



The Boxmasters Rock New Jersey

Transcript

Story by Gina Marie Rodriguez

[MUSIC: "A Little Wiggle"]

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (00:03):

This is Gina Marie Rodriguez, and you are listening to the "Jersey Arts Podcast." You may know Billy Bob Thornton as an Oscar-winning writer, an Oscar-nominated actor, award-winning director, or maybe you simply know him as Bad Santa. But did you know that he is also an accomplished singer and songwriter? Along with his friend J.D. Andrew Billy founded the Rock and Roll Group, the Boxmasters. The Boxmasters have recorded an impressive and diverse catalog of music that touches on their love of a wide array of influences, but most importantly, the rock and roll of the 1960s. Their tour will soon bring them to New Jersey where audiences can enjoy the up-tempo tunes reminiscent of the Beatles, Byrds and Beach Boys. Having opened for the likes of ZZ Top, Steve Miller, George Thorogood and Kid Rock, the Boxmasters have proven to win over large audiences. Today I am joined by Billy Bob Thornton and J.D. Andrew, who are currently on a cross-country tour of the U.S. promoting their latest album, '69. They're joining me today from their tour bus in Georgia.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (01:04):

Thank you so much for meeting with me today. I know that the Boxmasters began as a project in what, 2006, 2007? So that's a whopping 17 years together, and you still like each other!

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#). Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).





BILLY BOB THORNTON (01:18):

<Laugh>.

J.D. ANDREW (01:18):

<Laugh>.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (01:20):

I think that's the real feat here. But my question there is, how do you maintain a working relationship like that for 17 years?

BILLY BOB THORNTON (01:27):

Well, we just have, you know, pretty much all our interests are, you know, the same. And, uh, we're both, uh, not only in a -

J.D. ANDREW (01:36):

Extremely codependent, <laugh>, and uh-

BILLY BOB THORNTON (01:40):

Yeah, <laugh>. Yeah, we, I mean, we have, uh, not only music in common and he and I formed the band. We are the original members and, uh, we, we also are big baseball fans. I mean, sort of sports in general, but huge baseball fans. So on the bus we watch baseball, and in the studio we watch baseball and, and golf. Uh, we watch the LPGA, we watch the, uh, college Baseball World Series and the Softball World Series every year. So yeah, I mean, we just, uh, I don't know. We're, we're, we're too, we're too tired to be mad at each other, <laugh>.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#). Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).





J.D. ANDREW (02:15):

Yeah, we just, that's, I mean, that, that's the gist is we like the same things. And, uh, you know, we have, uh, not exactly similar upbringings, but you know, we're both, you know, from a general same birthplace. You know, we both have Kansas in our names, so the states we were born in. So, <laugh>, it's, uh, the main thing, the reason that we can keep going is we, we keep, feel like we keep getting better and we keep pushing each other to do better. And we, you know, it's like we always wanna write the next best song. We wanna make the next best record, you know, do the best things we can possibly do. And, you know, I feel like we've got a partnership that allows us to do that. You know, we, we together, we do pretty freaking good. I don't know, separately, he does okay. I, God, I don't do Jack, <laugh>, I don't do anything else. It's like I go hang out with my kids and take them to school, and that's about it.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (03:08):

Well, I think that's great. You know, you hear a lot about bands imploding, uh, over the years, so I think, uh, it helps to actually genuinely like each other. So I'm, I'm grateful for that.

J.D. ANDREW (03:18):

No, we don't like each other. We just, uh, you know, we just tolerate each other and like the same things, so it's easy to talk about stuff.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (03:24):

Of course, my, my mistake. Toleration is, is wonderful too, <laugh>. So, as I can see, you guys are, you're currently on a cross-country tour promoting your album '69, and it's such a wonderful upbeat album. Like I said, I've been bopping to it all morning. But is there a particular song that's a favorite of yours, or just something that's a little close to your heart? I know I have mine, but I wanna hear yours first.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.





BILLY BOB THORNTON (03:50):

Well, I mean, the song on there that like, sounds like a, uh, it's actually the one the label picked for the single from this record, um, is, uh, "Chestnut Eyes." uh, very fond of that song. I mean, we love all of 'em for different reasons, you know, um, but, uh, you know, I mean, right now I can't remember. We're playing so many songs on the tour, I don't remember which ones are on this record.

