



PRESS RELEASE

## **New Orleans Blues Guitarist John Lisi Releases *Shut the Front Door* on Louisiana Red Hot Records**

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New Orleans, LA –

Since bursting onto the scene in 1998, John Lisi has been hailed as one of the best guitar slingers in Louisiana – a major rave for the most musical place in all the world. Indeed, Lisi is a master of the Dobro, mandolin, resonator and Stratocaster, and turns offbeat portrayals of everyday life into funky-bluesy-body-shakin' music that just makes a person feel better. Call it what you will, John Lisi calls it the same thing he calls his band—Delta Funk! The band's infectious sound and energetic stage presence combined with Lisi's brilliant guitar work have made them natural favorites in their hometown of New Orleans.

*Shut the Front Door* is Lisi's latest and most fully realized rendering of his signature sound, complete with all the essential ingredients—sassy female background vocals, kickin' horns, and an in-the-pocket rhythm section topped with stunning guitar riffs. His 2002 Louisiana Red Hot Records debut *Blues for Chloe* saw Lisi backed by blues giants Big Jay McNeely, Henry Gray and Larry Garner. Though Lisi has two prior releases with his mainstay ensemble, *Preachin' to the Choir* (2000) and *Can Ya' Dig It* (2004), *Shut the Front Door* is Lisi's first time teaming up with Louisiana Red Hot to bring Delta Funk! to the national arena.

Notable among a number of industry nods, Lisi was honored alongside Dr. John and Alvin Batiste with the Slim Harpo Award for Blues Pioneer in 2009. Grateful to have such a rewarding vocation, a humble Lisi acknowledges "I don't have to do this. I *get* to do this."

### **About Louisiana Red Hot Records**

Headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana Red Hot Records is an innovative leader among Southern independent labels. Since 1996, Louisiana Red Hot has released over 200 albums of acclaimed Blues, Jazz, Funk, Zydeco, Cajun, and Rock music, emerging from the near-total destruction of its facilities by Hurricane Katrina to become the only label in the Deep South partnered with Entertainment One, the world's #1 independent distributor for music and video.

Owner Harris Rea has sold millions of records over his forty year career, helping launch such artists as Trombone Shorty, Rebirth Brass Band, Hunter Hayes, Master P, the Cash Money Millionaires, and most recently Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk, and Honey Island Swamp Band. His family also owns and operates French Quarter destination Peaches Records, one of the largest and oldest remaining indie music retailers in the U.S., founded by Mr. Rea in 1975.

# JOHN LISI

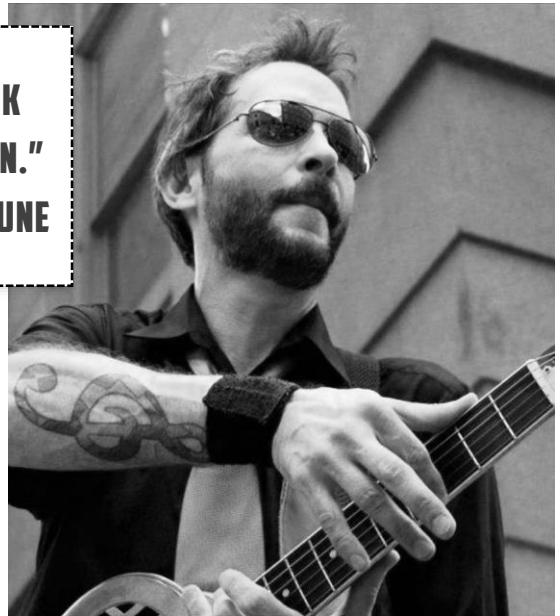
KEEPING THE 'FUN' IN DELTA FUNK!



BIO

**"STUNNING GUITAR RIFFS WITH BLUES AND FUNK  
TO CREATE MUSIC THAT IS JUST DOWNRIGHT FUN."  
– GIA PECORARO, TIMES-PICAYUNE**

Offbeat Magazine has hailed John Lisi as one of the best guitar slingers in Louisiana—a major rave for the most musical place in all the world. Rockin' everything from a Strat to Dobro, Lisi shines as a master of mandolin, electric, and acoustic guitar, using his skill to turn offbeat portrayals of everyday life into funky-bluesy-body-shakin' music that just makes a person feel good. Call it what you will, but John Lisi calls it the same thing he calls his band—Delta Funk!



Native to New Jersey, Lisi's musical beginnings on piano and trumpet led to guitar when he was inspired by greats like Hendrix and Led Zeppelin. Lisi made New Orleans his home in the late '90s where he "learned to play with soul and not think about what I learned everywhere else." The subsequent immersion into Louisiana blues, funk, and rock n' roll, propagated "...a plethora of talent...honesty ringing from his sultry voice and his ability to make his fingers fly...as the mood took him" according to The New Orleans Times Picayune.

Indeed, it wasn't long before the likes of Dr. John, Cyril Neville, Bryan Lee, Galactic, and Tab Benoit recognized his cross-genre skill and dexterity as an onstage asset. Now a frequent collaborator of blues harmonica phenom Jason Ricci, Lisi has left his mark in the studio as well, making a noteworthy appearances on Rockin' Tabby Thomas' *Long Live the King of the Swamp Blues* in 1998, and on the 2007 Cody Dickinson and Jimbo Mathus release *Dead Cat Bounce*.

His Louisiana Red Hot Records debut came in 2002 with *Blues for Chloe*, backed by artists Big Jay McNeely, Henry Gray, Larry Garner, and J. Monque'D. That effort was followed by significant work with Big Chief Monk Boudreaux, resulting in a 2006 co-written song called "Rising Sun," and later *Big Chief Monk's* 2011 album *Won't Bow Down*.

