

TEXAS MUSIC

EXTRA

10/23/08

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Womack debuts in *Noble Things*



From country star to movie star? Maybe so. Lee Ann Womack made her feature film debut in *Noble*

Things at the Austin Film Festival on Oct. 20. The film, shot in Austin, Beaumont and southeast Texas, is a story of love, loyalty and secrets in which Womack plays a loyal deputy to the local sheriff. Fellow Texans Clay Walker and Tracy Byrd were also involved in the film, with Walker producing the movie's soundtrack and Byrd appearing in the flick. For more information, visit www.noblethingsmovie.com.

John Rich: two fights, two nights

John Rich may not be the "Big" half of country duo Big & Rich, but whatever you do, don't call him little. Rich allegedly got into a fight outside Hollywood's Mondrian Hotel on Oct. 15 with Jerry Montano, former bassist for the band Danzig. According to sources, Montano left the scene with a bloody nose, but at press time, no arrests have been made or charges filed. Then, two nights later, Rich took a sucker punch to the ear by a random

passerby. The alleged assailant was detained and arrested.

Concert for the Coast

There have already been a spate of Hurricane Ike benefit concerts around the state; on Oct. 26, you can add 10 more to the tally. The Concert for the Coast series is a grassroots fundraising effort spearheaded by concert promoter Nathan Smith and Radio Free Texas founders Daniel and Cara Miller, with individual coordinators booking multi-artist events in cities including Beaumont, Mineral Wells and San Antonio. The shows will mostly feature country and Americana acts (Brandon Rhyder and Josh Grider headline the Austin show; Wade Bowen and Mark Jungers headline the San Marcos show), and the proceeds will go directly to purchasing and distributing supplies for evacuees in coastal Texas. One of the shows will have a more specific focus: funds raised by the Luckenbach concert (featuring the Band of Heathens, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and the Gougers among many others) will go to rebuilding the venerated Galveston music venue the Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe. For more details and complete lists of performers, check out www.ConcertfortheCoast.com.

Gruene with Envy makes charts

Terrestrial radio stations that feature home-grown Texas talents have come and gone, but the Web site Gruene With Envy has been with fans since the Texas-country genre started to catch fire in the mid-'90s. Several years ago, the Web site began offering online radio broadcasts, which soon became the site's biggest draw. On Oct. 9, GWE founder Dave Lytle announced that the online station would now be reporting to the Texas Music Chart, gaining influence on the chart's rankings. It's a natural fit – a glance at the top 10 for the Texas Music Chart and the top 10 singles on GWE reveal an overlap including the latest by Wade Bowen, Cory Morrow, the Randy Rogers Band and Jason Boland.

Sustain partners with Cross Road

Sustain Records founder and owner Jimmy Perkins recently announced that Cross

Road Media, LLC will be handling all publicity and media relations for the independent label. Cross Road Media, one of the Austin Universal Entertainment (AUE) family of businesses owned by Greg Henry, specializes in "artist friendly" public relations, branding and marketing. "The addition of Sustain Records to the CRM client roster is huge in more than one aspect," said Henry. "Jimmy Perkins and I have been a very effective team several times in the past working to develop and support acts like Cory Morrow, Wade Bowen and most recently Zack Walther & The Cronkites." The most visible example nationally of the effectiveness of the Perkins/Henry collaborations is Pat Green. Managed and booked originally by Henry, the managerial duties were turned over to Perkins' 823 Management in 1999, while Henry and AUE focused on the booking and marketing side of the young country artist's career. During Green's time with AUE and 823 Management, he matured from a fresh faced, frat-party mainstay to a powerhouse on the Texas-Americana and Country music scene. "Sustain is very excited about this new relationship with CRM," says Perkins. "I have worked with Greg Henry for 10 years on several projects and he is without a doubt, one of the most hard-working and innovative entrepreneurs in the music business. It's great to be working together again."

