

# THE SPEAKEASY

## The Inaugural Issue



Hello Friends, Family, Fans and Readers-We-Hope-To-Become-Friends-and-Fans! Welcome to the Speakeasy! This is the Inaugural Issue of what is to become our monthly commitment to stay connected with you. It's been a little while now and we've been out of touch. No More! The Speakeasy will bring you our current and upcoming gigs and activities as well as other music and/or industry related news. Also featured, in every issue, we'll let guitarist Peter Hodes introduce you to a new piece of musical equipment in his column "Pete's Pedals!!" In addition, our "Flashback" column will bring you along

on our reflection of our first international experience-- Germany 2007: The Poor, But Sexy Tour. Finally, we'll include a quick sidebar noting the 'Albums We're Loving Right Now' - those CD's that are currently getting played and replayed and overplayed in our cars and on our iPods. We hope you'll enjoy this newsletter as much as we enjoy putting it together - and if you have any suggestions for future articles and/or columns, or want to be a Guest Contributor of an article or column (music-related of course!), please let us know by sending us an email at [eversojake@eversojake.com](mailto:eversojake@eversojake.com).

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As the country swears in a new President, EversoJake reflects upon their own fundraising show for Mr. Obama back in 2004...

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#### Columns



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PETE'S PEDALS!! And other equipment too! The Man of Many Gadgets, Mr. Peter Hodes, takes us on an up close and personal examination of his Johnny Winter Signature Firebird!

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*"If it Makes a Good Story, It Makes A Good Life!" --Bleeding Through the Keys*

## Reflections on an Inaugural Month

Hello All and welcome to this, our first, nay, our *Inaugural* issue of Speakeasy-- EversoJake's monthly newsletter to keep you informed on what we're doing, where we're going, and all that jazz. Or blues. Or rock. Not only are we celebrating our brand new newsletter, but we are also celebrating our incorporation as an LLC (EversoJake LLC, to be exact) alongside the inauguration of President Barack Obama -- they actually took place on the very same day!! We're pretty sure there were some missed calls on our phone log that must have been him congratulating us

on our great accomplishment. So, for our "inaugural" issue of 'Speakeasy', it goes without saying that we should share with you the story of our first encounter with Mr. Barack Obama (we say 'first' as we are very optimistic that we will encounter him again).

EversoJake played its first pro bono performance at a senatorial fundraising event on July 12, 2004 at Hotel 71, which sits on the south bank of the Chicago River. Upon first entering the large glass-walled room that encompassed the entire top floor of the hotel and allowed

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*Inauguration Day 2009*

## Albums We're Loving Right Now



*Sharing with you what is on non-stop  
in our iPods and in our heads...*

Dennis:  
"The Hard Way" by James Hunter

Liz:  
"Elephants... Teeth Sinking Into Heart" by Rachel Yamagata

Yoko:  
"My Aim is True" by Elvis Costello

Pete:  
"See the Light" by Jeff Healey Band



## PETE'S PEDALS!!

AND OTHER EQUIPMENT TOO!

Greetings everyone and welcome to my exciting world collecting vintage guitars and effects pedals. I am so happy to be able to share my collection with you, including the stories and experiences I have had while acquiring my collection. It has been a blast thus far and continues to be so much fun.

I have been collecting guitars, pedals and unique gadgets of all ages for most of my life. If there is a guitar show in my town, you know that I will be there in line, waiting anxiously for the doors to open. Well, let's not waste any more time and begin the fun because there is so much fun to be had!

**Gibson Custom Shop Johnny Winter Signature Firebird V # 86 out of a limited run of 100**



I waited my whole life for the Gibson Guitar Company to re-create Johnny Winter's legendary Firebird guitar on which he used to crank out some of the meanest and amazing slide guitar riffs I have ever heard.

Johnny Winter has been my guitar hero for over 30 years. Since signing to Columbia Records in 1969, he has put out some of the most scorching blues albums ever recorded.

I would suggest listening to "Second Winter" as a good start. His rendition of "Memory Pain" is timeless and the guitar playing, vocals, and production takes you back in time to the front of a smoky stage in Austin, Texas.

Now, let's talk about the guitar!!!!

The Gibson Custom Shop has created a painstaking re-creation of Johnny's # 1 Firebird down to every last detail and feature. Each limited run of 100 guitars was made by hand, re-creating the chipped bridge, the aged body and headstock, the worn fret-board including a crack where Johnny had broken the neck, and cigarette burns. This is truly a work of art.

How does it sound?

When I first played the guitar, I honestly thought I was strumming a vintage guitar. It resonated to the point where I actually felt vibrations in the neck. Now for the fun.

As soon as I plugged the bird into my 1968 Fender Princeton Reverb amp, (also pictured), I imagined myself as Johnny Winter playing on the stage of the Fillmore East. I could not stop playing "Rock 'n' Roll Hoochie Koo" until my wife had to come downstairs and remind me that I had neighbors next door.

I am honored to be able to own such a great instrument and if it was not for my good friend

**Continued on page 3....**

**PETE'S PEDALS!! ...****(Continued)**

Frank Glionna, owner of the Music Gallery in Highland Park, Illinois, this dream might not have happened.

