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# RUSTY ZINN

## Media/Booking Information



## Rusty Zinn

Singer, songwriter, guitarist, producer Rusty Zinn takes his music to a new level with his latest CD, *ReggaeBlue*. The sounds displayed on this set are a musical marriage of reggae and soul, seasoned throughout with the blues. Zinn doesn't just merely perform genres and styles, he sings and plays from the heart, sharing his intense passion for music, while displaying a wide range as a vocalist and songwriter.

"Rusty Zinn is a one-man eclectic circus, taking us on a wild ride through his various passions and proving good music is its own category. He seems to have been everywhere, absorbed everything, and made it his own," says Rogers Steffens, founding editor of *The Beat*.

Gaining initial acclaim as a blues guitarist, and later as a singer/songwriter, Zinn's multi-faceted talents are continually evolving. This evolution created the unique melding of soul and reggae in *ReggaeBlue*. Zinn wrote 11 of the 12 songs on the CD, which takes the listener on a musical journey filled with love, hope, peace and optimism guaranteed to soothe one's soul. "I love his voice. His writing is great. He talks about what we talked about," said Fully Fullwood, founding member of the popular 70's reggae band, Soul Syndicate. Zinn has also gained respect from rhythm guitarist Tony Chin, another Soul Syndicate member, who lends his talents on six of the *ReggaeBlue* tracks.

Zinn touches on musical styles with an approach uniquely his own. Some of the musical ingredients include roots reggae (*My God, The World Is In Rewind*), lovers rock (*She Comes From Nothing*), singer/songwriter meets hip hop (*Everytime I See A Rainbow*), and classic soul (*Take Your Time, A Song Of My Own*).

Zinn was introduced to soul music as a teen, listening to the Stylistics and The Spinners as well as Doo-Wop from the Wolf Man Jack Show in his parents' car. Inspired by their music, Zinn picked up the guitar at age 17 and honed his skills playing in several Bay Area bands. As his reputation grew, he backed up touring blues legends Snooky Pryor and Jimmy Rogers. Kim Wilson of The Fabulous Thunderbirds was so impressed with Zinn's monster tone and technique that he invited the young guitarist to play on his 1993 album, *Tigerman* and later asked Zinn to join his band. Soon after, Zinn was signed on with Black Top Records and released two critically acclaimed solo albums with the label, *Sittin' & Waitin'* in 1996, which earned him a W.C. Handy Award nomination for Best New Blues Artist, and *Confessin'* in 1999. In 2000, he signed with Alligator Records, where he recorded *The Chill*. He signed with Bad Daddy Records in 2001 as a producer and later as an artist, releasing *Zinfidelity, Vol. 1* on the label in 2005.

Today, Zinn continues his musical exploration, weaving an eclectic mix of his musical influences. Drawing from his love of soul, R&B, blues, reggae and rock, Zinn's music is ever changing. His killer guitar licks and intense vocals showcase his songwriting talents, as he conveys a message that speaks to a multi-cultural, multi-generational audience.



## What the critics are saying about Rusty Zinn:

*Rusty Zinn is a one-man Eclectic Circus, taking us on a wild ride through his various passions, and proving good music is its own category. He seems to have been everywhere, absorbed everything and made it his own!"*

- Roger Steffens, Founding Editor, *The Beat*

*"I love his voice. His writing is great. He talks about what we talked about."*

- Fully Fullwood, founding member of 70's reggae band, *Soul Syndicate*

*"I toured with Rusty Zinn, and he's just phenomenal – the guy can sing, he can play and he's got so much energy and feeling."*

- John Hammond

*"Rusty Zinn brings a sublime, sweet soul vocal touch to "Zinfidelity, Vol.1" (Bad Daddy). The set is likewise blessed with a finely arranged cache of originals and uncommon covers rooted in blues, reggae and doo-wop.*

- Associated Press

*"Rusty Zinn has more talent in his little pinkie than most people could see in three lifetimes."*

- Kim Wilson

*"Besides his expressive guitar work, Rusty is s superb vocalist -- rare in this age of 'guitar hero' wannabes."*