Beyoncé's split personality

Houston superstar Beyoncé Knowles is set to release her first studio album since 2006 on Nov. 18. Each track was either co-written or co-produced by Beyoncé, making this, according to her label, "her most personal, reflective and revelatory collection to date." The two-disc release will have separate titles reflecting Beyoncé's personalities. The first disc has been dubbed *I Am ...*, which accord-

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PUBLISHER/ STEWART RAMSER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

EDITORS CINDY ROYAL
RICHARD SKANSE

ASSOCIATE EDITORS CODEY ALLEN
ELIZABETH FULLER

CONTRIBUTORS LYNNE MARGOLIS
ETHAN MESSICK
AMANDA PALM

ART DIRECTOR TORQUIL SCOTT-DEWAR

www.txmusic.com

WEB SITE DESIGNER WILLTHING

MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 50273
AUSTIN, TX 78763

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1-877-35-TEXAS

OFFICE: 512-638-8900
E-MAIL: INFO@TXMUSIC.COM
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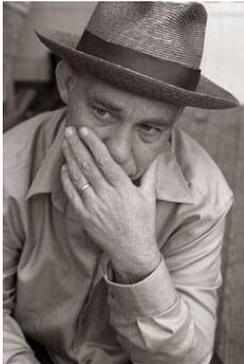
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ing to Beyoncé is “about who I am underneath all the makeup, underneath the lights, and underneath all the exciting star drama.” The second disc, *I Am...Sasha Fierce*, is named for Beyoncé’s glamorous alter ego. “I am in a different place right now and I wanted people to see the many sides of me,” writes Beyoncé on her official Web site. If you’re looking to save a few bucks, the 17-song double album will also be available in a condensed 11-song single-CD version. For more information visit beyonceonline.com.

Pumpkin Moon Party for Graham



Gritty Austin-based singer-songwriter Jon Dee Graham was lucky enough to survive a car accident in late July, but the accumulated medical bills (including some from days spent in intensive care) are a hard-luck story all their own. The critically acclaimed

folk-rocker is still in the midst of what is expected to be a full recovery, and some of his friends have done much more than chip in on a get-well card. On Oct. 20, the Continental Club hosted the “Pumpkin Moon Party” to raise some funds for the ailing artist. A few fellow local heroes and Graham fans including Reckless Kelly, Dale Watson, Mojo Nixon, James McMurtry and Steve Poltz played Graham’s songs alongside their own for a packed house of well-wishers.

Electric Touch plays for pink

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October will be officially dubbed

Pinktober as select Hard Rock Cafe locations around the globe will host the Pinktober live music series. Beginning Oct. 24, Austin’s own Electric Touch will begin performances at Hard Rock locations in select cities, including Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Washington D.C. and Baltimore. Electric Touch will also be promoting their self-titled debut album, recently released through Austin-based indie-label Justice Records. Hard Rock will donate proceeds from the events to breast cancer research and awareness organizations around the globe. Other acts performing at the Pinktober events include Melissa Etheridge, the Donnas, Bananarama, Taylor Dane and Filter. For more information, visit www.hardrock.com.

Fun Fun Fun Fest returns to Waterloo Park

The 2nd annual Fun Fun Fun Fest will return to Austin Nov. 8 and 9 to host a showcase of independent, progressive and underground music. The fall festival, held in the middle of downtown at Waterloo Park just up the street from the Red River music district, focuses on three styles of music: indie-rock, punk-hardcore and hip-hop all performed on three different stages around the park. The merging of these three styles of underground and progressive music is meant to support and highlight emerging artists, the creative class and local Austin businesses. In addition to this year’s musical lineup, the festival will incorporate comedy acts such as Tim & Eric’s Awesome Show, Neil Hamburger and Matt Bearden. Among this year’s musical talent is Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, the Black Angels and the Octopus Project. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.funfunfunfest.com.