J.D. ANDREW (04:14):

Yeah, I mean, one of, one of my favorites, you know, for, you know, for a kinda personal reason is, uh, A Big Sunshine because that song came about because my wife and sons were, I don't know, on a road trip or something while we were on the road last year, and they took a picture and the sun was behind them. And my youngest, who was about five at the time, said, "Mommy, it looks like a big sunshine." And so she sent us that, you know, my son had said that and said, "Hey, this might be a good song title for you guys." And so I told, uh, told Billy that, uh, you know, "Hey, we got this, uh, title. I don't, you know, I don't have any idea what it could be." But Billy took that and within, you know, a few days, it's like, here we go. We had a song. So once we got back home, we recorded it. And, you know, so that's, you know, got a soft spot for me. Plus, I think the music and the, the whole thing is, you know, is pretty brilliant. I love that song because we got a lot of crazy stuff goin' on. It's, it sounds like a circus. It, it sounds like an acid trip. It, uh, it's so, it's a wild song.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (05:18):

Oh, I like that song too. And I hope your son is getting royalties on that because he did a great job.

J.D. ANDREW (05:24):

No, he's gonna have to work for his money. <Laugh>.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the **New Jersey State Council on the Arts**. Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.





BILLY BOB THORNTON (05:27):

And also the song, uh, the song "Anta Nica" on there was inspired by my daughter. So we have two songs on there. And this is not the first time; our kids inspire us to write a lot of different songs. Either from a title or just a comment they make or whatever.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (05:42):

That's wonderful. I think it's really important to have those familial, uh, inspirations. So that was one of my questions. I'm glad you guys brought it up.

[MUSIC: "A Big Sunshine" by the Boxmasters]

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (06:23):

I'd love to think that Jersey is going to be your favorite spot. You'll be here very soon. Um, but can you tell me a little bit about how the tour is going and what you're looking forward to when you do reach us in New Jersey?

BILLY BOB THORNTON (06:34):

Well, I mean, first of all, the tour's been going great. Uh, it's been, uh, I guess what have we done, like 14 shows or,

J.D. ANDREW (06:43)

Oh, I don't have any idea.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (06:44):

Yeah. Something like that, I think.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#). Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).





J.D. ANDREW (06:45):

I just know, um, today is night, six of twelve nights in a row, <laugh.> So, um, yeah, I mean, I, I hurt right now, <laugh>. And you know, we'll be okay by showtime. But right now, you know, this early afternoon kind of thing, you know, it's like, I feel like we were in a, played a football game last night. It's just like every bone, every muscle and bone in my body hurts. And so, you know, it. But it's been great. We, you know, have, we've had a ton of sold-out shows and, uh, the shows that weren't sold out had, you know, fantastic audiences that were, you know, really excited to see us.

J.D. ANDREW (07:17):

It's been really great. And, you know, talking about New Jersey, I mean, we played the Levoy Theatre in Millville a few years ago and had a blast. It's a beautiful place. And, and, we had a, you know, great time. The people there were super great to us, and we, uh, really had a great time. Did I say great enough times in that, <laugh>, in that long run-on sentence? So anyway, we're, we're looking forward to it again. And, uh, we've done a, another interview with a professor from Monmouth University and, uh, so, you know, we're looking forward to going there 'cause it's the first time for us to, uh, play and whatever town that is, 'cause I can't remember at the moment.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (07:56):

Well, that's wonderful. And I don't think anybody in New Jersey is going to fight you for calling us great. So thank you, say it as many times as you'd like, <laugh.> So you'll be, you'll be at two places, like you said, the Levoy, which is an absolutely stunning theater and that's on June 21st. And then on June 24th you'll be at the Pollak Theatre at Monmouth University Center for the Arts.

[MUSIC: "Anta Nica" by the Boxmasters]

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (08:39):

If you don't mind, it's not often that I get to chat with an Oscar winner, so I hate to, to ask any artist to choose their-

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the **New Jersey State Council on the Arts**. Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.





