

Drummer Pete Escovedo endorses John Eric Booth, the new "Prince of Cool"

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John Eric Booth, America's new 'Prince of Cool,' enjoys a musical exchange during his exclusive interview with award winning percussionist Pete Escovedo while in Hollywood. Copyright © 2011 News Archives International

HOLLYWOOD, CA -- He has performed before rousing, hip-shaking and finger-snapping audiences in a countless number of varied venues running the gamut from The White House in Washington, DC, to open-air locales all over the world.

It was during the 2011 Summer Wine, Jazz & Moonlight Concert Series on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, at the famous Hollywood & Highland Center, where multi-award-winning percussionist Pete Escovedo waved his magical drumsticks and made a dream come true for a fellow performing artist.

For entertainer John Eric Booth, who has recently been crowned the new "Prince of Cool," this balmy Tuesday on August 30, with a universe of stars smiling down brilliantly upon him, became the making of a true Hollywood story.

The West Virginia native, with a dynamic voice and stage presence that rival some of the greatest singers from the Big Band and Swing eras, was in town to begin a series of cinema-quality HD documentaries for the purpose of breathing life into bygone music styles by connecting them to present-day interests.

Booth's efforts are in association with News Archives International, a public service entity. He chose The Mint as the historic venue for his inaugural west coast presentation.

Booth then decided to extend his working holiday in the entertainment capital of the world, a judgment call that proved to be readily effective.

After the City of Los Angeles and former teen idol and "Golden Boy" Frankie Avalon made arrangements to have Booth sit front-row center at Avalon's concert held in Marina Del Rey, Booth was then invited to spend some quality time with Escovedo -- the legendary artist responsible for changing the music industry by blending smooth jazz, salsa and Latin jazz with popular styles.

Escovedo has been a major force in the music industry for more than 50 years.

Prior to Escovedo's concert -- sponsored by Kjazz -- Booth was provided exclusive entree to Escovedo's private quarters where the two incredibly talented men discussed, among other things, the importance of extending a supportive hand to the next generation of deserving artists while keeping alive music from the past.

Booth asked Escovedo about his latest CD, titled "Now & Forever," featuring daughter Sheila E. and sons Juan Escovedo and Peter Michael Escovedo, among other featured performances by Wes Quave, Gloria Estefan, Joss Stone, George Duke and Earth, Wind & Fire.

The album represents a new fusion of Latin, hip-hop, pop and jazz. It also signifies Escovedo's latest quest to link the present to the past.

"Let's not forget about Pops," Escovedo revealed to Booth his advice to his versatile and talented family of producers. "And at the same time, let's go in a direction where younger people can grasp what I used to do, now do and what we're going to do in the future so we can cover everything."

The handsome and sprightly Escovedo was thrilled to learn that Booth is also committed to perpetuating classic music styles from years gone by.

Booth's latest CD -- *Alive & Swinging!* -- is a tribute to Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin and other notable recording artists and stage performers who became idols of the bobby-soxers and the perpetuity of classic music.

While a continually changing pattern of shapes, colors and stage lights danced the night away, Escovedo once again proved to a multi-generational audience that he still has what it takes to make women and men of all ages swoon at the altruistic sight of one of the sexiest septuagenarians blazing the world's stages and recording studios.

With an audience estimated to have been some 3,000 strong, the man who toured with the likes of Carlos Santana, Herbie Hancock, Anita Baker, Boz Scaggs, Al Jarreau, Dionne Warwick, Barry White, Poncho Sanchez, Chick Corea, Najee, Prince and Tito Puente, did something great in Tinseltown for someone who was first introduced to Latin music as a teenager by Escovedo's daughter, Sheila E.

In fact, it was pretty cool.

Between sets, Escovedo reached into a pocket of his navy blue jacket and pulled out Booth's CD. He held it high for all to see.

This celebrated entertainer with more than ten successful albums under his own belt, told Booth to stand and greet the E family's audience.

"I want you to meet my friend," Escovedo said with a broad smile. "His name is John Eric Booth. He's recorded an album I want you to hear."

As camera shutters were pressed to a wave of exploding flash bulbs, a surprised Booth stood and opened his arms widely to acknowledge a swollen sea of exuberant fans.

The young entertainer from a small river city on the east coast was officially endorsed by one of the greatest entertainers to ever walk the planet.

It was a rare, documented moment Booth will surely remember for the rest of his life and blossoming career.

And this is certainly a story that is expected to continue.