

Acoustic Tent Stage ▼ Friday 4:30



Lightning Red

Lightning Red began his musical education as a three-year-old sitting in front of the saxophone sections of Count Basie, Jimmy Dorsey, Duke Ellington and other musical heavyweights as the bands played the military base weaving through Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Before he left grade school, he was leading his own

band. Red then became friends with Luther Allison and grounded his music by soaking up the Chicago-based sounds of Buddy Gay, Otis Rush, Mike Bloomfield, B.B. and Albert King. Then Red hit the road. He has been around the world, touring in Scandinavia and Great Britain several times, including two consecutive appearances at the Great R&B Festival in Colne, England. A number of Austrian interviews have featured cuts from his highly-acclaimed release *Tortured Mind*. Red made Austin his home base for touring beginning in 1976. It was there that he performed at the Armadillo World Headquarters in the late 1970's that Red absorbed the music of the Fabulous Thunderbirds and met a struggling "Little" Stevie Ray Vaughn. He has shared the stage with legendary performers like Willie Nelson, W.C. Clark, Omar and the Howlers and Milton Hopkins (BB King's band leader for many years). He has also opened for Bob Seger, Dr. John, Little Richard and others. His latest release is the 2008 *Lightning Red the Groovemaster* featuring Jimmy Lee and LZ Love. Much of Red's latest concerts have been acoustic duo format with Love, but he's also played with his electric band to support the new CD. Reviews have been so strong that another international tour is probably on the horizon. Don't miss Lightning Red and the Groovemasters at the Reef Bar on Friday and Saturday night after the Blues Fest.