

LIPBONE REDDING

www.lipbone.com

Lipbone Redding is an award-winning vocalist, guitar player, voice-instrumentalist, storyteller, songwriter, author, teacher and traveler. He is best known for his one-man orchestra show; simultaneously playing, singing and making the instrument sounds with his mouth and without the use of a loop pedal. Lipbone incorporates a full spectrum of musical styles from American Roots and Jazz to throat singing and Indian Classical.

Origins

A free-range child, native to the swamps, farmlands and beach towns of coastal North Carolina, Lawrence "Lipbone" Redding cites his mama's Soul, Boogie, Blues and Disco records as early stylistic origins. As a young man he became interested in Art, Opera, Books and Theater and often dreamt of travel to exotic places. At 21 years old, no longer able to be contained by a small town, Lipbone escaped to New York City and discovered Improvisation, Comedy, Jazz, Modern Art, Dance and Performance Art. Lipbone's decade at the cultural crossroads sparked his curiosity and paved the way for future influences from around the globe. New York became a launching pad for what was to become a lifetime of travel and collaboration with artists and audiences alike.

After a brief stint as an actor, carpenter, bartender and producer for the Museum of Sound Recording, Lawrence Redding accidentally became a NYC subway musician and adopted the name "Lipbone." He made "funny" sounds while playing guitar. Curious folks would often ask, "what do you call that sound?" He would tell them, "It's my Lip Trombone!...My Lipbone!" Hence the name. It was there in the underground caverns that Lipbone Redding experienced artistic redemption, and honed the skills that eventually allowed him to travel and make a living wherever life took him: India, Europe, South America, New Orleans, San Francisco, and points between.

"Music is like pollen that drifts through the air and becomes a seed in the imagination. Music is a carrier wave for revolution. With music, I speak with friends who I have never met. We tell each other, 'Everything is alright. You are not alone.'" - LB

Traveling the world making friends and music, Lipbone spends most nights on the road in his small RV, "The Beautiful Flying Machine." Outfitted with solar panels, a kitchen and comfortable living area, he boasts waking up to some of the most stunning views on planet Earth. From his mobile headquarters, Lipbone makes art, writes songs, records music, perfects his vegan recipes, interviews fascinating strangers for his podcast, and shares photos and video of nature's beauty.

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Theaters, festivals, house concerts and private parties make up the bulk of Lipbone's schedule of 200 performances per year. He has shared the marquis with Marcia Ball, John Mayall, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Tab Benoit, Cyril Neville, Jimmy Hall, Jonathan Edwards, Rita Wilson, Shemekia Copeland, Tommy Castro, The Kentucky Headhunters, Black Oak Arkansas, Carolyn Wonderland, Dr. John, The Steeldrivers, The Screaming J's, and many others. Lipbone collaborates regularly and performs often as a special guest. Depending on local conditions, you might experience Lipbone as a solo act, a duo, a trio, or a quartet and its always a good time.

East Village Days

After several years of globetrotting with a backpack and a guitar, Lipbone Redding once again returned to New York and emerged into the vibrant East Village nightlife scene. With plenty of pavement pounding diligence, he became an act sought by local club owners. Jules Jazz Bistro on historic Saint Mark's Place had become the de facto musical home of Lipbone Redding. The Lipbone Show on Friday nights was often standing room only. It was at Jules that Lipbone developed his unique style of musical storytelling. In a rowdy cabaret atmosphere, fueled by champagne and fun, the Lipbone Orchestra was born.

During the East Village days, Lipbone received encouragement from producer Ahmet Ertegun, founder of Atlantic Records. At a gig one night, Mr. Ertegun offered his hand and confided "You play trombone with no trombone, better than some trombone players that I know. Keep at it." Lipbone took the compliment as a directive and a blessing. It was at that moment that he realized that the music was more important than the self.

