This is one of those bands that you start listening to and go...oh, they did that song too? If you get the chance to check them out - and you do - take it...or pack some water and head out into the desert.



Joseph Williams of Toto

FEBRUARY LIVE MUSIC

SUN. 1 ANNA DELGADO BAND 1-4 PM
 SAT. 7 SYDICATE BAND 1-4 PM
 DAMION SUOMI 5-8 PM
 SUN. 8 SHOTGUN WEDDING 1-4 PM
 FRI. 13 RUSS KELLUM TRIO 6-9 PM
 SAT. 14 PINK SPICE 12-3 PM
 ANDREW WALKING 5-8 PM
 SUN. 15 GREG & BRIAN 1-4 PM
 FRI. 20 SKYCLUB 6-9PM
 SAT. 21 JEFF STANTON BAND 1-4 PM
 DEAD ALL OVER 6-9 PM
 SUN. 22 SAYLOR & THE CAPTAINS 1-4 PM
 FRI. 27 LOCAL 518 - 6-9 PM
 SAT. 28 MIXTAPE KIDS 1-4 PM

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The Column

By Chuck Van Riper

English is Hard

Remember this old routine: "Hey look, a bunch of cows." "Not a bunch, a herd." "Heard of what?" "Herd of cows." "Sure I've heard of cows." "No, no, a cow herd." "What do I care what a cow heard!" How about "Yes the bough broke, it wasn't tough, though". Yes, English is difficult sometimes. Especially when it comes to homonyms like shown in the previous example. But, wait, there's more! Butt, weight, their's moore.

I went to the store so I could store up on supplies for my trip. I figured while walking down the aisle, I'll sample the grapes to take to the isle. I ate eight. But the rest of the produce didn't produce an appetizing appeal. Although, I did get a pair of pears which I'll pare when I get home. All of a sudden, a duct fell down, good thing I ducked. There was flour all over the flowers. Apparently, the ceiling didn't have the proper sealing. Whether the weather affected it is not known. I would have complained aloud but it was not allowed, one should always conduct oneself with proper conduct. So I was looking through the ad to see what I could add to my cart. I read about the red apples. I didn't read about the reeds, though. I came to the site where I sight the apples where they cite the price. By their scents, I could sense the good ones even though they cost a few more cents. Of course, the pineapples were coarse, I decided to buy one, by the way. Looking at the beets, they looked beat, so I passed on them because of past experience with them. When somebody chews on them, they wish they didn't choose them. OK, I'm almost ready for my trip!

I arrive at the boat we are taking just in time, so I thought. They had to make sure everybody was ready to leave the shore and the crews were ready to cruise. Just as I was getting really bored from waiting, it was time to board. As we moved forth, I was fourth in line. Finally, we take off. Eventually, we're in the middle of the deep blue sea, the wind blew strongly. Time to wind down a bit and relax. I'm sure we left the shore hours ago, I'm still looking for which room is ours. Everybody made it on the ship ok except for the band who were banned for some reason. It was a beautiful day. In the middle of the open seas, one can seize on our insignificance. For a while the



ship just stopped for some reason. I figured it would be a good time to write about my adventures. While we were stationary, I went to look for some stationery. I found a pen and started to write about all that was right with the trip so far. After a while, I was ready for a smoke. I went to the top deck overlooking the deep blue sea as I blew a smoke ring off the side.

We finally made it to our destination. An ancient city on the English countryside. To get to the castle we were staying in we had to walk over a bridge with a creak that went over a creek. In front of the castle stood a knight which was hard to see in the night. Then it started to rain which made it difficult to read about the reign of the king who ruled from this castle. On top of it all, the front door was locked. It seemed that no one was hearing our pleas to please open the door. While waiting, a rabbit came by. It looked sickly. The hare was losing its hair. One of the guys in the group was getting impatient. I never heard a grown man groan like that. Finally, somebody came and let us in. As he came to the fore, I was handed the key to room four.

Ok, had enough? I mean this could go on forever. Maybe next month we'll do some heteronyms. Sound like fun? Yea! In the meantime, ponder some homonyms of your own. I'm sure you can come up with many more clever than mine. I ponder them all the time. Then again, I ponder a lot of weird stuff. There are a lot of new discoveries in the world of quantum physics, quantum entanglement has pretty much been proven, zero point energy is making great progress, AI is making great strides, so much cool stuff going on. But I ponder the really heavy stuff, like why do I brush my hair before I go to bed.