A quick side note: I was 13 years old when I purchased my Fender Princeton Reverb amp in 1968 at the original Sam Ash store in Brooklyn. Just this month, Tim Schroeder of Schroeder Guitar Repair tuned it up just in time for me to use it during EversoJake's recent gig at Lilly's in Lincoln Park on January 17<sup>th</sup>!

I hope all of you have enjoyed this first edition of "Pete's Corner" and I look forward to sharing a new piece of my collection with you next month.

**REFLECTIONS...****(Continued)**

for a 360-degree view of Chicago by nightlight, it seemed like a somewhat low-key event without the usual pageantry at such benefits. While we were playing "Jailhouse", by Bessie Smith (for the third time that night, as we were very new and didn't really have the grandest of repertoires), the guest of honor appeared out of nowhere without the dramatic entrance befitting a senatorial candidate (and future President of the United States of America).

As we watched him mingle and shake hands, we were all struck with awe as he moved from person to person with such an easy grace and poise. Between songs, he addressed the modest crowd and delivered, in a very personable, humble, yet impassioned style, his plans and goals for the State of Illinois. He was completely engaging and inspiring and ever so approachable. At that time, of course, we had no clue that this elegant man would make history and become President Barack Obama!

During one of our breaks, Mr. Obama came over to the band to thank us for our performance and chat with us while we grabbed some water and light snacks. He told us that he really liked our style and delivery and concluded with the comment that we sounded like "Boz Scaggs." To be quite honest with all of you, it was a surreal moment in which our transition from pure elation to total deflation occurred in two seconds! Boz Scaggs? But then, some of us looked at the pre-Lido Shuffle works of Boz Scaggs and discovered that there were lots of blues-style songs in his repertoire (albeit more New Orleans-style blues). Nonetheless, President Obama knows his music after all! Ah, sweet redemption.

**PETE'S PEDALS!!****(continued)**

**Gibson Custom Shop  
Johnny Winter  
Signature Firebird V  
#86 of a limited run of  
100**



**1968 Fender Princeton  
Reverb Amp**

So here we are, restored to our previous state of elation! It is an exciting, promising beginning all around – a monumental moment for America and a very exciting future for EversoJake. We are truly looking forward to sharing this journey with all of you!

# FLASHBACK: GERMANY 2007 – THE POOR, BUT SEXY TOUR

## Chapter One: Getting There

We left for Germany today. We're currently sitting in the Brussels Airport waiting to board and there is a Goth-like death-metal looking band sitting to our right. They have dark black hair, variously arranged in spikes, long ponytails, shaved foreheads and one bright blonde --the drummer perhaps? It's already been a semi-adventure as we were barely able to rescue Pete from his probable detention at the Brussels Airport Security Detention Center. Apparently guitar strings make for very efficient choking instruments. Poor Pete had to give his strings to Officer Friendly.

Once we arrived at the Berlin Tempelhof Airport, we waited for our baggage and chatted with the Goth-rockers, "Cyclone 9," who were beginning their European tour in Germany--and ending it there as well 10 days later where they were going to be headlining a Goth-fest. They were surprisingly mild-mannered gentlemen and very polite.

After collecting our baggage, we walked into Tempelhof's Main Hall to find 2 men waiting for us: Volker and Davide. The two men sent by our 'tour manager' and friend, Simone Duve, to help get us situated during our stay in Germany. Volker and Davide let us exchange our money, grab a coffee (which somehow seemed mandatory) and led us to our bus.

We then drove to the "Music Shop" where we met with "Bulli," the store manager, to pick up our laundry list of necessary equipment for the upcoming gigs. Apparently, however, Bulli found his numerous email communications to be *too* numerous... and too uninformative. So after some heated exchanges between Bulli and Volker in the ever-so-graceful and poetic German language, we solidified our order and traveled to Das Haus to see our new digs while Bulli assembled our equipment.

Das Haus is located in Altes Lager, or "Old Camp," and is situated on a tree-lined street that houses the brick and metal corpses of former Russian military camps and a flight school. It is a sight to behold! Our "barracks" were located in a dorm-like structure set back from the road and were surprisingly large--though we did not spend much time in them!

After dropping our luggage in our new digs, the boys returned to the Music Shop to pick up the "technic" (as Volker calls it) and Dennis' wife, Lisa, and I went to what was to become our favorite and most frequented restaurant: Gastrof & Pension. Meanwhile, Yoko and her family made their way to Altes Lager from Munich. We all then met up at Das Haus that evening to set up the technic and hold a sound check. Volker stuck around with us this time and exhibited some Awesome Sound Tech skills... and drank 3 beers.

After our sound check we all went to dinner at Gastrof & Pension where Volker was insistent upon translating the entire menu for us. When he was not sure of the English equivalent of a particular item, he resorted to telling us, in exact, excruciating detail, as to how it is prepared. This was very generous, mind you, however, we were all STARVING. After dinner, we walked home in the pitch-black night and light drizzle, the approximate 1/2 mile back to Das Haus. We passed the old military barracks and flight school and couldn't help but laugh at the improbable nature of our actions: the 5 of us trekking down a dark street in a formerly Russian-occupied sector of East Germany on a rainy and ill-lit night, working on 2 hours of sleep and mentally preparing for tomorrow morning's gig... which we were somewhat nervous about--truth be told. But eventually, we made it "home" for some much-needed shut-eye, anxious for what tomorrow might bring.

Day Two to come in the February issue!



Tempelhof Airport



The Music Shop



Altes Lager