J.D. ANDREW (08:48):

I'll, I'll, I'll do my best.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (08:49):

Yeah, he's good with it. He really is.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (08:51):

Thank you, <laugh>, I appreciate you, um, placating me here. But I hate to ask any artist to choose their favorite medium, but Billy, if you don't mind, how do you balance life between the film world and the music world and, and, family? That's, that's a lot to juggle.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (09:08):

Well, I mean, in the last several years it's, uh, it's been mainly music. You know, I, I've made very few film projects. Uh, I did a, a cameo for Taylor Sheridan and, uh, I did a movie called "The Gray Man" over in Europe. And, uh, other than that I haven't done much lately. I'll, I'll do another one, you know, sometime soon. But, uh, it's, it's never been really hard to do. I mean, the, the music agents know when we're on tour or we're making a record that - just don't call, don't call me, <laugh>, you know, and then, and then when I'm, uh, doing a film project, everybody knows that for that length of time, I'm, I'm, you know, I'm out. So, but it's actually kind of a welcome break, you know, for, uh, for us, when I do do a film project because we're, we're gone so much and we're in the studio so much that that's almost like our vacation when I do a film, because then Jay is, J.D. gets to be at home with his family and-

J.D. ANDREW (10:07):

Yeah, get to recharge a little bit. Yeah. You know, 'cause uh, I mean, when we do, when, when Billy is home, we do work as much as possible. We'll, we'll have, you know, family commitments that, you know, you know, take precedence, you know. But, uh, for the most part, you know, we're in the studio constantly. And I believe it was March or April, we mixed three new records that we've recorded all since the, uh, the last tour, 'cause we finished '69 before we did the tour last year. We played a few

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#). Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).





songs from it during that, and then that was all done. And so we got back and it's like, okay, new record time. So we, uh, started recording and we had an idea to do one record. And so we were working on that. But as that went, we started writing some other songs and they felt like a different record, so we just kept going.

J.D. ANDREW (10:54):

It's like, we don't have a clock now. We, we have our own studio, so we just record whatever we want, what however we wanna do it. And so if we wanna start this one record and then move into another one and then bounce back and forth, we do that. So we just take, we record whatever song, you know, feels like it wants to be recorded that day and make the most of it. So, and then we've started another record since then, so that we've got about three songs recorded on and we'll, when we get back home, we'll uh, keep working on that, see what, uh, pops up.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (11:25):

And also on the film projects, I can take my family with me because we're in one spot for a period of time. But, you know, when we're on the road, that's probably the toughest part of being out here is, uh, is, you know, missing the kids and our spouses and that kind of thing. But, uh, but this year they've actually come out, uh, a couple of times, you know. Uh, I mean they obviously life on the bus is not good for your, for your kids, <laugh>.

J.D. ANDREW (11:49):

Well, they'd love it if they just didn't have the rest of the band crew and all that, <laugh>. If it was their bus, they would totally Oh yeah. Be, you know, this would be the life for them. So there's all sorts of things to climb on and hide in and hide stuff. And my kids always find all the candy or snacks, potato chips, anything that anybody's hidden on the bus. They find it whenever they get on.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (12:12):

<Laugh>, that would be me. I'm in my thirties, but that would still be me.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.





J.D. ANDREW (12:15):

We started, we wrote a song, you know, more recently that was, uh, basically a tribute to my middle son's band that he started for about two days, <laugh>, and, uh-

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (12:25):

Two whole days, <laugh>!

J.D. ANDREW (12:26):

Yeah. They, they had started playing the recorder in, uh, third grade. And so he and some buddies started a band immediately and so he was pretty, uh, confident that he was the best recorder player kind of ever and that they could, you know, make a band out of it. And so, um, Billy started, uh, making a song tribute to their band and using some of the stuff, 'cause they wrote a song. And, uh, so Billy incorporated some of the lyrics from their song into ours and, uh, named the song after their band name and all that. So it's, uh, yeah-

BILLY BOB THORNTON (13:00):

The Fire Wing Falcons.

J.D. ANDREW (13:01):

The Fire Wing Falcons.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (13:03):

That's a great name.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (13:05):

Isn't it?

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#). Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).





GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (13:05):

It is. I'm looking forward to hearing that song and theirs, <laugh>.

J.D. ANDREW (13:09):

Yeah, exactly. They'll probably be a lot more famous than us.

[MUSIC: "Working Title" by the Boxmasters]

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (13:33):

Speaking of, you know, the film world and music worlds working in harmony, the two of you, I believe worked together on a film project, "Jayne Mansfield's Car," is that correct? So, what was it like working in that capacity together?