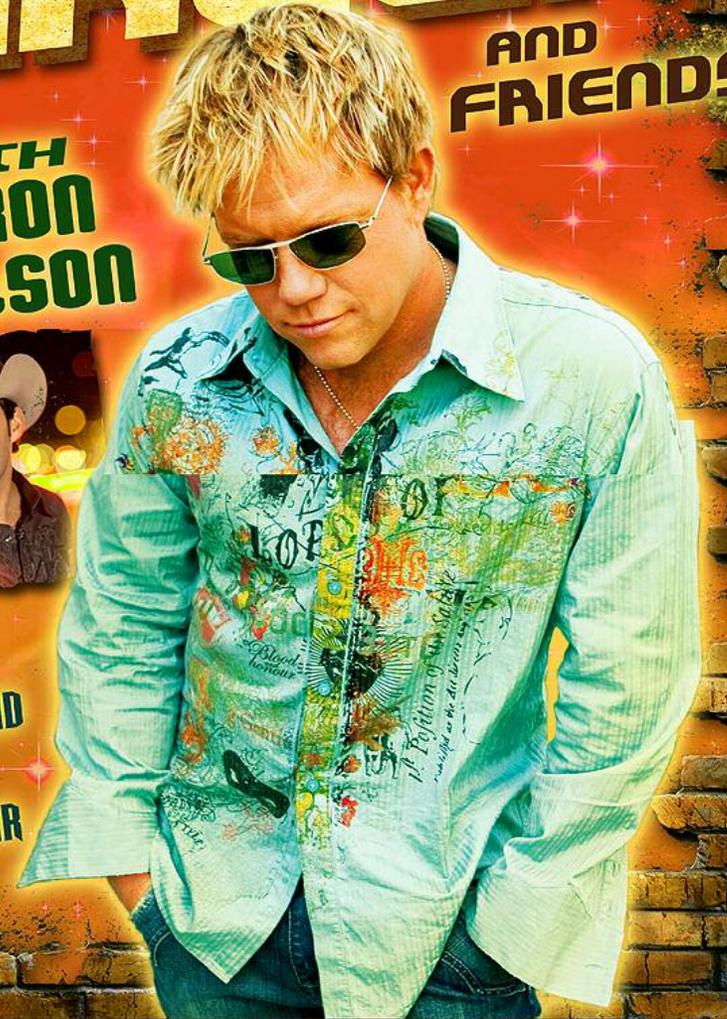
Kicks 105 presents the 2nd Annual

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WATSON



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ZACK
WALTHER



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Kelly Willis plays *The Backyard* one last time, on Oct. 26.

Final weekend The Backyard Austin, Oct. 25-26

Austin has no shortage of music venues, but unfortunately it's about to lose one of the best. The natural amphitheater on the west side of town will cease operations at the end of October, ending 15 years of hosting everyone from Merle Haggard to Snoop Dogg to David Bowie. Owner Tim O'Connor announced in May that he was voluntarily closing the Backyard, citing his displeasure with the effect of the Galleria shopping center development on the venue's ambiance and accessibility. There has already been talk of re-launching the venue, but you've got a couple of opportunities to take one last look at the old place. On Oct. 25, the Backyard will host a free, all-day show featuring Del Castillo, the Boxing Lesson and White Ghost Shivers. The next day on Oct. 26, Willie Nelson will headline an all-day show featuring local faves Kelly Willis, Grupo Fantasma, Ruthie Foster and The Gourds (tickets start at \$87). Details at www.thebackyard.net.

OCTOBER

23-25

Spring Creek Bluegrass Club Festival
Coushatta Recreation Ranch
Bellville
www.springcreekbluegrass.com

24-26

Czhlispiel
Eli Young Band, No Justice and more
Downtown
Flatonia
www.czhlispielfestival.com

Fredericksburg Food & Wine Fest
Walt Wilkins, Shake Russell and more
Marktplatz
Fredericksburg
www.fbgfoodandwinefest.com



Shelley King plays the Texas Book Festival on Nov. 1

Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering & Western Swing Festival
Stockyards
Fort Worth
www.redsteagallcowboygathering.com

Texas Music Coalition Annual Fundraiser
Sam's Burger Joint
San Antonio
www.texasmusiccoalition.org

31

White Ghost Shivers Halloween Ball
Waterford House
Austin
www.whiteghostshivers.com

31-11/9

Wurstfest
Landa Park
New Braunfels
www.wurstfest.com

NOVEMBER

1

Dia de los Muertos Procession and Celebration
Mexic-Arte Museum
Austin
www.mexic-artemuseuminfo.org

GoGirls MusicFest

Celeste Terrell, Robin Kirby and more
Last Concert Cafe
Houston
www.gogirlsmusicfest.com

1-2

Austin Celtic Festival
Fiesta Gardens
Austin
www.austincelts.org

Texas Book Festival

Shelley King, Terri Hendrix and more
State Capitol
Austin
www.texasbookfestival.org