Tuesday, Feb 24, 10am, Downtown Melbourne

RAYVEL's Grand Opening

Downtown Melbourne welcomes a new enterprise. The grand Rayvel Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (RRCC) for the new corporate headquarters takes place on Tuesday, February 24th, 10-11am, at 404 East New Haven Avenue. This facility will be a world class holographic research, development, and production center. It will also include a public "viewseum" of holograms from the Center for the Holographic Arts (a.k.a. the HoloCenter), a collection of works created by the most renowned holographic artists from around the world. The ceremony will start with *American Idol* Star **Bo Bice** singing the national anthem, feature six bands (e.g. Kasim Sultan), and conclude with a performance by the nation's number one swing band: **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** (the band that plays the theme to the TV show *Modern Family*).

www.rayvel.com

VALENTINE'S DAY

After 5 Band



FEBRUARY 14TH
2 SHOWS
5:30PM & 8:00PM
THREE COURSE DINNER

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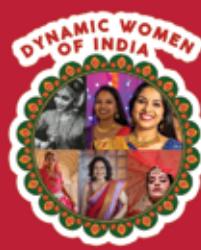


29th Annual **Manav Mandir Presents** 

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March 7th, 10am to 6pm
March 8th, 11am to 5pm

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www.Indiafestbrevard.org



indiafestbrevard.org

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February 2026

Entertainment Calendar

1 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm Aquinas (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Anna Delgado Band
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Nick Moss & Dennis Fruenling
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm SWAAG Band
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Galaxy; 7pm Justin Parkhurst
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Midlife Crisis; 9pm DJ Salt Shaker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm John McDonald
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm Matt Simpson; 5pm Tree Frogs
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 2pm Jeff Marquis
TIDE & TONIC: 10am Paul Beach

2 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Swampfox Jam
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam Band
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan Jam

3 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm Jazz Night w/ Kenny Cohen
COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Catgut Stitches
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum

4 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Day Tripper
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Bridget Gossett
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Syndicate Duo
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Frank OG Jam
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Wilcor

5 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm Matt Simpson
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm DJ BTK
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5pm Coffee to Cocktails
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Miranda Realino

6 - FRIDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 5pm Andrew Walker; 8pm Innuendo
CB FISH CAMP: 4pm Teddy V; 8pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Luna Pearl
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Bruce Katz
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Justin Vreeland
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Ruckus
SANDBAR CB: 3pm Jim Inman; 8pm Bullet Dodgers
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Redfish Rich
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Mike Steele
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm Blue Moon Rising
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5:30pm Sunset Sound
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Adam Azar

7 - SATURDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Phoenix
COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Syndicate Band; 5pm Damion Suomi

8 - SUNDAY

EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Vero Typewriter; 8pm One Eyed Willie
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Hella Ayelet Gal w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Pinch
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Alexander James; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Switch
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Over/Under; 9pm Andrew Rickman & The No Pressure Band
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Tropic Pulse
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm Jeff Marquis; 6:30pm Look'n Back
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm Matt Simpson; 6pm The Kraftmen
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Sam Sims

9 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2pm Buck Barefoot (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Shotgun Wedding
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Bruce Katz
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Chris O'Leary
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Different Strings; 7pm Scott Smalls
SANDBAR CB: 6:30pm King Of The Couch Super Bowl LX Party
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Captain Heck & Friends
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm Johnny Danger; 5pm Phoenix
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 2pm Deja
TIDE & TONIC: 12am-4pm Car Cynic Sound DJ; Pub Crawl; Super Bowl Party

10 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm Jazz Night w/ Kenny Cohen
COCOA BEACH FISH

CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Adam Sean
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum

11 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Mark Baker
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Mike Quick Blues & Soulful
SANDBAR: 8pm Innuendo Duo
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Frank OG Jam
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Wilcor

12 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm Dave Scott, Finland Joe & Friends
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Krystal Clarke & The Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Cherry Down
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5pm Queen Kelley B
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Char Good

13 - FRIDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 5pm David Southwood Smith; 8pm Vince Love & The Soul Cats
CB FISH CAMP: 4pm Carl; 8pm Karaoke
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm Russ Kellum Trio
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Twisted Minds
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm

Entertainment Calendar

Ariella & Nicolaas A love Story
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Dave Thrift Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Occasional Astronauts
SANDBAR CB: 3pm Joshua Dean; 8pm Karalyn & The Dawn Patrol
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Matt Riley
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Dave Myers
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm Kome Back Kid
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5:30pm Not Just Candi
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Stay Tuned

