

BLUENOTES

# Singer-songwriters take center stage

Strand Theater in Lakewood hosts a special evening of music

By Richard Skelly  
For NJ Press Media

Three great songwriters gather on one stage Saturday night at Lakewood's Strand Theater for an intimate evening of ballads, stories and jokes when Pat DiNizio, Greg Trooper and George Wirth perform.

The show, which begins at 7:30 p.m., is presented by Indigo Planet Records and Penguin Radio and patrons sit with the performers on the Strand Theater stage.

Trooper, who was raised in Little Silver but left the area after high school for greener pastures in Austin, Nashville and other music meccas, will be making his Strand Theater debut.

He cites Bob Dylan, Otis Redding and Hank Williams among his prime influences as a singer-songwriter.

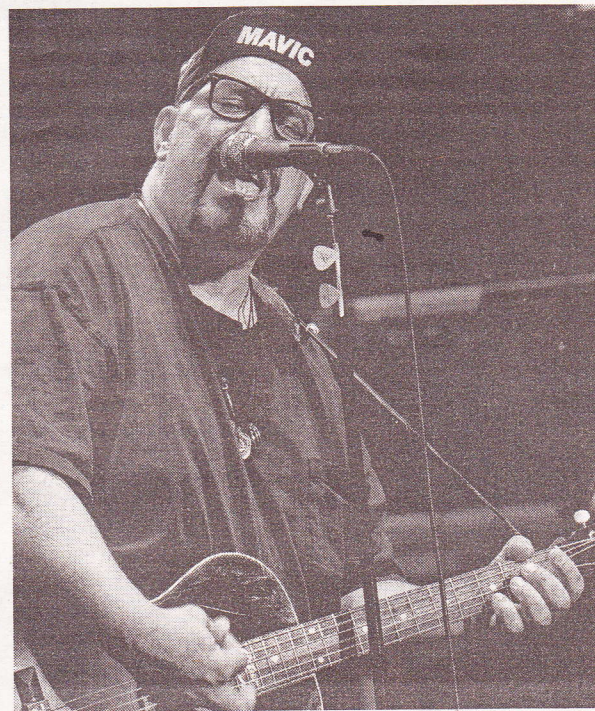
Trooper's fellow New Jerseyan Buddy Miller, who attended high school in Princeton, produced his "Popular Demons" album, a critically-acclaimed 1998 release.

Brick Township-based singer-songwriter Wirth has won over legions of fans around the Garden State via his two independently produced albums and performances at prestigious events such as the New Jersey Folk Festival in New Brunswick and several Asbury Park-area Clearwater festivals.

Union County-based singer-songwriter DiNizio has performed throughout the United States and Europe with his rock 'n' roll band, the Smithereens. The Smithereens' best-selling albums include "Green Thoughts," which was certified gold, and their platinum-sell-



Greg Trooper left Little Silver for greener musical pastures in Austin and Nashville. FILE PHOTO



The Smithereens' Pat DiNizio brings his unique gifts as a singer-songwriter to the Strand Theater in Lakewood on Saturday. SPECIAL TO NJ PRESS MEDIA

ers, "Especially for You" and "Smithereens 11."

Count on DiNizio to bring his great gift as a raconteur to his low-key solo acoustic performances, whether they're in somebody's living room or on stage at the Strand Theater.

Tickets to Saturday's show are \$25. The Strand Center for the Arts is at

400 Clifton Ave., Lakewood. Call 732-367-7789.

## Doughboys rally for cancer

The Doughboys perform on the Seaside Heights Boardwalk next Saturday, June 4, at the Funtown Pier. A number of other bands are on the bill at the show, "Hats Off

for Cancer," which begins at noon and includes Rox-y's Rainbows, Jupiter Jones, Dead End, Anthony Younes and Peter Jester.

The Doughboys, seasoned veterans of the New York City and New Jersey club circuit, perform an engaging mix of garage rock, blues and distinctive cover songs.

Donation for this boardwalk show is \$10. Patrons are asked to participate in helping to break the Guinness world record for the longest conga line while raising funds for kids with cancer. Rain date is June 5.

## Red Bank Jazz and Blues Fest update

Those wondering about the usual free weekend of jazz and blues in Marine Park, Red Bank the first weekend of June should know that the all-volunteer, not-for-profit Jersey Shore Jazz and Blues Foundation is not involved in programming the event that's going on there this year.

Instead, the foundation's board and volunteers have opted for three separate celebrations in three locations this summer: the lawn of the Middletown Arts Center on Church Street in Middletown on July 23; the Great Lawn on the Boardwalk in Long Branch on Aug. 27, and Lake Avenue in Asbury Park, near Chico's House of Jazz, on Sept. 17, for the first Asbury Park Blues Festival.

Further details are available online: [www.jsjbf.org](http://www.jsjbf.org).

Richard Skelly hosts the "Low-Budget Blues Program" 8-10 p.m. Thursdays on WRSU-FM; [www.nj.com/wrsu](http://www.nj.com/wrsu).

DVD & BLU-RAY

# Recent

By Bob Bloom  
Gannett

» "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never" (Blu-ray + DVD + digital copy). Paramount Home Entertainment (\$39.99).

**The lowdown:** Fans of the young singer will go crazy over this release, which recently hit shelves. The movie traces Bieber's life from his humble beginnings to his rise to superstardom. There's plenty of music as well as home movies to give any Bieber follower a good fix.

**Don't miss:** Extras include a concert dance-off, a featurette on fans getting free concert tickets and a live performance from Madison Square Garden.

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