- *Guitar One Magazine*

*"Deep groove, soul and funk with a foundation in the Blues (every musician "cooks" together). Brash vocals full of street corner hustle and human understanding...every song, the CD as a whole is a concept of the Soul of Life. One of the best CD'S we have ever heard, from beginning to end."*

- Simon Aguilar, *KYNR, Crazy Coyote Blues*

## ReggaeBlue Cut-by-Cut



### **SHE COMES FROM NOTHING (5:43)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"I was inspired to write this song while driving past a housing project just a couple of blocks away from my home. There were some folks out in front cooking on a grill. I saw a young girl that looked very poor but was absolutely radiant. When I got home I was inspired to compose this number, putting myself in the shoes of a man that has fallen in love with this girl. This song is Reggae with a classic Soul/R&B vibe complete with a Sam Cooke-like Gospel swell intro and sweet and Bluesy Soul guitarlayered on top! Reggae love songs have always been one of my favorites and I'm tipping my hat to my Jamaican singing idols like Alton Ellis, Ken Boothe and Delroy Wilson just to name a few!"

### **THE WORLD IS IN REWIND (5:32)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"This number is from an idea that popped into my head concerning the world's situations and really reflects my strong opinions about this country's current administration in particular. The song begins with a classic dramatic Jamaican style intro. This song has a strong militant Roots Reggae vibe with skanky rhythm guitar! Santa Davis' Nyabingi drumming is also a highlight on this track!"

## *ReggaeBlue, cut-by-cut (continued)*

### **JUST TAKE YOUR TIME (6:20)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"This is the first ballad I've ever written by myself. I love classic Soul sounds and wanted to have my very own contribution to the genre!"

### **PUSHIN' TOWARDS A DREAM (4:24)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"This song is my song of hope and my wish for personal prosperity. At the same time, I have to Give Thanks for all I have received while still moving forward. I originally had a classic Jamaican Mento feel put to this story, but the Soul Syndicate fellas put their own magic behind it, thus creating an original Pop Reggae hybrid! A friend of mine said it reminded him of Johnny Nash, which I considered as high praise!"

### **EVERYTIME I SEE A RAINBOW (4:00)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"When I originally composed this song it had a classic Rock Steady/Reggae feel to it. Shortly after completing this number, I purchased a nylon string acoustic guitar and started to play this song in my living room in a singer/songwriter style with more open chords. It is still essentially a Soul song with a nice pseudo hip hop rhythm section groove. Once again, I wanted to convey yet another message of hope and to let people know that there is really a lot of power in Prayer!"

### **REGGAE MY BLUES AWAY (5:24)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"This composition started out as a novelty, just fooling around with a melody and song idea on my guitar. My gal Angila loved it so much that I got serious about the song and continued working with it. In a way, I'm tipping my hat to Toots and The Maytals with this number. This turned out to be a big hit with Fully Fullwood and his crew of legendary Jamaican musical veterans. On this cut, Santa Davis plays the legendary "Flyers" groove that he helped pioneer in the seventies! There is a long history of Jamaicans putting Blues progressions to an Island groove during the Ska, Rock Steady, and Reggae movements. This is my own personal contribution."

### **CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU (3:39)**

(Crewe/Gaudio)

EMI Longitude Music, BMI / Seasons Four Music, BMI

"This tune is the only non original in this collection of songs and has been a favorite of mine ever since I was a little boy from the first time I heard Frankie Valli perform it on the airwaves. The melody has always been in my head. When I heard Lauryn Hill do a version of it in the late nineties, I rediscovered this gorgeous melody. It has always been a tradition in Jamaica for singers to put American songs in an Island setting especially in the classic days of Rock Steady and even continuing on into the Reggae and Dance Hall genres. I wanted to make my own contribution to this tradition by putting a beautiful melody to a Reggae groove. To my knowledge this song has never been covered in this style. We once again have a classic Reggae 'One Drop' drum beat and skanky Reggae guitar!"

