

ANTON ROOLAART

Dreamer/Umbrello Records/2007

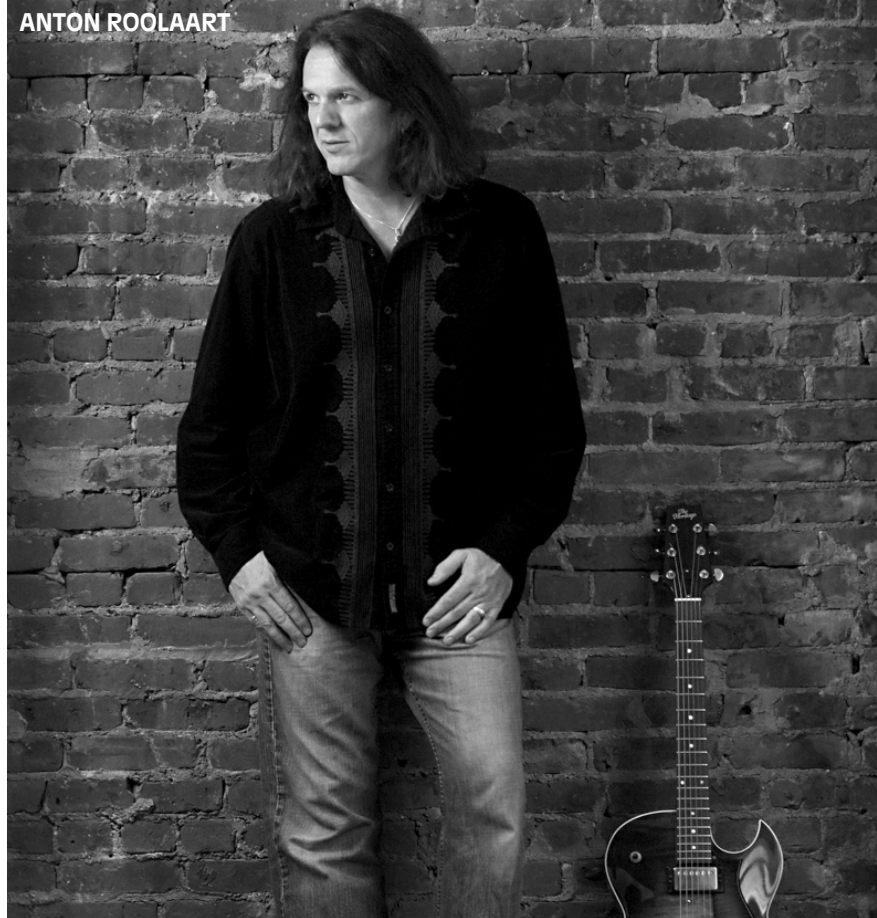
Refreshing and curious, Anton Roolaart's new record on the Umbrello label and entitled *Dreamer* is an adventure in Audiophonic odyssey. Like following Alice down the rabbit hole, *Dreamer* is a magical mystery that only reveals itself as the listener follows its true path. Complex and luxurious in its production, *Dreamer* takes chances that no one else is attempting.

Experimental, progressive music in the vein of David Bowie, Pink Floyd (David Gilmore's Version) The Neon Philharmonic, Gentle Giant and Genesis, Monmouth County resident Anton Roolaart's training as a musician, engineer and gadgetry aficionado has helped shape his compositional style to a sharp and creative edge with this eight song project.

You can tell that recording this album was not only an intense process but also a true labor of love and I was impressed by some of the great musicians used in the tracking stages such as Rich Berends (Mastermind), Rave Tesar (Annie Haslam/Renaissance) and Charles Descarfino (Broadway and Annie Haslam), as well as Vinnie Puryear (bass). What is paramount for this project is that while the album is themed as a whole, each composition materializes as its own mini album, its own island if you will. And each draws you into the story.

