

## Braille Blues Daddy

# Bryan Lee

*From his youth in Wisconsin to becoming a French Quarter fixture, Bryan Lee is the ultimate showman and wants to be your Braille Blues Daddy!*

Born on March 16, 1943 in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, Bryan Lee lost his eyesight and was legally blind by the age of eight. Bryan Lee had an avid interest in early Rock and Roll and Blues Music which was fostered through the 1950's late night listening sessions from the Nashville Music radio stations such as WLAC. This is where Lee was first introduced to the sounds of Elmore James, T-Bone Walker and many other influential bluesmen.

The man now known as "Braille Blues Daddy" started out playing for Midwest crowds at the early age of 15. In the late 1950's, Bryan Lee opened for Bill Haley & The Comets with his band "The Glaciers" performing cover music of Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and Little Richard. By the early 1960's and throughout the 1970's, Bryan Lee's musical interest turned to the sound of Chicago Blues while touring throughout the Midwest. He was heavily influenced by Chicago Bluesmen Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Hubert Sumlin and Freddie King.

While on tour in the 1980's Bryan opened for one of his hero's Muddy Water's. After the show Muddy told Bryan: "Bryan, stay with this, one day you will be a living legend." – "I went home, and I cried" says Lee. Although his acceptance in the Chicago Blues Scene didn't come until later in his career, Bryan has the respect of his friends and peers such as Buddy Guy and Lonnie Brooks. Bryan Lee and his band pack the Legend's house performing authentic blues each time they return.

In the late 1970's Bryan fell in love with the city of New Orleans and eventually moved to the Crescent City on Jan 6, 1982. Bryan Lee was a fixture of the French Quarter music scene for many years. His guitar brings the Chicago styled blues of Luther Allison, as well as Albert King and Albert Collins down to the Crescent City. Bryan Lee made his stand, performing 5 nights a week for over 14 years at the Old Absinthe House. Bryan Lee is referred to as "A New Orleans Blues Institution" a name given to him by Quint Davis, producer of NOLA Jazz and Heritage Festival, which Bryan



has performed at for 29 years now.

In 1995, Bryan shared his stage with KWS when Kenny was just 13 years old. Bryan was so blown away by Kenny's guitar playing that he invited Kenny to be on his "Friday Night – Saturday Night Live from The Old Absinthe House" "recording along with the great James Cotton and Frank Marino. Kenny also made a special guest appearance on

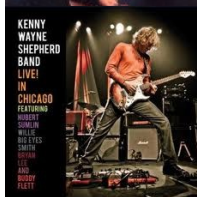
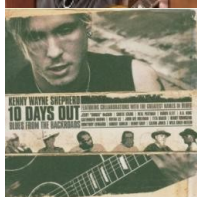
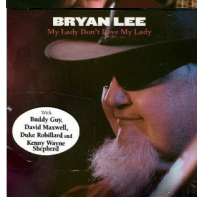
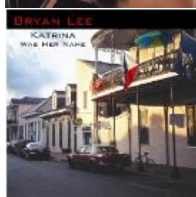
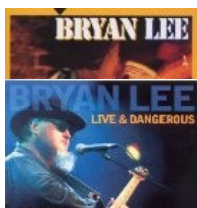
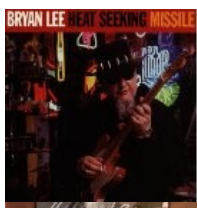
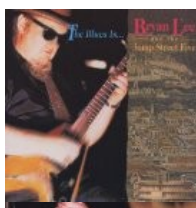
Bryan's CD:" My Lady Don't Love My Lady "(2010 Justin Time) along with Buddy Guy. After the closing of The Old Absinthe House and the tragedy of Katrina hitting NOLA as it did, Bryan formed a new band and hit the road. Picking up Brent Johnson on guitar and John Perkins on drums, Bryan Lee and The Blues Power Band started touring all over the world.

One of many highlights of Bryan Lee's career would be performing at BB King's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2005, as well as being a special guest on the KWS "Blues from the Backroads, 10 Days Out" (2007). During this 6-week tour Bryan was able to connect with the late great musicians such as Pinetop Perkins, Hubert Sumlin, Eddie Kirkland and Willie Big Eye Smith along with Buddy Flett, among many others. Bryan Lee performed hit original hit tune" Tina Marie" with KWS and friends on the Jay Leno Show in 2007 as well as on the Tavis Smiley Show.

In 2010; Bryan was nominated for a Grammy Award ("Live! In Chicago" with KWS and Friends) and won a BMA for Best Rock Blues Album ("Live! In Chicago" with KWS and Friends). Bryan has added 3 more CDs since, and continues in 2019 and 2020 to tour Nationally and Internationally as a Blues Guitarist almost as famous as the select whom he's worked with and admired.