VALENTINES DAY 14 - SATURDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 5pm Paul The Beach; 8pm Switch
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 12pm Pink Spice Band; 5pm Andrew Walker
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 211-3 Car Show; 2pm Joe Reid & Heartland, 8pm Barfly
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 5:30pm After 5 Band; 8pm After 5 Band
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Loaded Dice
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Denise Turner; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Mixtape Kids
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Love Valley; 9pm The Leftovers
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Maddi & More
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm Bosco Cat; 6:30pm Kings County
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm Chris Olsen & Dave Yandell; 5:30pm Luke Allen
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5:30pm KEX

15 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm SkyClub (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm

Greg & Brian
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm The Midnight Ramblers (Rolling Stone Tribute)
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Open Mic Night w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Sheepdawgs; 7pm Alexander James
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Saltwater Hippie Band; 9pm DJ Salt Shaker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Stay Tuned
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm Joe Kirschen; 5pm Pink Spice
SQUIDLIPS Sebastian: 2pm Heatstroke
TIDE & TONIC: 12pm-4pm Elvis Iconic Car Show

PRESIDENTS' DAY 16 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Swampfox Jam
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Triple Shot
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam Band
SQUID LIPS Mel: 5pm Joshua Keels
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan Jam

17 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm Jazz Night w/ Kenny Cohen
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Catgut Stitches
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum

18 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Ella & The Bossa Beat (Brazilian Jazz)
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Dave Thrift
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy
SANDBAR: 8pm DJ

SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Ja
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Wilcor

19 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm Jasmine Cain
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm The Dave Capp Project
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm DJ BTK
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5pm Bob Hughes
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Andrew Rickman

20 - FRIDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 5pm Uncle Marky; 8pm Changes
CB FISH CAMP: 4pm Syndicate Duo, 8pm Karaoke
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm Skyclub
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Checkmate
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm EarthTonez Music Collective
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Terry White
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Floriduh
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Dakota Bradshaw; 8pm Syndicate
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Keano
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Josh Keels
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Frank OG Jam
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm Murphy's Law
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5:30pm Glen Roberts Cranked Up Country
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5:30pm Ron Ruethem

21 - SATURDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Mixtape Kids
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Jeff

Stanton Band; 6pm Dead All Over

EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Sirsy; 8pm Funpipe

FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Hella Ayelet Gal w/ Ron Teixeira Trio

KEY WEST BAR: 9pm TBA

LOU'S BLUES: 1pm John Nugent; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Innuendo

SANDBAR CB: 21st Anniversary Party; 4pm Planet Hairspray; 9pm Cheetah Coalition

SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Pompano Pete

SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ

SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Floridave

SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm Buck Barefoot; 6:30pm Dreamer

SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm Bosco Cat; 5:30pm Stella Blue

THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing

TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Serious Animal

22 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm Lil Lin (deck)

CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Saylor & The Captains

EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Dwayne Dopsie & Zydeco Hellraisers

HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm David Pastori & Local 518

LOU'S BLUES: 11am Car Show; 2pm Juiced; 7pm Drew Halverson

SANDBAR CB: 4pm Radar Red; 9pm DJ Salt Shaker

SLOW & LOW CB: 4pm Buck Barefoot

SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Bill Cockrell

SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm Tropic Pulse; 5pm Sun Drops

SQUIDLIPS Sebastian: 2pm Julia Adkins

TIDE & TONIC: 11am-3pm David Southwood Smith

23 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Swampfox Jam

EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Triple Shot

LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo

SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam

Entertainment Calendar

Band
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan Jam

24 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm Jazz Night w/ Kenny Cohen
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jim Unman
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum

25 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Matthew Curry
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Char Good
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Prolific
SANDBAR: 8pm DJ
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Frank OG Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 3pm Heatstroke
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Wilcor

26 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 11:30am-4:30pm Kenny Cohen (inside); Saylor & The Captains (outside)
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm Jake Salter
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Juiced
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5pm Ray Fredell
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Matt Simpson

27 - FRIDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 5pm Syd Taylor; 7pm Twisted Minds Inc
CB FISH CAMP: 4pm Jennifer Lee; 8pm Karaoke
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm Local 518
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm American Highway
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Anne Harris & JP Soars
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm No Wake Zone
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Short Circuit
SANDBAR CB: 3pm Jeff Marquis; 8pm Vintage
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Wes Hufnagel
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Tim England
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm Heatstroke
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 6pm Vintage Radio Electric Trio
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Show Time