Roolaart has passionately followed the evolution of progressive rock and is not only a consumer but also an avid concertgoer. This knowledge along with his strong computer skills moved Anton into creating progrockradio.com, today one of the most prominent progressive rock internet radio stations. Anton has also contributed as vocalist

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for JESDAT (based in Spain) on their debut album *City Lights* and is also working with them on their internet follow-on project.

This is definitely one of the year's best albums, from the 1970s vibe of "Mid Summer's Day," with

its Yes soaked sunrays and forays into mideastern melody, to the Bowie-esque vamp of "Scary Monsters" and the trippy Ziggy Stardust and Earl Slick of "Spider" all the way to the album's title song "Dreamer," which brings back cherished memories of David Gilmore's Pink Floyd style in a way all its own. The influences on this record run deep and come out with a classical nod to those great days when the progressive heavies ruled the planet. I look forward to hearing more from Roolaart in the future.

For further informaton about *Dreamer*, go to antonroolaart.com and visit him at myspace.com/antonroolaart

STRINGBEAN AND THE STALKERS

Ride Of Your Life/Blues Leaf Records/CD release/June 16

There's nothing like hitting The Saint for an all-star performance by some of the best blues guys in town. Everybody knows I'm a Sonny Kenn fan and when I heard he was with this next band I was at The Saint in 10 seconds. I figured whomever he was playing with would warrant the trip, and I was right.

Stringbean And The Stalkers, featuring Ken Sorenson, were at The Saint to promote the fourth Stalkers CD, *Ride Of Your Life*, out on Blues Leaf Records, and they didn't disappoint this packed house as they ripped their way through two intense sets of original and traditional tunes that included songs from the new disc. Fronted by singer and harp blowing legend Ken Sorenson, Stringbean And The Stalkers churned out cool blues gems dusted with the scary attack of kingpin Sonny Kenn and polished to perfection by the rhythm team of Dave Meyers and Vic Bayers on bass and drums.

The band has been doing their thing for awhile now at many outstanding venues throughout the area such as the Count Basie, The Stone Pony as well as various New York clubs like B.B. King's, their regular gig at the Ragin' Cajun in Belmar and various outdoor functions and bike rallies. Sorenson is also a regular performer at the Clearwater

Festival in Asbury Park and has played on many different records hosted by some pretty respectable guys like Lance Larson, Janey Todd and yes, he even blew harp for "Boxcar Willie" on his 2003 *Hey Good Lookin'* CD. This is yet another great example of a band that features players who also play in their own projects. Bands within the band always make for an interesting focus.

Stringbean And The Stalkers have opened for the highly influential B.B. King, as well as James Cotton and Dickey Betts. He has also played with members of Blues Travelers, the Spin Doctors, Joan Osborne and Rob Wasserman. He's logged studio and chair time with Billy Hector, Sonny Kenn, and Castle Brown. Sorenson says that his real passion still focuses around his small, acoustic ensemble. Whether your thing is the blues, or even funk and country, you'll find something to push your buttons at a typical performance with this band.

A cross between many diverse groups, I give them mad props toward a combination of Cake, G Love as well as some Primus influences in their funk, and Albert King, Sonny Boy Williamson and Gatemouth Brown in their blues. Sorenson and crew are so seasoned and laid back in their live presentation that I'd bet their onstage persona is probably the same "no airs approach" as when they're at home on the couch watching tv. Stringbean And The Stalkers' confident "in the pocket" style of blues gets all the girls dancing and right up front.

Stringbean And The Stalkers' *Ride Of Your Life* is on Blues Leaf Records and is available through distribution at various online and retail outlets. For further information, go to bluesleaf.com or myspace.com/stringbeanandthestalkers

PhanPhest 3.0 Update

In filling the musical void left by Gathering of the Vibes (which is relocating back to Connecticut), Jersey's own PhanPhest Entertainment will bring PhanPhest 3.0 to Indian Lookout Country Club (ILCC) in Mariaville, NY. The festival will be held from Aug. 24-26.

