

Micah Sheveloff launch Exhibitionist

October 28, 2012 by [Marc PHILIP](#)



Hi Micah, can you introduce member of the band to our readership?

Tracks 2,3,5,6,7 the band is:

Micah Sheveloff—piano, organ, vocals

Clint Amereno—bass

Greg Trabandt—drums

Ed Vick—guitars

Suzanne Vick—harmony vocals

Tracks 1,4 the band is:

Marc Shulman—guitars

Lisa Heile and James Mix—harmony vocals

Bass and drums (same as above)

Track 8 the band is:

James Mix—lead vocal

Steve Clarke—bass

Paul Mills—drums

Paul Asbell—guitars

Track 9 (duet)

Micah Sheveloff—piano, arrangement

Mike Munro—lead vocals

Track 10 (duet)

Micah Sheveloff—piano, arrangement

Rick Berlin—lead vocals

All songs ©WIRC Music (ASCAP)

except where noted:

1) Tumble (Sheveloff)

2) Til The End (Sheveloff, Perrouna)

3) Stand me Up (Sheveloff)

4) Late Train Home (Sheveloff)

5) Fallen At My Feet (Sheveloff)

6) Barren Man (Sheveloff)

7) Baltimore (Sheveloff, Perrouna)

8) Too Many Times (Sheveloff, Mix)

9) Heaven and Hell (Butler, Dio, Iommi, Ward) (Essex Music, Inc, Niji Music)

10) Heaven Tonight (R. Nielsen, Tom Petersson) ©Adult Music

Produced by Micah Sheveloff

Mastered by Nathan James, Vault Mastering

CD Artwork by Trigram Media/David Cubine

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Tell us about your individual background?

Playing music since the age of three, Micah Sheveloff is a Boston-born pianist and songwriter who merged an intense classical music foundation with a unique feel for popular song craftsmanship. Sheveloff's father Joel was a renowned Boston University music professor for nearly 50 years before recently retiring. Micah Sheveloff was a fixture in the Boston music scene, having shared the stage with The Detours and Gary Cherone before founding The Voodoo Jets with drummer John Fowler (Steelheart) and Francesco Perrouna. Sheveloff has recorded with artists such as Marc Shulman (Suzanne Vega), Mike Malinin (Goo Goo Dolls), Meliah Rage and others. Sheveloff has a passion for great sound and has been an outspoken advocate for high-performance audio as well as old school recording techniques.

Sheveloff maintains a BLOG at www.micahmadness.com on [Facebook](#) and on [twitter](#).

What or who were your influences?

I have had such an unusual mix of influences that have led me to make this record. I was drawn to Stravinsky and Bartok in the classical realm, I love Gershwin songs and I also fell in love with loud power pop bands like Cheap Trick and Jellyfish. More recently, I have been listening to Lyle Lovett, Harry Connick Jr., Patricia Barber and others. I was also always blown away by the harmonies and chord changes Brian Wilson crafted with The Beach Boys. I have a huge soft spot for 1970's pop!!

Tell us about your favourite instruments and why they are? Which one do you use on a regular basis.

I play piano. I am able to play the Hammond B3 parts on the record but there are players who are masters of the B3 and I am certainly not one. I consider myself a solid composer and pianist within the pop realm—I am no classical virtuoso. I have known many A-list pianists and they possess a very special and hard-earned gift.

Do you rather perform studio or live?

I certainly enjoy both live performance and studio work. In my rock and roll days, it was easier to show up with a rig and play clubs. This record really requires a house piano—I am looking into live venues now in New York and Boston to start.

Describe your music and the public you are aiming at?

The Exhibitionist record represents for me a sudden undeniable need to sing my own songs in an intimate band setting or solo. To quote Oprah, "everyone on earth has a calling," and I feel like writing, playing and singing these songs is mine. I wasn't really aiming at any segment of humanity—I was just writing songs that worked for me and here they are!

Your album are very well recorded, is it your own preoccupation or you leave the technical stuff to somebody else?

Thank you!! For the record, I am the producer. The production was indeed a huge issue for me, from the instruments used, the microphones, the effects, and the mastering. I wanted real dynamic range and space on this record. I mixed the vocals BIG. Tracks 1-7 are recorded live to analog tape (piano, bass, drums, rhythm guitar together) and the only sample on the whole record is a French Horn on Barren Man. I avoided auto-tune like the plague so that the listener hears my voice and not a machine (for better or worse). I listened to countless mixes and three different masters before I was done.

Do you have preference on the recording material you use?

I think good engineers get comfortable with a particular room or with the mixing board, outboard gear, effects, etc. I knew the sound I wanted and I played several cuts before we even got started so we had an agreed upon point of reference out of the gate. I am certainly not an engineer so I leave the technical “heavy lifting” to those qualified—then I use my ears to guide me through recording. I will say that the 9-foot Steinway I played on tracks 1-7 is one of my favorite pianos. It sings...

Some record buyers often complain on the low recording quality. What do you think about those people?

I applaud them—I wish more people would pay attention to recording quality and overuse of compression. I decided to release my record on HD Tracks because MP3’s suck—they are a hazy reflection of what I worked so hard to create. The more people seeking great sound the better!!

Looking back, are you satisfied of the path that led you to « Exhibitionist »?

I am indeed! I can point to one or two details I would change about the record but for the most part I am happy with it and I loved making the record. In many ways, I have been working toward this release my whole life—finally I overcame the fear of singing and I work hard and practice relentlessly. Working with great players, singers, engineers and producers was well worth it and so rewarding!

Do you listen to other artist music?

I have a big LP collection and I also love live concert Blu-rays. I listen to music all the time, especially what moves me. I often speak about it on my BLOG at www.micahmadness.com

What are your visions on the future of the CD?

I think people own large CD collections so they won’t vanish immediately but with music in the cloud and media servers that deliver super quality and easy access from an iPad or iPhone—I think the CD is all but dead!

Any live performances on the near future or road tour planned?

I am pondering what to do about playing live—stay tuned on that. For now, people can enjoy track 9 on YouTube...filmed at a concert hall in Boston, MA

Any dream still to realise?

Absolutely! I would love to land a song in a movie—that would be the coolest thing! I'd also like to play some live shows if I can find a way to make it happen.

Do you wish to say something to your fan?

I think I have said mostly everything already, but I am thankful for all of the wonderful e-mails and comments on Facebook since the release of the record in late August. I think some listeners are taken aback by the starkness of the recording—there are almost no effects on the vocals—but the title (Exhibitionist) was all about being real, being naked so to speak, a little bit of counter culture away from the over-produced records out there. I hope people enjoy the songs!



Micah Scheveloff, song writer and pianist