28 - SATURDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Flannel
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Mixtape Kids
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Good Bread/Good Zep; 8pm Crashrocket
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Chief Cherry & His Red Beans & Rice
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Lil Lin Band
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Denise Turner; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Luna Pearl
SANDBAR CB: Rockstock w/ 5 bands: 12pm Syd Taylor Band; 3pm Saylor & The Captains; 6pm Adam Sean Band; 9pm Dakota & The Hired Gunz; 11:30pm Serious Animal
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Tom Colella
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm DJ
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Drew Halverson
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm Will

Purdy; 6:30pm Innuendo

SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm Matthew Mvericks; 5:30pm Lee Zalnoski
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Adam Azar

All calendar listings are subject to change without notice.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb 1: Taste of Ireland, King Center, Melbourne

Feb 1 - 8: Singin in the Rain, Henegar Center, Melbourne, 321-723-8698

Feb 1 - Feb 22: Foxfire, Melbourne Civic Theatre, 321-723-6935

Feb 2: Abstract/Modern Art Class, Galleria of Art and Photography, Melbourne, 321-338-9787

Feb 2, 9, 16, 23: Drawing Class, CBAA Office & Studio, Rockledge, cbaartists.com

Feb 3, 12, 19, 24: Multi Day Abstract Elements in Painting Workshop, Studios of Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3840

Feb 4, 11, 18, 25: Art Instruction Class, CBAA Office & Studio, Rockledge, cbaartists.com

Feb 6: Friday Fest, City of Cape Canaveral, 321-868-1220

Feb 6 - 22: Gypsy, Cocoa Village Playhouse, Historic Cocoa Village, 321-724-0555

Feb 7: Cocoa Village Brewer's Bash, Cocoa Riverfront Park

Feb 7 - Mar 1: Chinese New Year Exhibit, Strawbridge Art League, Melbourne, 321-952-3070

Feb 7: A1A - Jimmy Buffet Tribute Show, King Center, 321-242-2219

Feb 7, 14, 21, 28: Saturday Farmers Market at Riverview Park, Downtown Melbourne

Feb 7, 14, 21, 28: Green Gables Open House, Green Gables, Melbourne, 321-306-8635

Feb 7, 14, 21, 28: Space Coast Farmer's Market, Eau Gallie

Square Park, Melbourne

Feb 9: Pickleball Mixer, Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Palm Bay, 321-952-3400

Feb 10: Multi Day Abstract Elements in Painting Workshop, Studios of Cocoa Beach, Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3840

Feb 10: Family Game Night, Cape Canaveral Community Center

Feb 12 - 16: The Edwards Twins, Surfside Playhouse, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Feb 13: Rock n Roll Revue - Valentine Vibes, Eau Gallie Civic Center, Melbourne, 321-724-0555

Feb 13 & 14: Space Coast Paddle Battle, Cape Canaveral Community Center

Feb 14: Paint Your Valentine, Galleria of Art and Photography, Melbourne, 321-338-9787

Feb 14: Sea Oat Planting Project, Cape Canaveral Beaches, 321-868-1220

Feb 14: Out of This World, Satellite High School Auditorium, Satellite Beach, 855-252-7276

Feb 14: Night Ranger, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Feb 14 & 15: Splash! of Watercolor Art Show, Azan Shrine Temple, Melbourne

Feb 15: Mickey Freeman Quartet, Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island

Feb 15: Lift Every Voice Youth Showcase, Rockledge Civic Hub, Rockledge, artsbrevard.org

Feb 15: Stayin Alive - One Night of the Bee Gees, King Center, 321-242-2219

Feb 17: Samara Joy, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Feb 18 & 19: Love Notes - Tales of Passion, Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne, 321-724-0555

Feb 20: Friday Fest, Cocoa Beach Mainstreet

Feb 20: Atlanta Rhythm Section, King Center, 321-242-2219

Feb 20: The Expanding Man, King Center, 321-242-2219

Feb 21: Hollywood's Greatest Love Themes, King Center, 321-345-5052

Feb 21: Till Death Do Us Part... You First, Surfside Playhouse,

Community Calendar

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Feb 21: Space Coast Writer's Guild Book Fair, Myrt Tharpe Square, Historic Cocoa Village, scwg.org

Feb 21: Mardi Gras Pub Crawl, George and Dragon English Tavern, Historic Cocoa Village, madhatterpromotions.com, 321-543-1346

Feb 21 & 22: Downtown Melbourne Arts and Crafts Festival

Feb 22: Love Notes – Tales of Passion, Community Church of Vero Beach, 321-724-0555

Feb 22: Central Florida Winds Concert, Suntree United Methodist Church, 321-405-2359