BILLY BOB THORNTON (13:48):

Well, I mean, it was pretty easy because we already kind of knew what we were gonna do. We scored the movie and, uh, we'd scored a couple of other things and had a few songs in movies, you know, before, but I mean that, that obviously, you don't do anything, they said, can we use your song? But scoring it was actually a lot of fun to do, but we didn't want to, uh, um, we didn't want to call ourselves by our real names, so we thought, you know, it's because if they don't know that, oh, I wrote the film and starred in it and directed it, you know, that kind of stuff. Oh, great. Does his own music too. I had music consulted it. Yeah. And, and, <laugh>, but really what it was, it was me and J.D. and Brad Davis and, uh, we, we had to come up with one name that we could be, we, we wanted to make, like, it was one guy, so we were called Owen Easterling Hatfield, and we thought, Owen Easterling Hatfield sounds fancy, like some British guy or whatever, you know.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#). Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).





BILLY BOB THORNTON (14:41):

So that's what we called ourselves and each one of us picked out like a name and we put 'em together, you know, like Hatfield was me because I, at one point when I was a kid, lived in a town called Hatfield, and then yours is something to do with your relative or something?

J.D. ANDREW (14:56)

Oh yeah. No, I think I was Lloyd Mortimer Owen or something. <Laugh>, um, using my grandparents' names. Yeah. But I mean, honestly, you know, making, uh, least the way we do it, making movie music, you know, score is, uh, a lot of fun and almost simpler than, you know, recording a song because you're just making music and, you know, we, we make music nonstop. It's, you know, finding lyrics and a melody that go on top of a piece of music that, you know, makes a song and, you know, makes something that people remember.

J.D. ANDREW (15:29):

Scores are a lot of just, you know, making spooky noises, <laugh>, and, uh, you know, making things that only have one section. They don't have to go to a chorus or a, you know, b section or a bridge or things like that. It's just like, okay, we're gonna start here, we're gonna end here. What can we do in between that? And it's, uh, plus for us it's, yeah, it's, it's, it's very simple.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (15:55):

Also, uh, the thing is how like the scenes actually kind of tell you what the music needs to be. I mean, it's like the, you know, you, you can just watch scenes and there and, and it's like, wow, that- one of us will make a noise or have a melody in our head for it, you know, some, some scenes you write music for it, that, that actually is married to the scene in such a way, it's like, yeah, it feels like the scene.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the **New Jersey State Council on the Arts**. Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.





BILLY BOB THORNTON (16:19):

And sometimes we'll do something wacky, like, you know, go completely against what the sentiment of the scene is, you know, and just make some crazy, uh, thing. But, um, yeah, it's actually, it's actually kind of fun to do. Yeah.

J.D. ANDREW (16:34):

You can really lead, you know, you can play with people's emotions, you know, by, you know, having a, a moody, you know, kinda haunting kind of sound behind something that's more lighthearted, you know, and you can really change the scene that way. Or you can have a really kind of heavy emotional moment on screen, but then the music is playful and fun behind it. And so you can kind of, you know, play with people's emotions. And that's fun to do to just really kind of play against the scene.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (17:03):

You mean like you play with mine?

J.D. ANDREW (17:04):

Yeah, exactly. <Laugh>. I'm gonna stab you after this.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (17:11):

<Laugh>, I have heard nothing. I'm, I'm not a witness, <laugh>. You mentioned that, you know, writing lyrics is actually the harder part. You know, you're making music all of the time. So that, that leads me to ask, how do you guys manage to write lyrics? Do you work together to come up with lyrics? Do you take turns as to who's writing? How, how does that collaboration happen? Oh he's shaking his head no. <Laugh>.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#). Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).





J.D. ANDREW (17:33):

Well, no, that's all Billy. I, I, I, I couldn't write. I, I think I've come up with one title, maybe two over the course of our, you know, 500 or 700 songs we've written together.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (17:45):

Well, titles are hard, so give yourself some credit.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (17:47):

They are hard.

J.D. ANDREW (17:48):

It's mostly all my song titles are like, how can I put the word rain in every song title, <laugh>, because my dad told me something's like, you know, you want to hit song, you gotta put, put rain in it. And it's like, he told me that 20-something years ago and, uh, it's like all these songs have rain. And so, I've kind of stuck with that. So I've come up with a couple of, uh, rain titles for songs and that's been about it.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (18:12):

I think that's a good piece of advice. That and take from your son.

