

BY CHRIS ENGELMAN

HBO's hit series True Blood is intriguing, a little dark, and a very sexy. So is the theme song - and album from Jace Everett. I had a chance to talk to Jace at home in Nashville, TN.

CE: I would like to say congratulations on completing the record, it sounds great, and also, congrats on landing "Bad Things" as the theme to True Blood.

JE: Thanks man. Thank you. It was fun to make.

CE: The streams on Myspace are though the roof - consistently. That must be exciting, having all of that traffic directed to your page.

JE: Ya, If I could just talk some people into buying my record, it would be perfect. (Laughs)

CE It's an interesting time to be in the industry; trying to move some units, isn't it?

JE: I think it's always interesting . . . if we don't love what we do, we'd better quit. Thankfully, I love what I do.

CE: You recorded your first full-length in 2005?

JE: Yeah, it as actually recorded in 2004, they sat on it for 18 months before they put it out.

CE: Now, was that with the same band you're playing with now?

JE: Not at all. . . Well, I shouldn't say that . . . On the Sony thing was basically a country/pop/rock record, you know, mainstream, country radio thing, so . . . big name producer, big time budget, so we used you know, top call session cats in Nashville, who were all great. Guitar players were JT Cornfloss primarily, Les Paul who did steel, and lap steel. But actually I did bring in a long-time collaborator on of mine, who played on this record named Chris Responde. He actually played most of the solos and all the acoustics on that record. In fact the solo on "Bad Things" that's on True Blood is actually my buddy. Which is kinda cool you know? It wasn't some session cat, it was actually my buddy.

CE: So he's playing with you right now?

JE: Yeah, he played on the record, and he's doing some shows with us. And the other guitar player - I'm assuming you're interested in guitar players since it's Guitar Digest (laughs). The other guitar player is Dan Cohen, who co-wrote a lot of the record with me. And he actually played most of the lead guitar on the new record, Chris Responde played guitar, and a lot of acoustic piano. He's one of those guys that plays everything pretty well.

CE: Do you play electric live yourself? I've was able to catch some live performances with you on acoustic.

JE: I'm a typical singer/songwriter. . . I wish I was a lead guitar player. I have some beautiful guitars, and I play all the time, but I'm not a guitar hero, by any stretch of the imagination.

CE: Do you do a little bit of collecting then?

JE: No, I don't have that kind of bread! (laughs) I've got a 13 year old son, and my second wife, so collecting is like collecting enough money to pay the mortgage (laughs). It's certainly something that holds some appeal to me. . . I've got one quasi-vintage guitar, and that's a Chet Atkins that I love, that I play live. And I've got a nice J-200 that Gibson gave me a few years back that was built in 2005 for me. I actually grew up playing electric bass. It was the instrument that I played the most. I've always played acoustic or bass on stage when fronting a band, but I haven't played a lot of electric, cause, you know . . . I play like a bass player. My right hand is like the hammer of Thor, which is not exactly conducive to....

CE: It definitely translates better, playing percussively playing on an acoustic than on electric.

JE: Exactly. And I have a Pro Tools rig at the house, and come up with guitar parts, but then people with the proper skill sets execute far better. . . I'm always obsessed with guitar, my fingers are just not always cooperative with what my mind wants to do.

CE: And you actually co-produced this record?

JE: Yes sir. Chuck Prophet, who is another great guitar player, and Brad Jones produced about half the record, and due to some scheduling stuff, I wound up finishing it on my own.

CE: Were the two of them collaborating, or working on separate tunes with you?

JE: No, Brad is an engineer, and musical genius, and he played some vibes and tubular bells and things, and he gets these incredible guitar tones, and he's got all these vintage amps at his studio . . . so he was kind of the technical mastermind, and then Chuck actually played in the band on those songs, and a lot of those songs I wrote with Chuck for the record. They worked together on the record, and one of them had to go to Argentina, and the other had to go to Spain.

CE: Crazy!

JE: So I finished her up, but with the same band.

CE: Down in Nashville?

JE: Yeah. Yeah, did it right here in Nash-Vegas. Not a very Nashville sounding record - thank God but uh, there is this great underground community of great musicians here that have little, or nothing to do with the mainstream country product.

Check out the rest of our interview with Jace Everett at <http://www.myspace.com/guitardigest>. Hear what gear was used on the record, and learn a little bit about the politics of the music industry.