**MY GOD (5:12)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"This song has been described by legendary Reggae guitarist Tony Chin as a 'wicked tune.' It is my plea for people of all faiths all over the world to unite and work and prosper together no matter what your spiritual outlook is. The important thing is The Creator not the name or supposed color. This song has a strong militant Roots Reggae vibe with a wicked bass line compliments of 'Mr. Bassie' himself, Fully Fullwood. Being unable to reunite the legendary guitarist Chinna Smith with his musical cohorts for this session, I tipped my hat to him by playing electric guitar fills in his style as Chinna is one of the bluesiest guitarists to come from Jamaica. I also put my nylon string guitar on the track because I was inspired to purchase this instrument after seeing Chinna perform in a live solo acoustic setting with one. The backwards fuzz tone guitar was inspired by me just listening to The Beatles 'Revolver' record earlier that week! Santa Davis once again treats us to some Nyabinghi drumming!"

**YOU GOT TO SHOW IT (4:57)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"I started composing this tune when I was overseas for three painful months. I missed my woman so much I was feeling aches in my entire body. I just picked up my guitar and words and melody just came to me. I wanted to have two different rhythms working in this number to show my deep love for cross-pollination of Reggae and Soul music. This song is a message for all the fellas to never take your true love for granted!"

**A SONG OF MY OWN (4:59)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"This song is a Soul song with a seventies vibe to it, complete with wha wha guitars, congas, Fender Rhodes keyboard, and more. I was inspired to write this song one day when I realized that my songwriting is what I have even if I have nothing else. I believe a melody and lyric are two of the most powerful ingredients in life."

**THE DAY AFTER (4:31)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"This is originally a song idea of my gal Angila who shares the singing duties. I came home off the road one day and she had started composing this song. We love to write together so she asked me to help. I was really inspired by what she had already composed and was really struck by the melody. I jumped in and wrote two verses and a bridge for it. Santa Davis plays a beautiful one drop rhythm on it and Tony Chin plays some nice skanky guitar throughout."

**HEAVEN IS A PLACE CALLED ZION (4:26)**

(Zinn)

Bad Daddy Music, BMI / Zinfidelity Music, BMI

"This song is what I call a "free song" as it practically wrote itself. It is a spiritual Reggae original. It has a Rock Steady/Soul flavor with my favorite rhythm once again, the classic 'One Drop,' compliments of one of the true maters of the beat, Mr. Santa Davis. I sprinkled some Curtis Mayfield-styled guitar parts throughout and the guitar octaves towards the end is once again a nod to my guitar hero Chinna Smith. This song is in the tradition of such classic, soulful Reggae singers like my all time favorite singer Mr. Alton Ellis!"



## Rusty Zinn

### SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

#### Solo Recording

2007	ReggaeBlue	Bad Daddy Records
2005	Zinfidelity	Bad Daddy Records
2000	The Chill	Alligator Records
1999	Confessin'	Black Top Records
1996	Sittin' & Waitin'	Black Top Records

#### Appearances

1995	Little Charlie	Straight Up! (Guitar)
1998	Pinetop Perkins	Live at Antone's, Vol. 1 (Guitar)
1999	Kid Ramos	West Coast House Party (Guitar, Vocals)
1993	Kim Wilson	Tigerman (Guitar)
1994	Kim Wilson	That's Life (Guitar)
1997	Kim Wilson	My Blues (Guitar)
2001	Kim Wilson	Smokin' Joint (Guitar,Vocals)
1996	Various Artists	Antone's 20th Anniversary (Guitar)
1997	Various Artists	Jump & Swing with Black Top (Guitar, Vocals)
2001	Various Artists	Sweet Emotion: Songs of Aerosmith (Guitar/rhythm, Vocals)
2005	Little Charlie	Nine Lives (Background Vocals)

#### Produced

1997	Dave Myers	You Can't Do That (Guitar ,Associate Producer)
2001	Craig Horton	In My Spirit (Producer)
2004	Craig Horton	Touch Of The Bluesman (Producer)



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