9-10

Cory Morrow 2nd Annual Golf Tournament and Song Swap
Austin
www.corymorrow.com

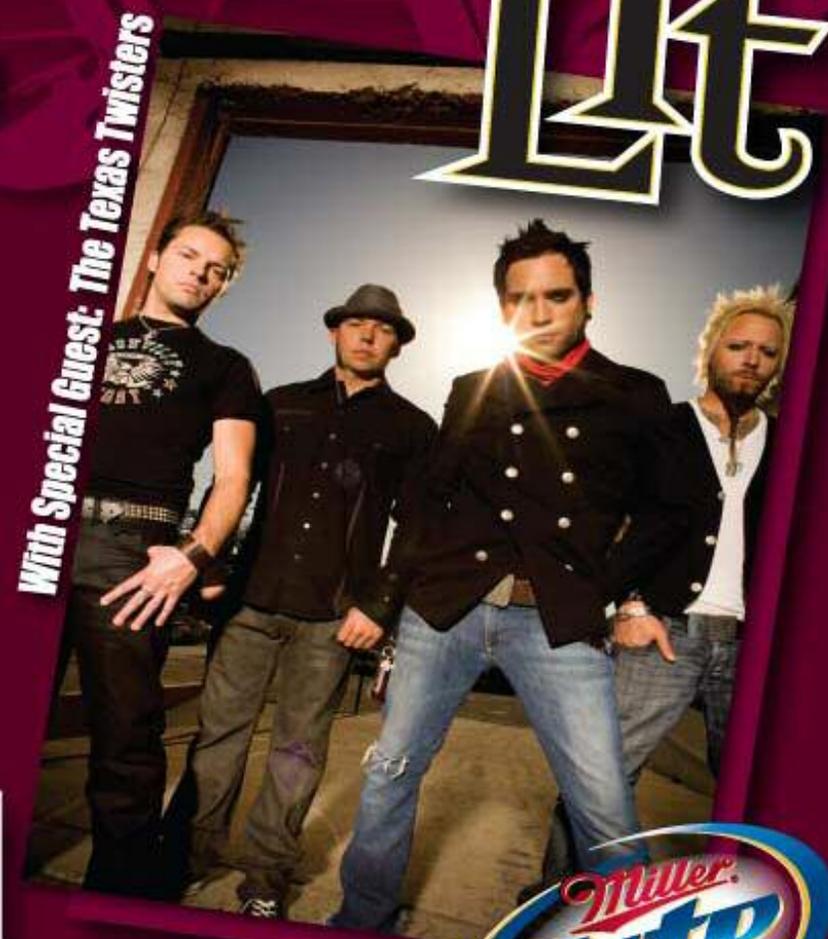


Cory Morrow plays his 2nd Annual Golf Tournament and Song Swap Nov. 9-10

4th Annual Maroon & Ball Fest White Ball www.maroonandwhiteball.com



With Special Guest: The Texas Twisters



Lit

Nov. 22nd Brazos County Expo Complex



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Monte Montgomery

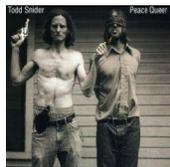
Monte Montgomery

(Eminent Records)

For a guy whose acoustic version of Jimi Hendrix's "Little Wing" has more than a million hits on

YouTube, Monte Montgomery is still relatively unknown. But don't let his latest release fool you – he's hardly an up-and-comer. After all, this is his seventh studio album. And it seems a lucky seven for Montgomery, as the album hits both the highs of hard-rockin' guitar jams and the lows of sad, poignant love songs. From the opening rocker "River" to the gut-wrenching "Love's Last Holiday" to the impeccable remake of "Little Wing," the production is tight and the rhythm section is solid. But most impressive is Montgomery's guitar work. One can only imagine how he's able to get his fingers to move the way they do – but oh how they move.

Montgomery may still be under the radar for many, but for those of us who know him, he's a true guitar god. **AMANDA PALM**



Todd Snider

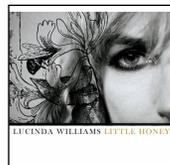
Peace Queer

(MRI Assoc.)