J.D. ANDREW (18:15):

I noticed, I noticed more often that, you know, it's like, oh, Billy will say something and I'm like, oh, that sounds like a song. Or, you know, that's a song title and so we'll write it down and then he'll write it. But, you know, thankfully I have a, um, obsessive-compulsive creator partner who is constantly writing it. It's, we used to, you know, our old keyboard player, Teddy would come in and say, Hey, I've been gone for a week and you guys have already written another album. And, and now it's the same thing. It's like, it's uh, you know, I'll come in after a weekend or something and Billy will have five songs, you know, all the lyrics written for 'em. And then we'll have to sit down and, you know, maybe, hopefully he'll have a

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the **New Jersey State Council on the Arts**. Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.





melody for a piece of it, and then we'll find the music that goes for that. Or, you know, we'll come up with something that's, uh, you know, where all the music has to be written for this. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, other times he'll have all of the music and the words, and it's just a matter of connecting a piece of it to another piece and figuring out how we get from one section to the next. So it's, it's a different, it's different ways all the time, but, uh, the, uh, the lyrics are all coming from him. And I'll take absolutely no credit for that.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (19:21):

Well, Billy, you've done a great job because I love them all. So thank you for that, <laugh>. But your, your sound, your sound is wonderful too. I really like the, at least for this album that I was, again, listening to on repeat, um, it's just so upbeat and I think we're living in a time where I, I need a lot of upbeat, you know, happy sounding music. Um, same thing with movies. I just need to watch comedies at this point. The world is too sad, I can't watch the news.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (19:47):

Very true. We're the same way <laugh>.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (19:49):

Yeah. So I read, it might have even been in your press release, but I read that you guys, uh, say that your fans are somewhat of a quote-unquote, "cult following." And I'm curious if that affords you a closer relationship with your fans. Are you able to interact with them in a way that, you know, you might not have been able to were you, the Beatles or something, <laugh>?

BILLY BOB THORNTON (20:11):

Yeah, I mean, it's true. We, we do have, uh, our, our, our following has gotten bigger and bigger and bigger. And so we started with a small cult following. Now we got a big cult following. So, but yeah, we have fans that literally drive all over the country to see us for several shows, you know, kinda like the Deadheads would do, you know, and-

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#). Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).





J.D. ANDREW (20:31):

Well, we've got people that come from all over the world.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (20:35):

Yeah. World. Actually, there's a, there's a girl here right now who's a big fan of ours and she's such a great promoter of the band. She lives in Germany and we get to New Orleans the other night and there she was and, and she's a great gal. And, and uh,

J.D. ANDREW (20:47):

And I copy of our social media posts from her. Her name's Jess. And, and, and she's got a Instagram handle like "(modbilly66)."

J.D. ANDREW (20:55):

And so she, I don't know how she has time to do it 'cause she's constantly making posts about, you know, whatever we're up to, whatever the shows are. But also anybody that's been in the band before, like Brad Davis and Teddy and Mike Butler, 'cause they all have bands and projects they're doing. I mean, she posts about our, one of our crew guys wrote a movie that was made. And so she'll put information about anytime his movie's being shown somewhere. Um, basically anybody in our orbit, you know, any of our friends, she, she is a nonstop promotion machine. And so literally I just copy a bunch of her posts and repost 'em because, you know, we don't have time or the skills to socially media promote ourselves. So it's, uh, you know, but yeah, we, we have fans like that that basically work for us to help promote the band and, uh, we couldn't do this without them.

J.D. ANDREW (21:49):

I'm, I'm sure a lot of, you know, the success we're having is because our fans are tireless promoters of us and we, well, we, we, yeah, it's

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the **New Jersey State Council on the Arts**. Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.





BILLY BOB THORNTON (22:03):

She, Jess, she showed up in New Orleans, right? Yeah. And, and she's going to like 10 or 12 shows. She's coming from Germany to do that. And she is friends with some of our other fans from here on social media. So they all meet up with each other. And there's a couple from Pennsylvania who have been coming to our shows forever and they were in, uh, Nashville yesterday and uh, and now they're with, uh hooked up with, uh, Jess Bill and Jen are their names, and they're all gonna travel together and go to another 10 or 12 shows together. So they've met through us. You know, and it's, it's a cool thing.

J.D. ANDREW (22:40):

They're all friends with our bus driver and, you know, they're sharing photos of where the bus parks in the morning and, uh, it's, it's really funny. We love that they, you know, love what we do so much that they want to just, you know, help out in any way they can. We really appreciate it.

BILLY BOB THORNTON (22:57):

And we connect with the audience during shows too. I mean, we're not the kind of band that sort of, uh, just plays the songs and then says, see you later. You know, we, we actually sometimes will, between songs will tell the story of how the next song was written or something funny about what happened when it was, you know, things like that. And I think audiences deserve some kind of connection with the band on stage, you know, instead of just sort of going up there and pretending you got a, a mask on and let's get it over with, you know.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (23:28):

<Laugh>. Absolutely. I love that. And it's nice that your fans have kind of built their own family within this unit. That's great. So this is my last question then. I'm gonna let you guys nap or do whatever you can do to prepare for tonight. So what can audiences expect, uh, for your Jersey performances? Um, you know, what's your set list look like? Is it this album, a mix of albums? You trying to surprise folks?

