

“World of Guitar”

BY BOB MILES

In 1996, after attending a jazz jam session on a Tuesday evening at a local church in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, I was approached by a woman who proceeded to ask me: Would you like to be on Television? I of course answered, sure. Two nights later I found myself rehearsing in a television studio for a popular monthly talk show on Suburban Cable Community Television (SCTV). After about a year, I left the house band of SCTV and walked away from television for good, or so I thought.

Six months later the phone rang and the voice on the other end asked me if I would like to create and host my very own television show. Again, I said sure. The next month I again was back in the same studio now with my own show. I then created the “World of Guitar” which aired each new guest five nights per week for one entire month.

As I look back, I have had the great fortune to sit along side and play with and interview the greatest guitarist in the world,

Sal Salvador. Sal was a very sweet man. He came into town with Mike Giordano. The evening before the show I had dinner with Sal, Mike and Bill Neale (guitarist for The Temptations, the Gong Show and Dennis Williams). As we were finishing dinner, I said to Sal, “I’ll see you at 9:00 AM tomorrow for the taping”. Sal said, “I can’t tape at 9:00 AM, I don’t get up until 11:00 AM!” So we filmed later that day and ended up finishing the other two shows later that day. That’s show biz!

Les Paul was great too. Tommy Doyle, Les’s soundman/guitar technician and a great guitarist as well gave me my introduction to Les. Tommy told Les that I had a guitar television show and that I was a great player as well. Les said to Tommy, if he’s a good as you say he is, bring him in slowly. I laughed. Les saw that I was doing a great service for guitarists and agreed to let me film him. By the end of the show we were both laughing so hard that we both were in tears. He is truly one of the greatest men that I have ever interviewed...wow, Les Paul!

Another great guitarist and guest was Johnny DeFrancesco. Johnny, aside from being a great blues guitarist, endorses Fender guitars. Johnny called Brad Townsend, (Vice President of Fender Musical Instruments at that time) and asked Brad to please give me a call and have Fender affiliated with the show. Brad called. The next thing I knew I was in Scottsdale Arizona at Fender. After viewing their many different models of guitars, I was given a Guild AAA top Bluesbird guitar, a Hot Rod Deville Amplifier, signature picks and strings. Brad then took me into meet with Bill Shultz, CEO of FMIC, who saw the need for the show as well.

Recently I have had breakfast with Gordon Close, Peter Miller and Gary Auton from the Guitar Channel. We are all hoping that this wonderful channel launches as soon as possible.

Currently, “Miles of Music” can be seen on both the Comcast and RCN systems in southeastern Pennsylvania and central New Jersey respectively. If you are interested in seeing “Miles of Music” on your local cable system, feel free to contact me at: 215-343-3011.
E-mail: wldofgtr@voicenet.com
www.milesmusic.tv.

During lunch Jimmy Bruno had all of us in stitches. Arlen Roth asked Jimmy to do an instructional video over lunch as well, and today Jimmy has his second set of instructional videos out on the Hot Licks label. During the filming of the shows that day, I got to open each of the guest’s show with a duo performance of the guest and myself. It was great playing with Jimmy and Arlen. I believe that I have the only video production of the Chinery Blue Guitars.

I remember being with the late Scott Chinery that morning as the cameras were setting up. The first guests to arrive were Bob and Cindy Benedetto along with Jimmy Bruno. Next to arrive were Randall Kremer and Gary Sturm of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Finally Arlen Roth arrived with guitar in hand. We shot three shows that day. Scott and Cathy Chinery were so gracious and catered the entire affair for the guest and a six-person film crew. Of course the film crew checked out Scott’s Batmobile—which he owned from the original Batman series featuring Adam West.

Another great show was that of the late

“You may be one person in the world, but you may be the world to one person”

- Unknown

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