From the bound-to-offend-some-one title to the free-download approach to distribution, there's

nothing conventional about Todd Snider's newest release. With just eight tracks, it's almost EP length, yet it contains the kind of indulgences usually saved for bloated double albums. There's a spoken-word piece, an instrumental number, and one song that comes in two versions. Even a cover of Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Fortunate Son" takes a turn for the strange; Snider drops the key, throws in some minor chords, and finger-picks the song, trading the original's righteous rage for a haunted feeling of paranoia. Snider's subject matter is as fearless as his approach, railing against hawkish politicians ("Mission Accomplished") and the middle-class status

quo ("Stuck On The Corner") with a sharp enough wit to impress even those who disagree with his generally far-left stance. That being said, this eclectic little oddity might not be the best place for a first-time listener to start (try 2004's *East Nashville Skyline*). But if you're already a fan, you'll enjoy listening to the guy push the envelope. **ETHAN MESSICK**



Lucinda Williams

Little Honey

(Lost Highway)

It's been a long time since

Louisiana-born Lucinda Williams called Texas home, but the Lone Star State can still claim bragging rights to her widely celebrated career; after all, she launched her career playing small rooms and sidewalks in Austin and Houston. But not every Williams album of late is necessarily worth getting too excited over. Last year's *West* was one of the best records of her career, but its predecessor, 2003's *World Without Tears* was arguably her worst. Granted, plenty of Williams diehards will take issue with that (or maybe insist it's the other way around), but the new *Little Honey* falls squarely in the middle – making it the first truly average record she's ever made. For every sterling keeper here ("If Wishes Were Horses," "Circles and X's" and the devastatingly understated "Plan to Marry") there's a whole lot of pleasant – albeit occasionally rocking – tunes that just don't seem to measure up to William's A-grade material. When she growls, "Now I've got your honey/all over my tummy" on the bluesy stomper "Honey Bee," you grimace not because such a line seems beneath her (her music has always been imbued with a raw sensuality), but rather because it's the only part of the song that really sticks with you after it's over. Tellingly, one of the most memorable tracks on the whole album is a cover – and an AC/DC one, at that ("It's a Long Way to the Top"). With all due respect to the Angus brothers and Co., Williams should have bigger guns of her own to fire. **RICHARD SKANSE**

new releases

Oct. 7	Brandon Jenkins	<i>Faster Than a Stone</i>	Smith Music
Oct. 7	George Strait	<i>Classic Christmas</i>	MCA
Oct. 7	Jolie Holland	<i>The Living and the Dead</i>	Anti-
Oct. 7	Brett Crenshaw	<i>Another Late Night</i>	BrettCrenshaw.com
Oct. 14	Sixpence None the Richer	<i>The Dawn of Grace</i>	Nettwerk
Oct. 14	Bleu Edmondson	<i>Live at Billy Bob's</i>	Smith Music
Oct. 14	Rich O'Toole	<i>In a Minute or Two</i>	Smith Music
Oct. 14	J.D. Souther	<i>If the World Was You</i>	Slow Curve
Oct. 14	Todd Snider	<i>Peace Queer</i>	Aimless Records
Oct. 14	Lucinda Williams	<i>Little Honey</i>	Lost Highway
Oct. 21	Sorta	<i>Sorta</i>	Summer Break
Oct. 21	And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead	<i>Festival Thyme (EP)</i>	Richter Scale/Justice Records
Oct. 21	Lee Ann Womack	<i>Call Me Crazy</i>	MCA
Oct. 21	Waylon Jennings	<i>Waylon Forever</i>	Vagrant
Oct. 21	Various Artists	<i>No Sleep 'Til Texas (DVD)</i>	themusicfest.com
Oct. 28	Josh Grider Band	<i>JG3 (EP)</i>	JoshGrider.com
Oct. 28	Boz Scaggs	<i>Speak Low</i>	Decca
Nov. 4	Autumn	<i>Velvet Sky</i>	Bull Creek
Nov. 4	ZZ Top	<i>Live From Texas</i>	Eagle Rock
Nov. 4	Future Clouds and Radar	<i>Peoria</i>	Star Apple Kingdom
Nov. 11	Caterpillars	<i>Caterpillars (EP)</i>	myspace.com/caterpillars
Nov. 18	Beyoncé	<i>I Am ... Beyoncé</i>	Sony
Nov. 18	The Summer Wardrobe	<i>Cajun Prairie Fire</i>	Sauspop
Nov. 18	The Service Industry	<i>Keep the Babies Warm</i>	Sauspop
Jan. 6	Gourds	<i>Haymaker!</i>	Yep Roc
Jan. '09	Ben Kweller	<i>Changing Horses</i>	ATO
2009	Jimmy LaFave	<i>Bohemia Beat Collection</i>	Music Road