PhanPhest began five years ago as a semi-annual barbeque with a few bands and friends on one acre in Ocean Township. It quickly exploded into a full-fledged outdoor music festival featuring premiere musical acts from the Garden State and beyond. PhanPhest 2.5 drew more than 500 music lovers to four acres in Manchester, NJ, in May of 2004.

PhanPhest 3.0 is an all-ages show, providing an environment for families to share their love of music together. PhanPhest Entertainment will also provide activities for families to participate in all weekend long. This year there are 33 bands playing on three stages over the course of the weekend, including Jersey based bands (listed alphabetically), The Atmosferics, Buzz Universe, Karmic Juggernaut, The Juggling Suns, Natural Breakdown, One Eyed Jack, Scarecrow Collection, Turtle Soup and Unexplained Bacon. Northeastern-based bands include The Attic, Breadbox Band, The Breakfast, The Brew, The Bomb Squad (featuring new lead vocalist Brenna Gethers, a Season 5 Top 10 finalist on "American Idol") and even more bands to be added to the lineup.

With more than 3,000 people expected to attend during the three-day event, PhanPhest is offering corporate sponsorships and reasonable advertising rates for the PhanPhest 3.0 event program featuring band bios and schedule of performances. There is also the opportunity for merch and food vendors.

For more information regarding PhanPhest 3.0, visit phanphest.com or contact Drew Wajnert at contact@phanphest.com

loud notes

by Jen Kajzer

3 INCHES OF BLOOD



Vancouver based **3 Inches Of Blood** have caught the ear of **Rob Halford**. In an interview on WDHA's "Metal Mania" show recently, Rob said, "I was listening to 'em the other day in my car driving around and they came on the radio. I heard this guy's voice. And I was like, 'My God, that's like 'Painkiller.' This guy's got some pipes.' And then they've got this real brutal death metal voice as well. I think it's a really unusual combination. But that's a great band. Everybody should keep an eye out for them. I'm a hardcore metalhead and I think it's wonderful when new bands come along and kick up a fuss like 3 Inches Of Blood, so I'll be trying to check those guys out live in concert." 3 Inches Of Blood will tour as part of Ozzfest 2007 and will also play a few

off-dates with **Lamb Of God**, **Hatebreed** and **Behemoth**. In other Behemoth news, the band was added to a list of artists that "The All-Polish Committee for Defense Against Sects" claims "promote Satanish" or "encourage murder and animal sacrifice" with their music. This Committee is based in Poland, the home country of Behemoth. The group will be distributing this list to Polish politicians in hopes these bands will be banned from performing in Poland. Adam Darski, frontman of Behemoth, questions the motives, passing the ban off as ridiculous. "You have these politicians who, for some reason, probably just for self-promotion, want to fight this kind of stuff," he explained. "This is music. This is art. This is some kind of expression, and this is our expression. For some reason, they think it has a negative influence on kids, so they want to stop it. So they made this list that's going to come out next month, and Behemoth is #1." **Marilyn Manson** and **Slayer** are also on the list. In other Slayer news, the band will release a special

limited edition of their latest album *Christ Illusion*. This version will feature new songs, a bonus DVD, two-disc package and new cover art. Slayer will tour with Marilyn Manson this summer and will hit the Tweeter Center in Camden, NJ, on Aug. 2 and PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ, on Aug. 5.

Clutch will also be touring this summer. They will make two appearances in New York. On Aug. 27, they will play the "Rocks Off Concert Cruise," which is a cruise around Manhattan with the band performing on the boat, yes, while it moves! Check out rocksoff.com for more info. WSOU was infamous for doing this in the late '90s and early '00s with bands such as **Incubus**, **Sick Of It All**, **My Chemical Romance** and **Sevendust**. Clutch will also play NYC's Bowery Ballroom on Aug. 31.

Jen Kajzer is an on-air DJ on Sirius Satellite Radio's Heavy Metal Channel "Hard Attack/27" and can be heard every Wednesday, 6 a.m.-12 noon and every Sunday, 6 p.m.-12 midnight.