

Bad Influence's Biography

WASHINGTON D.C.'S BAD INFLUENCE® BAND BREATHES NEW LIFE AND FRESH ENERGY INTO BLUES AND ROOTS MUSIC

Award winning four-piece group has developed a national reputation via three albums, superb ensemble sound

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Staying at the apex of the mid-Atlantic region's competitive blues and roots music scene for a career that spans three decades isn't easy. But that's what the Bad Influence Band has done — even while extending their reputation across the country thanks to wildly entertaining, high-energy performances, extensive airplay and three well-received albums.



Whether performing at a festival, on a stage at Kennedy Center, a showcase at the NAMM Show, or on Memphis' hallowed Beale Street, the four-piece group featuring guitarist Michael Tash, harmonica ace and singer Roger Edsall, bassist-vocalist Bob Mallardi and drummer David Thaler are unabashed crowd pleasers thanks to their expert ensemble playing, strong melodies, addictive grooves, sly original songwriting and

sheer intensity.

Even audiences unfamiliar with blues and the other styles of roots music that inform the group's wide repertoire are smitten with the Bad Influence Band's joyful performances.

"The most important thing is that everybody has fun — the audience and us," explains bandleader Tash. "Whether we're playing an original song or a classic, we're going to put our hearts and souls into it in a way that people can hear, see and practically touch."

The Bad Influence Band's audiences have continued to grow in recent years. Their 2011 album *Under the Influence* introduced the group to a host of new listeners when it made the top five on the "Picks To Click" chart on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio's two-million listener channel "B.B. King's Bluesville." And the same disc — stacked with originals and a few wisely chosen chestnuts that displayed the group's uncanny ability to make vintage tunes sound new — was a finalist in the Blues Foundation's 2012 International Blues Challenge competition for Best Self-Produced CD. *Under the Influence* was also nominated in the Best Blues Recording category for a 2012 WAMMIE (Washington Area Music Association) award.



The albums *Under the Influence* along with 2001's WAMMIE award winning *Tastes Like Chicken* and the 1998 homage to their musical roots *Where We Been* trace this popular outfit's evolution.

The Bad Influence Band's ignition came in the late 1980s, when Tash was taken under wing by legendary DC-area blues guitarist Steve Jacobs, who began schooling him in the genre's roots. In 1988, after some years in the rock 'n' roll trenches, Tash founded the Bad Influence Band and over the next decade their popularity around the Nation's Capital area steamrolled. By the time *Where We Been* was recorded, the group was a six-piece with a reputation for great live shows and a vast repertoire of classic and modern blues.

Various personnel changes and refinements in direction and sound led to the current four-piece line-up of Tash, Edsall, Mallardi and Thaler, which cemented in 1993. It quickly became evident they had a strong group chemistry as songwriters, in addition to their formidable musicianship. All four together refine the sketches for tunes that individual members create. The results include rollicking rollercoaster rides like "Don't Forget Your Night Clothes," which pins its midnight romance charm to Edsall's backbone harmonica riff. *Tastes Like Chicken* also boasts the tongue-in-cheek parable for the lovesick "The Clown," which glides over a perfectly chiseled shuffle. Both songs feature Edsall's smooth red-clay singing, while "Man Child" kicks off *Under the Influence* with a lightning strike of pure chug 'n' roar blues, powered by Mallardi's whiskey and dust voice. The latter album's also home to Tash's tour-de-force guitar performance on the Albert King classic "As the Years Go Passing By." His playing is an incendiary blend of stinging vibrato, fat-toned single note melodies, dramatic power-strummed chords and graceful fills and asides that punctuate the song's soul-deep lyrics.

Of course, each band member has a distinguished reputation in his own right. Tash is one of the East Coast's most respected blues guitarists and songwriters, and has been inducted into the Northern Virginia Blues Hall of Fame. He endorses Epiphone guitars, GHS strings, Quilter Amps, Peavey Electronics, Gator Cases, Ethos Custom Leathers, Levy's Leathers, Spectraflex cables and PedalSnake cable systems, and has been nominated for a WAMMIE for Best Blues Instrumentalist.

