

**\*\*NELA Music Scene\*\***

**BLUEZCATZ PERFORMANCE –FLYING HEART BREWING & PUB**

August 4, 2024, West Monroe, LA

They slipped through the side streets and storm drains, dodging traffic and staying in the shadows to avoid adversaries. Just in the nick of time, they hopped on stage like superheroes saving Gotham City, unleashing Muddy Waters' "Hoochie Coochie Man." The Bluezecatzen are here! The crowd went crazy, captivated by the pulsing bass, pounding drums, and ferocious guitar. The high-octane set continued with songs like "Burning Love," "Little Sister," and Roy Heatherly's (Uncle Roy) favorite "Taking Care of Business." The venue trembled during "Standing on Shaky Ground," with ripples propagating across the Ouachita River. And when you thought it couldn't get wilder, they played "Shake Your Money Maker," immersing the audience into a state of sonic passion, dancing, and cheering. Whatever your worry this evening, the Bluezcatz melted it away for a little while.

Bass player and lead vocalist Eddie Word's powerful voice filled the venue as the evening continued with "Alright Now," "Tore Down," "Just My Imagination," and two original compositions. They brilliantly intertwined Parliament-Funkadelic's "Get Funk Out Ma Face" with Wild Cherry's "Play That Funky Music." It was beautifully done and seamless. Gray Martin's guitar screamed during "Foxy Lady." The crowd had been dancing and cheering all evening but wanted more.

Joe Grissom's drum work was a rock-solid blend with Eddie's bass playing. The three-piece sounded more like a five-piece. Gray was free to improvise and explore any direction he chose. They performed as a team, no doubt. Some of my other favorites of the evening included ZZ Top's "Tush," "Roll the Dice," and "Brown Sugar." This was a memorable night for me and the audience. I can't wait for my next Bluezcatz performance.

I had a chance to talk with Joe before the show. We discussed free speech, censorship, and the role of the artist in sizing up the audience. D.J. Grissom was there tonight also. We talked about the Gin Mobster's August album release party and their new songs "Rained All Night Long" and "Sylvia." I learn something new every time I'm around Joe and D.J.

If you need live music for a party or event, book the BluezCatz. Your special occasion is guaranteed success.

Thank you, Jay Waalk, for your continued commitment to local artists and the community. Flying Heart Brewing & Pub-West Monroe has quickly become a cultural hub in downtown

West Monroe, providing a platform for artists like the Bluezcatz. It was good to see Betty Ingram Smith, Michael Eskanazy, Missy Hutchins, and Frizzell Spur.

Tom M.