Feb 22: Reader's Theater, Surfside Playhouse, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Feb 22: BSO Free Family Concert, King Center, Melbourne, brevardsymphony.com, 321-345-5052

Feb 23: The Price Is Right Live, King Center, 321-242-2219

Feb 24 & 25: Tina – Tina Turner Musical, King Center, 321-242-2219

Feb 25: Poetry + Open Mic Night, The CAPE Center, Cape Canaveral, 321-868-1224

Feb 26: So Good! The Neil Diamond Experience, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Feb 26: Spyro Gyra, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Feb 27: Il Divo By Candlelight, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Feb 27: Evening in Paris Gala, Green Gables, Melbourne, 321-306-8635

Feb 27 & 28: Artistry of Quilts Show, Melbourne Auditorium

Feb 28: Marching to Our Own Beat, Surfside Playhouse, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

*Cultural events provided by
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ArtsBrevard.org/events*

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STEP UP TO THE MIC WISNEY

Emcee, DJ, Video Producer,
Comic Book Character, Musician



By Pamela Guccione
Photos by Dominic Agostini

When the beats drop, and Wisney steps to the stage, everyone knows to strap in for a quick-paced throwdown of insightful bars.

Wisney can be found dabbling in many outlets: jumping on stage with various bands, he's an emcee, DJ, video producer, voiceover for movies, a character in a Mad Illz comic book series, and a member of the band Neon Souls with Dat Dude, Wanduras, and Slow (aka Chris Maslow, Brevard's exceptional local artist).

Wisney's a chameleon who can integrate on stage at a moment's notice with anyone and break into beats that leave the crowd uplifted and hyped. He grew up in Brevard, graduated from Melbourne High School, where his favorite class was drama- stage crafting, because "it was the one class he got to express himself and wasn't told to be quiet, he says, "you could get loud, and others would clap for you, it was a great time."

Wisney has sought creative outlets since adolescence. Some locals may recall his first band, Made In China, (M.I.C.) where he performed regularly at the "Thirsty Lizard" with David Pastorius on bass, Alex Petrosky on drums, Rich Jaxin on guitar and Dylan Forsythe and Wisney on vocals. A favorite memory of Wisney's was performing with Bubba Sparxxx. He also recalls a time that Made In China and Jewop traveled to Georgia to perform. Prior to the start of their performance, he jumped on a table in a packed courtyard, kicked a verse, and then yelled into the crowd, "We're from out of town, come inside and watch us." He then waited in anticipation to see who would enter once the doors opened. The people flooded in. He recalled the band throwing a Sector 9 skateboard into the crowd at each show back then and thinks about how scary that was in hindsight - wild times for some wild boys.

Wisney is no stranger to the festival circuit. He's a well-known figure in the scene and has entertained audiences by collaborating with several artists, including Future Joy. When asked if he ever gets star-struck, he responded,

"I don't see anyone out of my league. Musicians are musicians; some are on top today, some will be on top tomorrow. You must keep at it." This sheds light on Wisney's positive outlook. He's certainly persevering and ambitious, and he believes in himself. He states, "I have messages on my mind and need to find ways to express them, life is about lessons to learn and share, and if you keep at something, you will succeed, so why would you ever stop keeping at it. Everybody sucked at one time. Just keep working on it, and you'll be great. Music and painting are therapeutic; they both bring meaning to me. I like to see the paints swirl with each other in the same way that I'm fascinated by the vibration of sounds and how they swirl together." Wisney then stated that he recently threw down some rhymes with Lil Watersocks, Bebebs, and was randomly thrown into a session with a very, very impressive female rapper from Orlando, My Verse.

When I asked Wisney if his raps come from off the cuff or if he pulls from previously written and memorized verses, he responded, "I have some hooks in my pocket, as I have whole collections of written verses memorized, and I also free-style off the cuff. Sometimes I'm freestyle and then punch in and out of some previously structured verses, especially if it's a critical moment to draw in the crowd. With freestyle, you're really rolling the dice; it's a lot riskier, so it all depends on who I'm with, where the music is happening, you know, the time and place."

Wisney then explained some of his process. "Once I've learned my verses, where they're in my head, and I can regurgitate them anytime, then I start practicing them on different beats per minute. Therefore, I can adjust to any band rather than having a band adjust to me. The band really needs to just stay on beat and keep killing it; they're the backbone, I'm just riding along with them. I practice enough so

that I don't get thrown off," Wisney says, "he sees himself as an antenna receiving the songs as they come down." He continues, "My rhyme structure doesn't follow common rhyme structure; I don't let that get in the way. I let whatever comes in that feels right come through and write it down. I find I have messages that come to me while I'm writing verses, and then I find a way to express them."

