



**1000
Digipaks**



**LOUIE ALERT
BUTTON**
EMAIL US YOUR NEWS

Current Issue

- [As The World Turntables](#)
by Buck Munger
- [Scene in New York](#)
by Dennis Jones
- [Rosebud](#)
by Robin Rosemond
- [Jonny Hollywood](#)
by Jonny DuFresne
- [The Good, the Bad & the Ugly](#)
by S. P. Clarke
- [Tin Pan Alley](#)
by S. P. Clarke
- [Views & Reviews](#)
by Fran Gray
- [Hotlanta](#)
by Rev. Tony Hughes

- [Two Louies History](#)
- [Backstory](#)
- [Past Rewinds](#)
- [Back Issues](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Musician Resources](#)

- [Contact Us](#)

© 2004 Two Louies Magazine

Website Designed and
Maintained by
by Buko



POSTED Sunday, January 23 4:09 PM

An icon among us...

The first Guitar Institute of Technology graduate to become famous was a female. She entered as a student in 1979 and joined the staff after graduation. The GIT curriculum was the invention of Los Angeles studio guitarist Howard Roberts and formulated to give a player the basic skills needed to be a professional guitarist.

One skill is auditioning...

In '87, Michael Jackson was at the peak of his popularity and mounting the worldwide "Bad" tour. He auditioned over a hundred guitarists before Jennifer Batten got the gig.

Jennifer could shred with the best of 'em. Her musical choices were impeccable and her two-handed tapping technique rivaled Eddie Van Halen.

Guitar For the Practicing Musician put out a compilation of promising players and her cover of John Coltrane's "Giant Steps" was the runaway hit and the "scariest" track on the album...

Michael Sembello (Stevie Wonder)

produced Batten's debut solo album, "Above, Below & Beyond"

Michael Jackson hired her for another couple of years for the worldwide "Bad" to They played the half-time segment of Super Bowl 27 to the largest audience in the history of television; one-and-a-half billion viewers.

In '97 she went out with Jackson for the third time on the "HIStory Tour" and

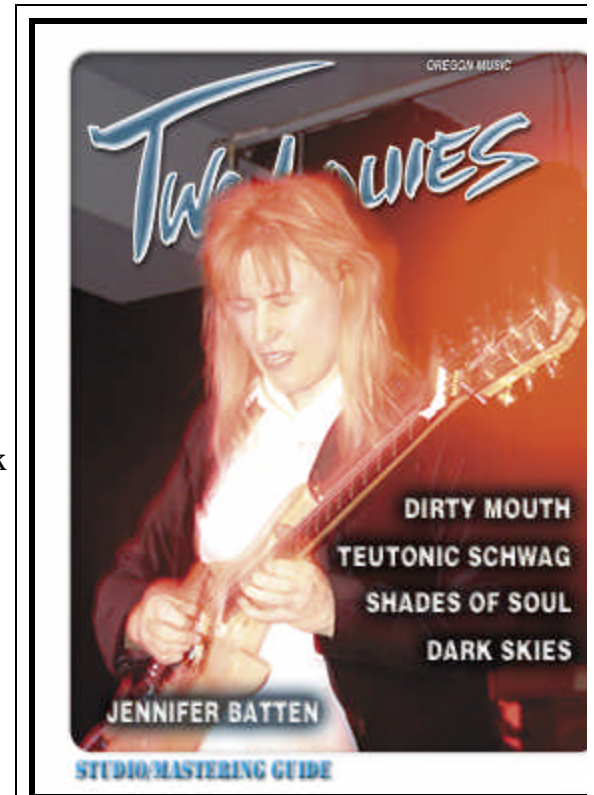


photo: B

ON THE COVER: Jennifer Batten moves to Portland. The world famous guitarist puts together a band with Kevin Rankin (On A Llama, Animation) (drums and Sean Foote (Linda Hornbuckle) on bass

released her second solo album "Momentum".

In '98 Jeff Beck invited her to join his band for touring and recording. She's on his '99 album "Who Else" and 2001's "You Had It Comin'"

Then, the Jeff Beck band played Portland...

The group got a day off, Jennifer wandered around long enough to fall in love with the city and in early 2004 the world famous GIT grad took up residence in the Portland, Oregon area.

In June of 2004 Emilia Segovia organized the World Guitar Congress in Baltimore and invited esteemed players from all over the world including Jennifer, Les Paul, Dick Dale, Eric Johnson, John Hammond, Richie Havens, Albert Lee and Andy Summers.