Fallen soldier's letter inspires Hot Club singer

In honor of Veteran's Day Nov. 11, Elana James, vocalist and fiddler for Hot Club of Cowtown, is releasing "Hey Beautiful." The lyrics are a letter written by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Juan Campos, one of the last he wrote to his wife from Iraq. Elana read Campos' words in the *New York Times* article "Six of the Fallen, in Words They Sent Home," which appeared in March 2008 as part of excerpts from the e-mail messages, journals and Web postings of soldiers who have died in Iraq since the beginning of 2007. Elana was moved by this letter in particular and was inspired to put the words to music. "Hey Beautiful" is the letter just as Campos wrote it (though it has been edited slightly for length). A copy of the song can be obtained at www.hotclubofcowtown.com.

TEXAS MUSIC Q&A

Troy Campbell & Dano Johnson



Troy Campbell (left), Ray Wylie Hubbard and Dano Johnson (right)

Troy Campbell has been a working musician in Austin for more than two decades, performing with the Highwaymen, Loose Diamonds and ultimately forging a successful solo career with three studio albums and an international hit as a songwriter to his credit. Now, channeling his creative energies in a slightly different direction, he is taking his musical talent and music biz connections to the realms of animation and film. Campbell, along with director and animator Dano Johnson, started Collection Agency Films in 2004. Their first project was the hysterical cartoon *Tall Tales and Other Big Lies* [video] based on a story from musician Ray Wylie Hubbard that involved a drunk concert-goer and a German Shepherd prone to humping. Campbell and Johnson's unique style and humor have landed them other high profile projects including animated ads for Kinky Friedman's gubernatorial run and music videos for Hayes Carll; most recently the irreverent "She Left Me For Jesus" [video] that spoofs the Lord in an episode of a *Cheaters*-like reality show. The work is always edgy and often hilarious, demonstrating a certain style and voice that works well with some of Texas' most eccentric characters. Recently they worked on the Andrew Shapter film *Happiness Is* [video], which was screened this week at the Austin Film Festival. Add to that his work promoting legendary Texas artist Roky Erickson during his much lauded comeback, and one gets a sense of Campbell's unique ability to support and inspire others.

Tell me about Collection Agency Films. How did it start?

Campbell: I met Dano through Kelly Williams at the Austin Film Festival. I had made the doc-

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umentary *A Place to Dance*, and we had won an audience award, which is way beyond anything we thought. When I was at the film festival offices talking with Kelly, who is one of the people who runs the festival, he asked me what I was going to do next. I hadn't really thought about it, and I said, "I want to make a cartoon." He said, "You need to meet Dano Johnson. You guys would get along great." I really didn't have an idea at that point, so I felt kind of strange contacting Dano. I had been on tour with Ray Wylie Hubbard, and he told me this story about a dog and one of his old gigs. And, I loved it so much that I called Dano and introduced myself and asked if he would meet me for coffee. He was gracious enough to sit down and listen to me rant about Ray Wylie, not knowing me at all. He liked the story. I know that he knew what he was doing, and I had no clue. I just knew it was funny, and it seemed like a good cartoon. So we discussed it, and he agreed to make a piece of animation out of it with his friend Jose Luis Gonzalez. It just took off.

Where does the name come from?

Campbell: Collection Agency Films was a name that came sort of randomly. I didn't think anyone else would have the name Collection Agency Films because it's such a negative thing, and when I mentioned it to Dano, he said, "Yeah, we'll get that one easily."

Johnson: I want people to feel a little scared and nervous when we call them. [laughs]

Campbell: The trouble is getting return calls [laughs]. You know, "This is Troy from the Collection Agency, please call me." Now, we just call it CAF, but Dano and I think it's pretty funny.

What was it like working on your first animation with Ray Wylie Hubbard?