When asked about how he got involved in video production, Wisney responded, "Video production adds a layer of what I've already visualized when I hear the music. The use of AI has given my music much more traction. He starts laughing and continues, "It could actually give someone a complex, cuz you know it's sick, like you guys don't even like the real me, you guys like the fake AI Wisney better, you're not my real friends."

Recently, at the Premiere Theaters Oaks 10 in Melbourne, Wisney watched the independent film "Bed Bug Hotel," in which he is a cast member, during the comedy and indie film festival. Wisney did the voice-over as the bed bug in the ice machine and the pizza guy. He accepted this opportunity when his longtime friend, Lear Bunda, from that stagecraft class back in Melbourne High School, called and presented the idea. Lear Bunda is currently creating content for Adult Swim and Tiny Desks. He is a Lead Production Operations Specialist for video at NPR's Digital Content Operations Department and with Neon Asteroid Studio. Wisney says, "The guy's a genius and very creative!" Good job, Mel High, for producing such creative graduates!

Currently, Wisney has been busy working on the Neon Soul's album that's about to drop. Wisney, Dat Dude, Wanduras, Slow, and C.K. Jones, a recording artist from California, are excited to share their final product. He's very proud of the album, he says, "It's super crisp!" The band is currently in the editing stage, committing to a title, and then it'll be ready to go.

So, what's next for Wisney? What's he chasing? His goal is to perform at six dope festivals a year, continue doing local shows with bands, see more of himself in Mad Illz's comic books, and finish the Neon Souls album.

Finally, I asked Wisney about his favorite pizza. He said pepperoni is the best choice, and the best spots to get that yummy pizza are Genna's, FM Pizza, and Bizzaros. Of course, this busy, creative man must stop for nourishment at some point.

Wisney can be found on Instagram at neonsoulsmusic, on Facebook at the Wisney music page, or at Wisney Fernandez's page. Neon Souls can be found on YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Music; look for the neon sign, and treat yourself to some "Bom Bom," "Party in the galaxies", and more.



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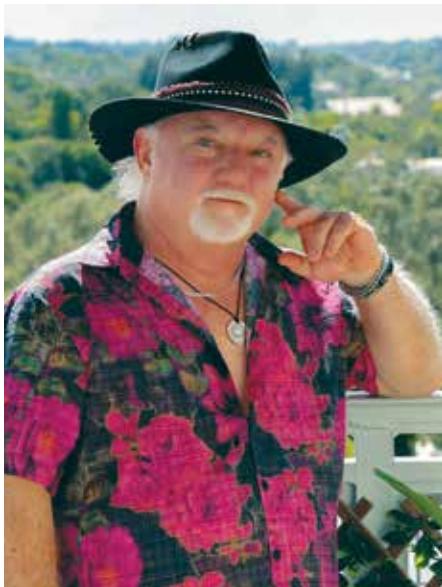
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Multi Media Artist &
Wedding Photographer

Matt Clark

Matt Clark is a “multi media artist” - that was his major at Polk State College, and he has quite the resume. He’s worked as art director for several Ad Agencies dealing with major brands like Beef O’Brady’s, Subaru, World Of Beer, Bright House Network, AT&T, Publix, Marriott, just to name a few. In 2006 he decided to get “independent” and founded AdGumbo, a creative services agency that offers swift, on-brand solution. During this time he collected 19 ADDY Awards (American Advertising Awards), the advertising industry’s largest and most comprehensive competition, recognizing creative excellence across local, district, and national levels, managed by the American Advertising Federation (AAF). However, Matt often returns to his very first “media love” - the photography!

Matt grew up in Lakeland, Florida. After he graduated from high school, he enlisted in the army where he was put into Satellite Communication for nuclear missiles. He was stationed near Munich, Germany, and his military duties were easy. “We had a lot of free time, and I bought a little disc camera and started taking photos,” he remembers. Soon he got little assignments to take shots for the military and other soldiers. “We had fun doing it,” says Matt.

Back home in Lakeland, after a honorable discharge from the army, Matt started hanging around the only photo-studio in town. Luckily, the photographer and proprietor Ron Barron was getting older and was happy to find an apprentice who was willing and interested to drive around and take photos. “First I had to buy a real camera, a Ricoh,” Matt remembers. “Then I started taking photos for real estate companies.” Soon enough, other assignments followed. The break-thru happened when the **Associated Press** asked for sports photos taken in Orlando. One shot was the jack-pot, the photo made it on the paper of *USA Today Global*. Matt was now a recognized photographer.