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the [New Jersey State Council on the Arts](#). Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).





BILLY BOB THORNTON (23:54):

No, it's, it's a, it's a mix of albums, but mainly from the last three or four albums. I mean, it's a, uh, we're not playing anything really old except we start our show with a song called "Emily," that my brother, uh, wrote in the eighties and we closed the show with a song he wrote in the eighties, <laugh>. So it's always been a tradition of ours, you know, to, to open and close the show 'cause he passed away in '88 and he was a great songwriter. So we open and close a show with those songs, and those songs go all the way back to my solo days before the Boxmasters even existed. So those are the oldest,

J.D. ANDREW (24:30):

We played those two songs every show forever that I've ever, yeah, ever played. Yeah. But yeah, we, we do, you know, have a couple of songs from the new record. We have a couple of songs that are from the brand-new stuff that we just recorded. Um, and then, you know, sprinkled in, there's a few songs. It's like you said, you know, from the last, the last six or eight years, <laugh>, of us of our recordings. That's, you know, what the show is. And it is an uptempo, loud, rock and roll show and, you know, we have five guys on stage, two guitars, bass drums, Billy's our frontman and, you know, we get out there and put on an old school rock and roll show. It's, uh,

BILLY BOB THORNTON (25:15):

And people need to know it's, it's original too.

J.D. ANDREW (25:18):

Yeah, yeah, exactly. It's all, all original songs from our records that we've written and it's, uh, you know, just a 90-minute, uh, rollercoaster of, uh, the Rock and Roll, <laugh> <laugh.> But it is, it's, you know, it is loud. It, we're not a country band. We're not up there doing some sort of, uh, you know, show tunes act or anything. We're, we're an old school sixties and seventies inspired rock and roll band. And so if you like the, uh, the music of the Beatles and the Byrds and the Beach Boys and The Kinks and the Ramones, <laugh>, you know, then, uh, then that's the kind of show you're gonna see.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the **New Jersey State Council on the Arts**. Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.





BILLY BOB THORNTON (

Yeah. Yeah. The only time it ever gets difficult is when you look out in the audience and there are people there that sort of just came out outta curiosity that haven't seen us before and they kind of stare at you a little bit. But, um, you know, if you, in other words, if a guy comes in wearing like a, uh, one of those Garth Brooks shirts, uh, the Double Snap Western shirts with a big cowboy hat on, he's, he's usually gonna be the one that goes to the concession stand a lot, <laugh>.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (26:27):

Well, I don't know about him, but I am excited by a 90-minute rollercoaster of rock and roll and <laugh.> When I was listening to your album, I did hear the influences, you know, the Beatles and, um, beach Boys in there too. Like, it, it's just such a fun vibe. So, I'm really looking forward to it. I'm glad you guys are coming to Jersey, which is great, <laugh>.

GINA MARIE RODRIGUEZ (26:49):

The Boxmasters Tour is bringing them to two fantastic Jersey theaters this June. You can catch them on June 21st at the Levoy Theatre in Millville, New Jersey. And then again on June 24th at the Pollak Theatre at the Monmouth University Center for the Arts in West Long Branch, New Jersey. For more information, be sure to visit theboxmasters.com. If you liked this episode, be sure to review, subscribe, and tell your friends. A transcript of this podcast, links relevant to the story and more about the arts in New Jersey can be found at jerseyarts.com. The "Jersey Arts Podcast" is presented by Art Pride New Jersey, advancing a state of creativity since 1986. The show was co-founded by and currently supported by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts. This episode was hosted, edited, and produced by me, Gina Marie Rodriguez. Executive producers are Jim Atkinson and Cie Stroud. I'd like to extend a very special thanks to our guests, J.D. Andrew and Billy Bob Thornton.

I'm Gina Marie Rodriguez for the "Jersey Arts Podcast." Thanks for listening.

PRESENTED BY



Discover Jersey Arts is presented by ArtPride New Jersey. The program was co-founded by, and is currently supported by funds from, the **New Jersey State Council on the Arts**. Additional support for JerseyArts.com content is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

