

Seduced by a Blue Turtle

Despite a cloud-filled sky that threatened rain, Blue Turtle Seduction set up for an outdoor show at the Stonewall Tavern in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on April 29. Their sound definitely “seduced” the crowd with a combination that can’t be pigeonholed into any genre. The best, and shortest answer, from drummer Adam Navone, is “we’re gypsified rock.”



In the mix, you’re going to hear a little blue grass, a little reggae, a little rock and everything else in between. And, if you don’t think a fiddle can rock, then you have a treat coming when you see frontman Christian Zupancic pound out the beats...not only on a fiddle, but also a mandolin.

So, where exactly did this band come from? They all came from different parts of the country and from different backgrounds, which Navone feels helps give them their unique sound. Another aspect that might add to that is the fact that all the band members except Zupancic are self-taught. Zupancic did have classical violin lessons, but none of the other members ever took any kind of professional lessons. Though Navone feels he’s learned some bad drum habits over the years, he also still feels that it was “a blessing” being able to be different.

In a weird twist, they all actually met in Tahoe while working at an outdoor conference center. According to Navone, there were a lot of “cool people in town that winter and come spring, music was in the air.” Navone was playing with other folks along with guitarist Jay Seals while Zupancic was playing with harmonica player Glenn Stewart and they all met up and began playing together along with several other musicians. What started out with a 16-member ensemble got finalized with Navone on drums; Zupancic on fiddle, mandolin and vocals; Stewart on harmonica and vocals; Jay Seals on guitar and vocals; and Stephen Seals on bass guitar. And, in the end, “it just happened,” said Navone.

After their first show in 2001, the band is still going strong with a new album out and currently on a “30 shows in 30 days” tour. Although it’s not quite 30 in 30, they are touring in several different states over about a month-long time period. During this tour, they first hit Norman and then backed that up in Stillwater where I got the chance to hear them for the first, but hopefully not the last, time. Stonewall Tavern owner Joe Cervantes first heard Blue Turtle Seduction at the 2008 Wakarusa Music Festival and was impressed with their sound. Luckily, the band’s tour worked out well to hit



Stillwater following their gig in Norman and they definitely gleaned new fans in the state.

When asked why they chose Stillwater as one their stops in the tour, Zupancic said they'd heard great things about the city and great things about the Stonewall Tavern. Patrons of the bar gave the band a very warm welcome and packed the house for a show that got the crowd off their feet and shouting for "one more song" when the band finished.

You can pick up a copy of Blue Turtle's new album "13 Floors" at one of the band's shows or order one from their online store. You can also download mp3s from iTunes or Amazon and hear them on Pandora Radio. To check out their upcoming tour dates and locations, visit their website at www.blueturtlemusic.com.

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