Then there was the *Lollapalooza* 1992 with **Pearl Jam, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Ice Cube, Soundgarden** etc. Matt got the assignment to take photos in Orlando. He had press passes from *AP* and *Rolling Stone Magazine*. “Before I left, a friend gave me a bag of ‘funny’ smokes and told me to use it if I run into problems.” This came in handy as Matt was denied backstage entry despite his press passes. “Once I pulled the bag out of my pocket, I was in!” he laughs. Then he adds, “have you seen the movie ‘Almost Famous’? Yeah, it was like that!”

Next thing he remembered, he was traveling on the tour bus with the band for several weeks, leaving his car behind parked somewhere in Orlando. “I was 25 years old, traveling with Pearl Jam, was actually there when

they wrote the song “Daughter,” and I mailed a roll of film daily to Rolling Stone and Associated Press.” No doubt, this is one of Matt’s favorite memories. Back in Lakeland, Matt started working for Glamor Shots in the Lakeland Mall. About 3,000 photographs in 2 years. In 1994 he created Glamor Shots New Looks with sexy sports jerseys which won a competition. Matt was ready to expand his horizon and decided, at 30 years old, to attend Polk Community College, received a grant and majored in Multi Media Productions.

After that, the jobs kept on coming. Matt worked for the Auto Shopper producing 16 magazines per week. He moved to Tampa and worked at a digital service bureau that allowed him to learn everything. Then he was hired by big advertisement agencies. Matt married the love of his life in 2005, his life dreams have become true.

That was until his wife was diagnosed with cancer. What followed was a painful time. In an effort of healing-thru-art Matt wrote a book “Rivers To Cross And Hills To Climb” available at Amazon.com. He also created a short film “Sixty-Five-Days” which was a finalist at the Atlanta Film Festival. Matt’s wife Sandra passed away in 2022.

Even though it felt like an end, it was not. Matt met Leesa from Melbourne and found love once again. He moved here for a fresh start offering his valuable services to our hometown. At the moment he has his focus set on photography, especially for weddings. For reviews check out his website. Here is one: “Matt shot our wedding and reception and the pictures are absolutely amazing. Matt pays attention to detail and personalized our experience to make our day even more special. I could not have asked for a better photographer!”

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My Flori-duh Listen to the Music

By Charles Knight

That Jukebox... It was a Rock Ola if I remember correctly. I'm not certain as to whether or not it held 100, or 200, vinyl 45 RPM records, but I do remember that there were no more than six at any given time that would be considered rock or pop.

On the rare occasions that the company representative ventured all the way out to the Everglades where there were only three establishments with pool tables and Jukeboxes to maintain, I would almost always request something a bit more upbeat, and possibly more relevant than the classic country and western that virtually filled the large record players in all three locations. Now, don't get me wrong here. Classic country music was and still is an art form that is a true gem of Americana that should be considered a national treasure.

Having said that, I want to tell you what I and some of my friends in the swamps were listening to as kids.

At the very end of the narrow swamp lined Jim Dill Road was a Miccosukee Chickee. Also on the property was a small house where a person, whom I can no longer recall the name of, resided. We Swamp kids would sometimes gather there to listen to music on the stereo, sometimes play guitar or drums and sing. And... There was almost al-

ways a little smoke, Moonshine, beer, or whatever. Try to keep in mind that there were very few activities or functions designed for the youth in the Glades aside from hunting or fishing.

My cousins Gene, Mike, and Loren are all gone now, but the memories I have of them and others live on. One weekend afternoon at the Chickee house we were doing the usual hangout and catch a buzz thing while listening to some music. Gene put on an album by a new band called KISS. Everyone was digging the concept and costumes. I was particularly fond of the song 'Black Diamond'. Other than that... No sale friends. You see, I had slightly different tastes in music.

I admit it. I was a snob, A Prog snob. I had an ear for more of a refined (in my mind) type of music. I love Classic rock, too, but I really loved bands like Wishbone Ash, YES, Genesis, King Crimson, Brand X, and especially... Pink Floyd! The list is actually a lot more extensive but I am only allotted so much space in this publication. To me, these are but a few examples of music that I would call 'Headphone worthy'. Music that not only had the crunch and grind that defined most rock of the day, but also dared to soar and add classical elements as well as experiment with different musical scales and vocal harmonies and madrigals! I was and still am a huge fan of the genre.