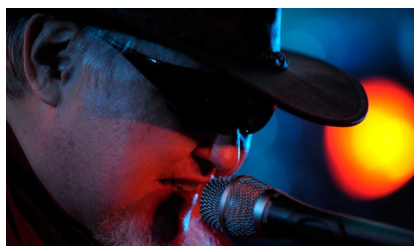
**"The Good Lord gave me this gift and I want to share it with you." Bryan Lee**

# "Stick with this Bryan, one day you too will be a living legend" Muddy Waters



**Festivals & Venues**

**Reviews**



Bryan lee has performed at venues and festivals all over the world such as: Antones, Bluegarage, Bierbeek Blues'd up Festival, Buddy Guy's Legends, BBKing's, Belgium Banana Peel, Blues Baltica, Bowl Full of Blues, Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar, Biscuit and Blues, Blues by the Sea, Blues on Grand, Bayfront BF, Byron BF, Bradfordville Blues Club, Chicago BF, Cisco BF, Cognac BF, Chabah, Cow Pie BF, Charlie West BF, Chan's, Crescent City BF, Carolina Down Home BF, Calgary Intl BF, Café Boogaloo, DC Bf, Donnacona au Rythme du Blues, Dark Season Svalbard, Daytona BF, Edmonton BF, Fox Valley BF, Festi Blues Montreal, Fire Fighters BF, Fitzgerald's, Green Hills and Blues, Green Parrott, Great Woods Music Fest, Harvest BF, Kansas City BF, King Biscuit, KClinger's, Knuckleheads, Kincardine Lighthouse BF, Low Country BF, Limestone City BF, Lucerne BF, La Grenouille Blues, Merlin, Mehlsack, Muddy Waters, Monte Tremblant, Montreal Intl Jazz Festival, Montreaux Jazz Festival, Mississippi Valley BF, Milwaukee Summer Fest, Merlin, Mississippi Delta BF, NOLA Heritage and Jazz Fest (29 years) New York State BF, North Atlantic BF, Oskar Blues, Ottawa BF, Pickles BF, Prairie Dog BF, Peoria BF, Paramount BF, Rendezvous BF, Reno BF, Rio Dos Ostras BF, Riverhead BF, Rochester, NY BF, Rampleys, Scala, Spring Blues, Slippery Noodle, SW Florida BF, Soul Shine BF, St Louis BF, Sherbrook BF, St Louis MI BF, Telluride BF, Toronto BF, Trios Riviera Fest, Toledo Rock and Rhythm Fest, Torch Club, Victoriaville BF, and area shows, Wendlestein BF, Wausau BF, Zacatecas BF, Waterfront BF, and many more.

"His solid rock guitar lines and powerhouse vocals are delivered with a refreshing sense, wide open control. While there is nothing timid about Bryan's music, there is never a sense of chaos, no matter what the tempo. Bryan understands that it is in the quiet places in the blues that makes statements, yet every once in a while, you've got to remind people about the pent-up energy encased within those moments of silence. Bryan does both like a master and a storyteller."  
----Brett Bonner, Living Blues

"He wields a mean blues guitar and has learned the lessons of the greats well. -- Times Picayune, Jazz Fest

"His fiery telecaster is unstoppable, and his banshee wails blast the tunes into apogee." Blues Revue

"He knows how to use dynamics to build an exciting solo and instead of bashing you over the head with nonstop, he picks his spots." --- The Jazz Report

"Bryan Lee plays with so much emotion that the listener can't help but be pulled into the music. If you love the Blues this New Orleans sensation will blow you away." -- Quint Davis NOLA Jazz Fest founder

"The man plays everything from straight out blues to blues rock, funky blues to swamp blues, and he plays it with a ferocity that lingers in your soul for a long, long time after the music stops." ----- Unknown

## Awards & Discography

### Awards

- Bryan Lee was nominated for a Grammy Award for his contribution to the KWS "Live in Chicago" CD in 2010 along with a BMA in 2011 for Best Blues Rock CD, "Live in Chicago" KWS
- Received German Critics Award for Outstanding Blues in 2008 for "Katrina Was Her Name"

## CONTACT INFO

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### Awards (continued)

- Nominated for BMA Best Contemporary Blues for "Katrina Was Her Name" 2008
- 2017 WAMI (Wisconsin Area Music Industry) Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2019 Phoenix Radio Lifetime Achievement Award

### Discography

- The Blues Is 1991 (Justin Time Records)
- Memphis Bound 1993 (Justin Time Records)
- Braille Blues Daddy 1994 (Justin Time Records)
- Heat Seeking Missile 1995 (Justin Time Records)
- Live at the Old Absinthe House Bar; Friday Night 1997 (Justin Time Records)
- Live at the Old Absinthe House Bar; Saturday Night 1998 (Justin Time Records)
- Crawfish Lady 2000 (Justin Time Records)
- Six String Therapy 2002 (Justin Time Records)
- Greatest Hits 2003 (Justin Time Records)
- Live and Dangerous 2005 (Justin Time Records)
- Live and Dangerous DVD 2006 (Justin Time Records)
- Katrina Was Her Name 2007 (Justin Time Records)
- My Lady Don't Love My Lady 2009 (Justin Time Records)
- Play One For Me 2013 (Seven Records)
- Old School Blues 2015 (Self-Produced)
- Sanctuary 2018 (Earrelevant Records)