Batten needed a band...

Enter drummer Kevin Rankin, early on from On A Llama and most recently three years gigging with Animotion ("Obsession"). "I'm the only replacement, all the other players are original band members."

Familiar from the beginning of his musical career with female front-people, Kevin says playing with Jennifer Batten has been something entirely different. "I spent years trying to make Lea Krueger famous, this time around there's none of the drama".

"At the World Guitar Congress all the other players came over to give Jennifer her props. It's an honor to play with her. She kicks my butt."

Kevin says the benefits of playing behind a world famous guitarist include an endorsement deal with the Spaun Drum Company in San Dimas, California. "I saw Spaun drums at the '98 NAMM Show and instantly fell in love with them. When I started playing with Jennifer Dan Pred (Dan Reed Network drummer) sent them a video he produced and they sent me my dream set of drums".

Crushed glass finish.

"Sparkles like diamonds under the lights" says Kevin. His endorsement is the top news story on the Spaun web site.

The current JBatten Band consists of Rankin on drums and Sean Foote (Linda Hornbuckle) on bass.

They play the Crystal Ballroom February 13th and Sabala's Mt. Tabor Theater February 26th. The new Jennifer Batten album "Off The Deep End" is due in the Spring.

Kevin kept the "Obsession" gig...

"The morning after the Crystal show with Jennifer, I fly out for a gig with Animotion Tommy Tutone is opening on the tour, which means I'll be playing drums for both bands," says Kevin.

Spaun is getting their money's worth....

---oooOOOooo---

Art's broke...

The Art Alexakis Going Bankrupt story actually gives hope to aspiring local musicians, after all, how much money do you have to make to owe millions in taxes? A ton.

According to the California Chapter 11 filing Art owes the \$2.75 million federal tax

bill for the years 1999, 2001 and 2002, another \$230,000 to the Oregon Department of Revenue and \$120,000 in credit card debt.

More Willie Nelson than Kurt Cobain...

Art is a lightweight; Willie owed 16.7 million.

Nelson went with the image, doing a SuperBowl commercial for H&R Block and releasing a double-album entitled "The IRS Tapes – Who Will Buy My Memories with all proceeds going directly to the IRS. He was paid off by 1993.

Unlike Art, who sprang from Cali, Willie recorded his first single ("Lumberjack") sold his first song ("Family Bible") in Portland in 1956 when he worked at a radio station in Vancouver, Washington.

---oooOOOooo---

Sound wave Tsunami...

Billboard Magazine, January 22, 2005. "The prospect of the last remaining manufacturer of analog audio recording tape ceasing production sent tremors through the recording industry, as audio professionals considered the demise of a recording format that, though long in decline, is still revered for its sonic characteristics."

"Spurred by news of the plant's closing, engineers and producers have rushed to procure tape from suppliers and other sources, including Internet auction site eB

---oooOOOooo---

And no more Songpluggers....

Indie record promoters took a huge hit over the holidays when Infinity Broadcasting owners of 180 radio stations in 22 of the largest markets across the country issue new promotion edict banning the independent promotion of songs at all of its radio stations.

The policy bars station managers from associating with independent promoters, trade tip-sheet publications or promotion companies that sponsor contests in which program directors could win prizes.

The move came weeks after New York Atty. Gen. Eliot Spitzer's office served subpoenas on Sony BMG Music Entertainment, Universal Music Group, EMI Group and Warner Music Group, seeking copies of all e-mails, letters, contracts, and other correspondence between the firms and the industry's leading independent promoters.

In 2003, The Los Angeles Times reported that "Michele Clark, an independent promoter, paid thousands of dollars to Portland's KINK-FM, which is owned by Infinity Broadcasting, after the station added songs she had pitched."

The kick-back link...

---oooOOOooo---

Ideal indie...

After three months, Pink Martini's second album continues to bubble under Billboard's Top 200 charts, climbing again on the HeatSeekers chart to #24 with a bullet (1/22/05).

After twelve weeks on the chart "Hang On Little Tomato" is #29 with a bullet on Top Independent Albums.

The band will perform with the Seattle Symphony January 20th, the Kansas City Symphony January 22nd and a four-night stand with the Fort Worth Symphony

Seltenrich says the "Outlaw" Marble is "No passive folkster wuss"...