Campbell: Ray is a good sport when it comes to us. I can just say, "Why don't we do this Ray", and he'll hesitate; then he'll say, "That sounds pretty good. I'll do it." He's been a great muse, endless stories, fantastic story-

telling, and so that was a good common ground for Dano and me.

Great stories seem to be the common theme of your work, whether it be animation or live action. How do you decide which projects to take on?

Johnson: Price ... and how funny we think it is. [laughs] Funny is key. We wouldn't want to do something that would be a pain to work on. We've been lucky with people who will give us that freedom, like Northwoods, the people who we do a lot of political ads for. They're known for making funny ads. They actually saw the *Tall Tales* cartoon, because someone emailed it to the head guy, and he was doing Kinky Friedman's campaign at the time. He said, "These guys might get Kinky."

Campbell: Literally. [laughs]

Johnson: It's always been a fun process and we've been lucky with the music videos that

we have done, too. We've turned down less fun projects.

Are there certain political statements that you would turn down or not want to be associated with?

Johnson: It's kind of obvious that we're liberal progressive. Kinky was fun, because we got to take on both parties in a gentle, banal way and say that independent voices should be heard.

Campbell: I spent time with Kinky, and he really believed in what he was doing. Comedy aside, he really does care about Texas. He didn't have to sell us to work with him.

For Hayes Carll's video for "She Left Me For Jesus," you go in a different direction. How did you come up with that idea?

Campbell: That came up as a joke idea with Hayes and Mike Crowley (Carll's manager). They were wanting to do more stuff, and the



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animation ("Crystal Beach") was just taking off. I think we said, "You need to do something like *Cheaters* and you need to call it *2Timerz*." There were like five bad ideas, and that was the OK idea.

Johnson: We went on a road trip to do that first Hayes Carll cartoon (*Crystal Beach* [video]) to get the vibe, and we turned on the TV and *Cheaters* was on. Troy said, "Wouldn't it be great if Jesus was on this show." And, Jose (Gonzalez) drew a very ashamed looking Jesus. Six months later they called us and said, "Can we really shoot that?"

Campbell: Hayes had gotten a lot of flack over the song. In the song, to us, he's always the observer, and that's where it got messy. So we made him the sound guy, because he's just taking a picture like any good songwriter. Jesse (Dayton, who stars in the video) had such a great sense of humor, and he got it. I knew that he could act and had a great look, and he's such a nice guy. Dano met him and really liked him. It really came down to how he saw it as a director; who would fit and how to make it look fun; Not being an exact copy like *Cops* or being really insulting.

Johnson: We wanted to go as far as possible, and then they pushed back a little bit.

Campbell: We got asked to tone it down, and that's a flattering thing for us.

Johnson: Hayes thought of that final scene where Jesus winks at the camera and says "I forgive you." So, it's like, "If you are really mad about this video, well you know, Jesus

has forgiven us."

What's next for you both?

Johnson: We're doing a series of political issue ads called the *Insure-Animals* [video].

Campbell: We have some other things coming at us, and we're just figuring out what we want to do. Dano is talking about making a sequel to his last movie, and I've been working on a script for a movie for the last six months, writing one with some partners.

Johnson: *Flatland* [video] was a movie I did with Seth Caplan and Jeffrey Travis. Seth was someone I knew from school, and he went to the American Film Institute. Jeffrey is a filmmaker here in Austin, and we were interested in doing an educational project. *Flatland* was a book that we all read in school. It is a math/science-fiction novel that teachers all over the world still teach. Somehow we got Martin Sheen, Michael York, Kristin Bell, Tony Hale and a lot of Austin actors to get involved. They were like, "A movie that gets kids interested in math. I think we need that in this country." *Flatland* was written in the 1880s, but several authors since then have written their own sequels, not necessarily connected. We really want to adapt *Sphereland*, which was written in the '70s by a Dutch mathematician.

Campbell: See, I keep the dog-humping fires burning, while he works on the high-brow stuff. I'm all about middle brow.

For more information on these projects, visit www.collectionagencyfilms.com. **CINDY ROYAL**

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RODNEY CROWELL Q&A

FREDDIE "STEADY" KRC MIXES IT UP

CARRIE RODRIGUEZ REINVENTS HERSELF

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