

Steve Fister - Biography www.stevefister.com

For teenaged kids with time on their hands, a space to rehearse is a tried and true petri dish in which to cultivate a rock musician. For Steve Fister, long winters in western New York and the fact that "everyone in Buffalo had a basement" served that purpose well, as did a household where "music was always playing, from The Beatles, to jazz, to big band." Entranced by the sound of boogie-woogie piano at the age of four - "I heard the rhythm and the melody," Steve says, "and it sounded really good to me" - he adopted the guitar as his instrument of choice, beginning lessons a year later at the local music store. It was the usual regimen of method book study and despite the fact that his hands weren't yet large enough to properly finger the chords, something resonated. "My teacher would take my guitar and tune it for me," he says. "Then, after tuning it, he would play something like B.B. King's "The Thrill Is Gone" or the solo from "Rock Around The Clock." I thought it was the coolest thing and believed that if I did all my lessons well, I'd eventually be able to play that kind of stuff."

The fascination never wore off and pre-teen distractions vanished when his older brother turned him on to Hendrix, Zeppelin, and Cream, triggering a focused commitment from Steve. "When I was 13, I knew that playing music was what I was going to do," he says. "I realized that if I was playing in a band and performing in front of people - that was what I thought success was." That definition of success was reinforced as he soon was getting club gigs with older musicians before he was old enough to drive. "I had a fake ID, long hair, and parents that were lenient about letting me stay out until 2:00 a.m.," Steve says, who also taught guitar through high school, while trying to learn as much about the business of music as he could. Graduating high school at 17, he headed cross county for a promised gig with a band in Hollywood which, upon arrival, didn't materialize. "I was living in this sleazy apartment in Van Nuys," he recalls. "I had \$200 and absolutely nothing; living in a huge city and not knowing anyone - it was a quite a learning experience!

But there was soon the opportunity for Steve to go on the road, playing guitar for Iron Butterfly and later, Michael Des Barres. "It was a chance to play and learn". "When you're a kid," he says, "you just want to go out and work. I took every opportunity to play, be heard, and learn my craft."

In the late 80's, Steve was doing session work and received an offer to audition for ex-Runaway Lita Ford who was heading out to promote a new album. Joining her band as guitarist, Steve spent two years on the road with Ford as her album "Lita" that went platinum and spawned the Top Ten hits "Kiss Me Deadly" and "Close My Eyes Forever." The success gave him the chance to perform in arenas world-wide and share the stage with acts like Bon Jovi, Ozzy Osbourne, Yngwie Malmsteen, and Ted Nugent, but, more importantly, his responsibilities as Ford's musical director toked his desire to write and perform his own music. Although he had spent several years in a band that was very much a part of the '80s, MTV-fueled, hard-rock heyday, Steve drew on his love of blues, both American and British, and artists like B.B. King, Peter Green, Freddie King, and Albert Collins, as he prepared his first record.

Steve continuing to record and tour throughout the early to mid '90s with many diverse artists including Pat Travers, Stuart Hamm, Steppenwolf, Robin Beck, Jack Casady, and Carmine Appice.

During that time Steve enlisted guest musicians including drummer Gregg Bissonette, Double Trouble keyboardist Reece Wynans, and his old boss, noted bass player Stu Hamm, and released the critically acclaimed "Shadow King" in late 1997 through an independent label.

The past few years has seen Steve continue to hone his sound, releasing the solo records, "Age of Great Dreams", "2 Ways 2 Skin A Groove", "Between a Rock and a Blues Place", and "Dodgin Bullets". His current release is "Live Bullets", his first live CD released on ZYX / Pepper Cake Records.

Steve has played countless shows in support of his CD's, in Europe and the US, developing a loyal fan base as a result. His music has been heard in movies, an animated television series, commercials, and he has added the title of producer to his resume, including his work on Aerosmithsonian, a tribute to Steven Tyler and company.

On "Live Bullets", Steve remains true to himself and the things that he loves musically. "It's all about creating a record that you can put on in five years and it still sounds timeless," he says. "When you find the right players and it all fits together, nothing else matters. It becomes its own special language."