In 2009 Lisi was recognized alongside Dr. John and Alvin Batiste with the *Slim Harpo Award for Blues Pioneer*. With follow-up releases in 2010 and 2013 receiving critical acclaim, his reputation for innovative takes on funk and blues continues to grow, all while performing 200+ dates annually for over 15 years.

*Shut the Front Door* is John Lisi and Delta Funk!'s brand of Big Easy blues, rock and boogie, complete with all the essential ingredients: sassy female background vocals, kickin' horns, in-the-pocket rhythm section, and topped with stunning guitar riffs. As you might expect, the band's infectious sound and energetic stage presence, coupled with Lisi's brilliant guitar work, make them natural favorites in their hometown of New Orleans. At the heart of it all, we find an artist grateful to have such a fun vocation who still says "I don't have to do this. I get to do this."



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

"One thing blues ain't is funny" - Stephen Stills  
Obviously Mr. Stills has never sat in with John Lisi! Hailed as one of the best guitarists in Louisiana by Offbeat Magazine, John Lisi rocks everything from Strat to Dobro, and shines as a master of mandolin, electric, and acoustic guitar. The New Jersey native made his home in New Orleans in the late 90s where his dexterity and skill have served the likes of Dr. John, Cyril Neville, Galactic, and Tab Benoit. *Shut the Front Door* is John Lisi and his band Delta Funk!'s standalone brand of Big Easy blues, rock and boogie, with offbeat portrayals of everyday life turned into body shakin' music that just makes a person feel good.

## DISCOGRAPHY

- 2000 *Preachin' to the Choir*
- 2002 *Blues for Chloe*
- 2004 *Can Ya' Dig It?*
- 2007 *Dead Cat Bounce*
- 2010 *Super-Most-Fantastic!*
- 2013 *Take it to the Bridge*
- 2015 *Shut The Front Door!*

## ALSO APPEARS ON

- 1998 *Long Live the King of the Swamp Blues*  
Rockin' Tabby Thomas
- 2006 *Won't Bow Down*  
Big Chief Monk Boudreaux

## HIGHLIGHTED PERFORMANCES

New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival (2015)  
Bugs & Brews Benefit Concert (2015)  
Highland Jazz & Blues Festival (2015)

## TARGET MARKETS

- The crawfish circuit – south Louisiana, Texas, Gulf Coast and Austin
- Blues guitar fans
- Fans of John Hammond Jr.

## NOTABLE COLLABORATIONS

Big Jay McNeely, Bryan Lee, Cody Dickinson (North Mississippi Allstars), Cyril Neville, Dr. John, Galactic, Henry Gray, J. Monque'D, Jason Ricci, Jimbo Mathus (Squirrel Nut Zippers), Larry Garner, Tab Benoit

## AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2009 Slim Harpo Award for Blues Pioneer
- Has performed 200+ dates annually for over fifteen years
- Tours regularly with multiple Award-winning Blues harmonica player, Jason Ricci

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## PRAISE FROM THE NEW ORELANS TIMES PICAYUNE

"Amidst a plethora of talent, the young man made a name for himself through his offbeat portrayals of life, the honesty ringing from his sultry voice and his ability to make his fingers fly...as the mood took him."

"Stunning guitar riffs with blues and funk to create music that is just downright fun."

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## JOHN LISI & DELTA FUNK! *Shut the Front Door*

John Lisi – Vocals, Guitar  
 Queen Pleshette – Vocals, Tambourine  
 Jacques Joshua – Bass Guitar, Vocals  
 Van Odom – Drums, Vocals  
 Eric Bernhardt – Saxophone, Vocals  
 Dr. Ian Smith – Trumpet, Vocals  
 Travis Blotzky – Baritone Saxophone, Vocals

### TRACKS:

1. **Alright, Alright** (3:07) – NOLA “stank” funk to set the table with a rippin’ guitar solo!
2. **There Will Be** (4:28) – A mournful 12-bar blues, with a 50’s style horn section with a Lowell George / Duane Allman slide ride to bring us home.
3. **Break in the Rain** (3:07) – If CCR formed in the Big Easy this may be what they sound like. No those aren’t cellos, my friend; it’s all Dobro!
4. **You Got Me There** (3:13) – A groove akin to driving through the pothole infested school zones of New Orleans! (Don’t spill your drink!)
5. **Blue Hair Blonde** (4:01) – A slammin’, rockin’ dobro/horn throwdown!
6. **Where’d ya’ go Radio** (5:15) – NOLA meets Memphis in this soulful lament to the long lost joy of flipping the dial.
7. **No Good Man** (6:02) – Yeah, we dig Little Feat... who doesn’t? Lots of swagger, lots of slide, and lots of horns!



8. **How? When? Why?** (2:52) – Gotta make the ladies groove!
9. **Pink Haired Space Girl** (4:13) – An instrumental space trip to visit Mr. Hendrix and friends.
10. **Java Man** (2:53) – Surf-funk, caffeinated blues
11. **We Sho’ Ain’t Saints** (4:01) – Like dropping your Krispy Kreme donut on a dirty church floor. No sugar-coating on this gritty, blues-gospel.
12. **Porcelain Doll** (Lisi/Hollomon) (2:56) – Funk goes folk in this acoustic blues with Queen’s amazing singing and writing.
13. **Mariposa** (Lisi/Bernhardt) (1:58) – The bookend of the record, courtesy of Uncle Bernie’s freestyling rap.

Produced by the City of New Orleans

Engineer Ben Lorio

Recorded at Music Shed Studios in New Orleans, LA

Mastered by Kevin Nyx at Ardent Studios, Memphis, TN