Soon after the encounter, Lipbone signed with Indie label, **BePop Records**, founded by bass player and producer Jeff Eyrich (Natalie Cole, Tanya Tucker, T-Bone Burnett, John Cale, The Blasters, The Plimsouls, Dave's True Story, Cheech & Chong). While with the label, Lipbone released 6 albums (**Hop The Fence, Party On The Fire Escape, Science Of Bootyism, Unbroken, Esmeralda, and The Best of LB: Volume 1**). Each album had at least one single that received national radio play.

Modern Dance

During his time in New York, Lipbone was hired by choreographer/dancer, Bill T. Jones (Spring Awakening, Fela!) to work on an evening length show, **Chapel/Chapter**. The live performance played

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to audiences worldwide and the production won an **OBIE award** for Best Collaborative Performance. The music was hailed by the New York Times as “*Magnificent!*” Lipbone has performed with dancers and dance companies throughout his career. His knack for dramatic and comedic sounds and his unique vocal music are a welcomed addition in a live setting. He gives credit to Dance for all the music that there ever was.

Life On The Road

Slowly but surely, the enchantment of the road kept Lipbone out for weeks at a time and touring became more lucrative than residencies and regular gigs in New York. With the release of his first album, ***Hop The Fence***, Americana radio stations around the country began to spin Lipbone’s music. Singles like “**Dogs Of Santiago**” gained traction and obligation to the listeners mounted. Travel was always a part of the dream, but it was finally starting to pay off.

Eventually, Lipbone left the bright lights and big city altogether to pursue his dream of a traveling one-man orchestra. Needing an outlet for his stories and novel musical tendencies, he began work on his next incarnation. With a light heart and an open mind, he has put together a one-man show that incorporates a lifetime of stories and songs, an uncanny vocal range, a nylon string guitar, a kitchen spoon, duct tape, and that funky Lipbone groove. Luckily, most Lipbone fans are open new and interesting twists and turns.

Nowadays

Recently Lipbone’s live show was featured on **PBS, On Tour with Lipbone Redding**. The program has been seen by viewers nationwide.

Most recently, Lipbone has released a digital album on his own label, *Beautiful Flying Records* entitled **Return Of The Beautiful**, co-produced by Mashti (Mads Nordheim). The two have collaborated on an earlier record entitled **Runaway Snail**, recorded in Goa, India. Both albums are available in digital format from www.LIPBONE.com, on Spotify and iTunes.

With the decline of CDs and physical music merchandise, Lipbone has taken a new tact. Already making art and writing on a daily basis, he has been making small runs art booklets with full album

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digital downloads. Part of his DIY aesthetic, the physical objects that accompany the albums are a thought provoking collection of art, stories and lyrics.

Sonic Prana

An advocate of self-empowerment, Lipbone has recently developed **Sonic Prana**, a workshop presented at healing arts centers and yoga studios, which incorporates music, breath, sound, mantras, meditation and visualization. A longtime student of Hindu and Eastern philosophy and music, he brings his experience to this 90 minute workshop. Sonic Prana is modeled on Lipbone's own practice and lifestyle of yoga, veganism, pranayama, and mindfulness. People often wonder how he can maintain so much energy for his adventures. Healthy living is a big part of that journey.

"Lipbone on stage cannot be compared to anyone. There's only one Lipbone. He writes and sings great blues and story songs. Lots of people do that. But he is as funny as all hell, weaving these amazing stories into the music. He's also a master of oral sound effects. He can do perfect imitations of subways, poorly running cars, planes, and weather. He could have a career as a novelty act but that's not what he does. They all work in service to the songs and stories. It's not about showing off what he can do. I get enthused about many artists but with most I know they aren't for everyone's taste. I would take any of my friends to see Lipbone, even ones that aren't music people, and feel confident they'd have a great time. Why has he not played all the major festivals? If you are a presenter, why haven't you presented him? Take my word for it; If you expose your audience to him as an opener and then invite him back to headline he'll pack the house." **Gordon Nash - Wise Madness**

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