There was another memorable afternoon at my cousin's home when I was exposed to another new band called Golden Earring and a song in particular titled 'Radar Love'. I found the dynamics and musical changes somewhat to my liking but still...

On many a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights while the bar below my room was boiling over with country music blaring and dozens of folks dancing (some would call it that), drinking, and having a hoot of a time while causing the whole wooden building to tremble, quiver, and shake with their celebrations, I would be lying in my bed with my headphones on listen-

ing to any or more of the aforementioned artists at a volume that was certainly higher than recommended!

Liner notes, I have to tell you, I miss them! I miss removing the cellophane from a brand new just purchased LP and sliding the protective liner containing that wonderful vinyl disc out and gently placing it on the turntable. I would put my headphones on and carefully set the stylus on the disc. Lie back against the headboard of my bed and read the liner notes on the album's sleeve. What a joy! Little did I know or appreciate what a truly wondrous thing we were fortunate enough to enjoy at the time. Imagine my excitement when I first opened the *Dark Side of the Moon* album by Pink Floyd and was rewarded with not one, but two posters and two stickers! Digital downloads be damned!

I didn't mind paying for the music! We got the whole package dammit! Original music, original album cover art by people like the guys at Hipgnosis and Roger Dean! The covers alone were and still are examples of fine art defining the times.

We sometimes got the stories behind the lyrics and sometimes the lyrics themselves. We read honorable mentions of people and organizations that helped the bands and musicians get where they ultimately got. To me, these were all interesting bits of information and trivia to cherish.

I miss so many small things and hold the memories dear. My cousins and pretty much all of my family are gone, yet here I am. Sadly, yet fortunate enough I guess to put some of these small and probably trivial bits of nonsense into writing for them. I truly miss them.

Well...That's my Flori-Duh!

Charles Knight is from Sweetwater, Flori-duh, and lives in Melbourne. With his wife Lissa they own Rockstar Entertainment, an entertaining production and karaoke company. Irockstarentertainment@gmail.com.



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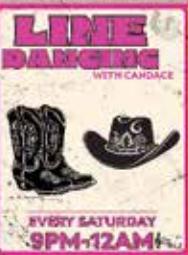
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Movie Review

By Shelly Kelly

Song Sung Blue

A 2025 American biographical musical drama film. Written, co-produced, and directed by Craig Brewer. Starring Hugh Jackson (playing Mike Sardina) and Kate Hudson (playing Claire Sardina). The story was first told in Greg Kohs' 2008 documentary, which inspired the new film.

It's the story of Milwaukee tribute artists Mike and Claire Sardina who performed as the Neil Diamond tribute band, Lightning (Jackman) and Thunder (Hudson). As in most biopics there's parts that are changed from the real life story. To either embellish or condense a years long story to a movie running time. From what I've read the movie stays pretty close to the real story.

The duo officially started "Lightning and Thunder" in 1989 and quickly became a couple and marrying in 1994, while playing extensively in Milwaukee and the Chicago areas and gaining fame at the Wisconsin State fair and Summerfest in 1995. That's where they joined Pearl Jam as a special guest in the Marcus Amphitheater, with Eddie Vedder joining the duo to sing Neil Diamond's "Forever in Blue Jeans".

It was no surprise to me that Hugh Jackman's performance was good, he's done musicals in the past. He can sing and has great stage presence during the performances in the movie. I think some people will be surprised at how well Kate Hudson can sing. She was nominated for a *Golden Globe* award for Best Actress in a motion picture, musical or comedy for this performance. I thought she gave a great performance, one of her best. The two of them have great chemistry.

It's a love story that spanned 17 years. The couple definitely had tragedies that made you glad for the sappy and cheesy parts (some cheese is good for you). I thought it was mostly a lighthearted feel good movie. I liked it, it was an enjoyable watch. I was definitely reminded of how many really good songs Neil Diamond has. I went to a morning show and was surprised to see so many groups of women. They love some Neil Diamond, even clapping at the end of the movie. That made my day.

A lot of theaters show classic movies. Check your local theater, there's probably a movie you, or your kids never got a chance to see on the big screen. Please keep going to the theater.



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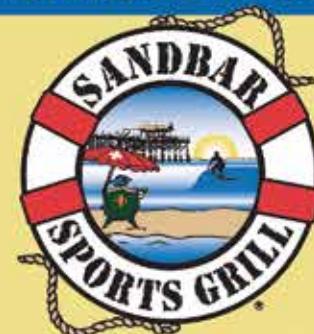
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