Edsall shares a similar reputation as a harmonica player and has performed with Jimmy Thackery, Kenny Neal, Kim Wilson and other greats. He endorses Hohner Harmonicas, Gator Cases, and Peavey Electronics and has been nominated for a WAMMIE for Best Blues Vocalist.

Mallardi began his career as a bass prodigy under the spell of Stax Records, bringing his own original fusion of blues and R&B styles to the band. He endorses GHS strings, Gator Cases, and Quilter Amplifiers.

The classically trained Thaler played timpani with various Orchestras before picking up the kit and becoming a die-hard blues fan and switching styles, racking up more than 45 years of performing experience. He endorses Sonor Drums, Beato Bags and Roc-n-Soc thrones.

The Bad Influence Band has appeared on hundreds of club and festival stages, including the House of Blues in Las Vegas and the Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival. Their winning songs, musical dynamism and strong presence has led to opening slots on bills with a coterie of stars: Heart, Shemekia Copeland, Candy Kane, Roomful of Blues, Albert Cummings and Albert Castiglia, among others.

"We're looking forward to expanding our touring range and having even more fun playing and recording our music," says Tash. "We've made it our mission to take the blues wherever we can – across the U.S. and to the world – and to entertain audiences and educate fans about just how deep, real, varied and exciting this style of music can be."

THE BAD INFLUENCE OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.badinfluenceband.com

Our Recordings

Under The Influence (2011)

Tastes Like Chicken (2003)

Where We Been (1998)

CD BABY ARTIST LINK FOR BAD INFLUENCE

<http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/Badinfluence>

BAD INFLUENCE YOUTUBE CHANNEL

www.youtube.com/badisblues

BAD INFLUENCE ON FACEBOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/badinfluenceband>

BAD INFLUENCE ON INSTAGRAM

[#Badisblues](https://www.instagram.com/badisblues)

BAD INFLUENCE ON TWITTER

[@badisblues](https://twitter.com/badisblues)

MOST RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

-**2016** Original song *Run To The Money* selected to be pitched for Maryland Lottery TV & Radio Marketing Campaign

-**2016** Nominated for 2 Washington Area Music Association WAMMIE Awards - Best Blues Group and Best Blues Instrumentalist (Michael Tash)

-**2015** Headlined the Trails End and Strassburg Blues Festivals

-**2015** Opened for Albert Castiglia, Albert Cummings & Michael Alman

-**2015** Performed on Royal Caribbean's' Enchantment of the Sea ship

-**2015** Nominated for Washington Area Music Association WAMMIE Award - Best Blues Group

-**2014** Opened for Shemekia Copeland, Coco Montoya & BB King

-**2014** Guitarist Michael Tash featured as Quilter Labs Artist of the Day

-**2013** Performed at the Las Vegas Gibson Showroom on FOX News

-**2013** Featured in Guitar Player and Guitar World ads for Quilter Labs

-**2013** Headlined the Epiphone Guitars 140th Anniversary Party

-**2013** Nominated for 3 Washington Area Music Association WAMMIE Awards - Best Blues Group, Best Blues Instrumentalist (Michael Tash) and Best Blues Vocalist (Bob Mallardi)

-**2012** Nominated for WAMMIE Award for Best Blues Recording for ***Under The Influence***

-**2012** Finalist “**Best Self-Produced CD**” at the International Blues Challenge.

-**2011** Charted **#23 & #25** on the **Living Blues Radio Charts** with, ***Under The Influence***

PAST FESTIVAL & SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

House of Blues, Las Vegas, NV

Epiphone 140th Anniversary Party, Nashville, TN

Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, Bethesda, MD

IBC/Galaxy Agency Showcase, Memphis, TN

Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival, Annapolis, MD

Western MD Blues Festival, Hagerstown, MD

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,

Washington, DC

Colonial Beach Blues Festival, Hagerstown, MD

Alonzo's Memorial Picnic, Baltimore, MD

Great Eastern Blues Festival, Massanutten, VA

Blue Bird Blues Festival, Largo, MD

National BBQ Competition, Washington, DC

The Taste of DC, Washington, DC

West Virginia Wine & Jazz Fest, Morgantown, WV

Celebrate Fairfax, Fairfax, VA

Wine in the Woods, Columbia, MD

The NAMM Show, Anaheim, CA and Nashville, TN

Royal Caribbean Enchantment of the Sea, FL

The Bad Influence Band Resume

Awards: & Accolades

Multiple years nominated for Washington Area Music Association awards- Best Blues Band, Blues Instrumentalist, Michael Tash, and Blues Vocalist, Roger Edsall & Bob Mallardi

#1 Blues Band on Reverbnation.com

2012 International Blues Challenge finalist for Best Blues Recording - *Under The Influence*

2012 nominated for Washington Area Music Association award for Blues Recording - *Under The Influence*

Winner of Washington Area Music Association award for Blues Recording - *Tastes Like Chicken*

Festivals/Concerts:

The Taste of DC

Blue Bird Blues Festival

West Virginia Wine & Arts Festival

National Capital BBQ Battle

Colonial Beach Blues Festival

Montgomery County Fair

Great Eastern Blues Festival

Western Maryland Blues Festival

West Virginia Wine & Jazz Festival

Wine in the Woods Festival

Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival

In The Streets - Frederick, MD

Celebrate Fairfax (VA) Fair

Bethesda Concert Series

Private Clients:

Gibson Guitar Company / The NAMM Show

The Four Seasons

The Willard Hotel

Landsdown Resort

Cornell Hotel Society

Panasonic Industrial Company

Phillip-Morris Company

Tred Avon Yacht Club

City of Gaithersburg, MD

BlueStar / Retail Service Providers Association

The John F. Kennedy Center

Old Post Office Pavillion

Rockville Mansion

Avenel Country Club

The Ritz Carlton Hotel

Fuji Film Corporation

Rand Corporation

Bethesda Urban Partnership

City of Herndon, VA

Royal Caribbean Cruiseline

Selected Clubs:

The Hamilton - Washington, DC

Bentz St Raw Bar - Frederick, MD

Bourbon Street Blues Bar - Nashville, TN

Wolf Den/Mohegan Sun - Uncasville, CT

Rum Boogie - Memphis, TN

Kclinger's - Hanover, PA

North River Pub - New York, NY

Ram's Head - Annapolis, MD

Stanhope House - Stanhope, NJ

BB King's - Memphis & Nashville, TN

Blues Alley - Washington, DC

13th Floor - Baltimore, MD

Twisted Tail - Philadelphia, PA

JM Randalls - Williamsburg, VA

Medley's - Richmond, VA

Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club - Bethesda, MD

Spike & Charlie's - Baltimore, MD

Ramshead On Stage - Annapolis, MD

Other Artists We've Played With:

Shemekia Copeland

Heart

Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers

Eric Burden & The Animals

Corey Harris

Eddy Clearwater

Bonnie Raitt

Jr. Walker's All-Stars

John Mayall's Blues Breakers

Puddle of Mudd

Maria Muldar

Kenny Neal

Roomful of Blues

Albert Castiglia

Albert Cummings

Coco Montoya

BB King

Candye Kane

Deanna Bogart

The Blind Boys of Alabama

The Nighthawks

Tinsley Ellis

Little Charlie & the Night Cats

Charlie Musselwhite

Michael Burkes

Duke Robillard

Derek Trucks Band

Willie "Big Eyes" Smith

Popa Chubby

Karen Lovely