

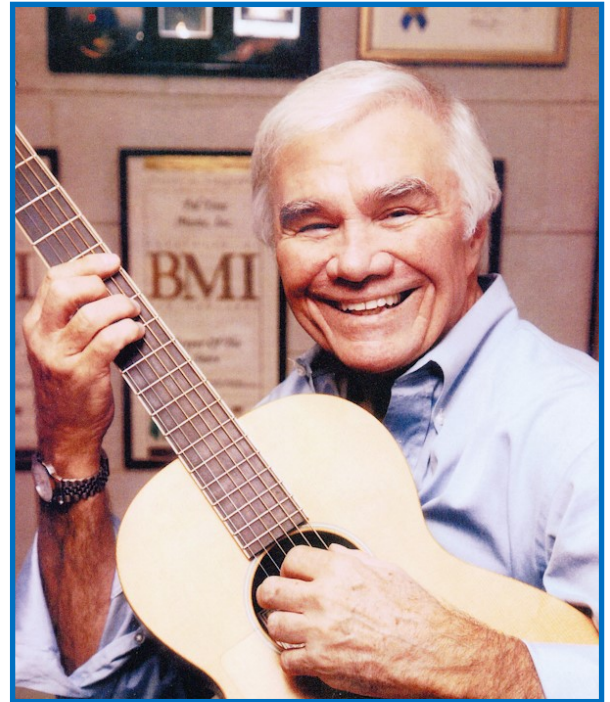


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MAMA and Cobblestone Ballroom to feature hitmaker Dickey Lee of 'She Thinks I Still Care' fame!

By Craig Cronbaugh, Secretary, Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA)

The Midwest All-Music Association (MAMA) is having an extravaganza event at the famed Cobblestone Ballroom, 98 Lakeshore Drive, Lakeside, Iowa, on Sunday, November 3, 2024, with a MAMA Hall of Fame induction ceremony, dance and show, featuring legendary Nashville singer/songwriter Dickey Lee as an inductee and performer. Auto dealership Edwards of Storm Lake, Iowa, has sponsored Dickey Lee's appearance for the event. Doors open to the public at 1:30 p.m., the induction ceremony starts at 2:30 p.m. and the show begins at 3:30 p.m. Advance tickets can be purchased at Cobblestone or by contacting MAMA Vice President Dave Schossow at 712-299-3558. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.



Dickey Lee

MAMA

MAMA, a nonprofit organization, was formed to acknowledge all genres of music throughout the Midwest and makes yearly donations to middle school music departments.

Inductees for 2024 who will be performing are the Riata Band, a four-piece band from Sioux City, Iowa; the Bee Kays, a five-piece family band from Welcome, Minnesota; famed Nashville singer/songwriter Dickey Lee; Roxxy Hall Band, an all-female band from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Other inductees are Storm Lake Radio, Storm Lake, Iowa; Cobblestone Ballroom, Lakeside, Iowa; Storm'n Norman's Rock N Roll Auditorium, Waterbury, Nebraska; Michael Hoover, Marcus, Iowa; South 71 Trio, Spirit Lake, Iowa.

The dance and show will feature the Riata Band at 3:30 p.m., the Bee Kays at 4:20 p.m., Dickey Lee at 5:10 p.m. and Roxxy Hall Band at 7:00 p.m. An autograph and photo session are planned. The emcees for the event will be Chris Boeckman and Sandy Robinson, on-air personalities at Storm Lake Radio.

COBBLESTONE BALLROOM

The original Cobblestone Inn was built in 1929 and owned by Willard and Laura Lawrence and her brother, Jake Figi. Later that year, the first dance was held on New Year's Eve accommodating 50 couples. In 1935, the main ballroom was added for the community to enjoy as a year-round establishment. In 1945, a fire destroyed everything but the ballroom and a few exterior rock walls.

The famous Cobblestone Inn and Ballroom, next to the lake in Storm Lake, abruptly closed on November 8, 1986. Business partners Chad and Jennifer Hustedt, Nathan and Natalie Schumann and Nathan Jensen have renovated the venue and it's ready to swing again. The original floor and the stage are still there. Over the years, stars like Glenn Miller, Louis Armstrong, Buddy Holly and even the Beach Boys played at Cobblestone.

Jennifer Hustedt: "We're extremely excited to host the MAMA event, and we're thrilled to have Dickey Lee be part of it. You know, it's an exciting time for Cobblestone to reopen and create more memories. There's so many, so much history and so many recollections from the past, especially for people who were excited to bring it alive again and give it new life."

Natalie Schumann: "We are so happy to see Cobblestone coming back to life. So many wondered what was inside after all these years of it being locked up. A new generation will finally get to experience it. We've added a few modern touches, but it's still a place where old meets new."

DICKEY LEE

The highlight of the MAMA Event will be the induction of and performance by famed Nashville singer/songwriter Dickey Lee.

Dickey Lee is an American pop/country singer and songwriter, best known for the 1960s teenage tragedy songs "Patches" and "Laurie (Strange Things Happen)." He also had a number of hit songs on the country charts in the 1970s, including "Rocky" and "9,999,999 Tears," and has written or co-written songs recorded by other singers, including "She Thinks I Still Care," recorded by Elvis Presley, George Jones, Kenny Rogers, Jerry Lee Lewis, Merle Haggard and many others; "The Door Is Always Open," recorded by Waylon Jennings and Dave & Sugar; "The Keeper of the Stars," recorded by Tracy Byrd; "You're the First Time I Thought About Leaving," recorded by Reba McEntire; "I'll Be Leaving Alone," recorded by Charley Pride and "Let's Fall to Pieces Together," recorded by George Strait.

Dickey Lee began his recording career with Sun Records while attending Memphis State University. In 1961, he signed with Smash Records where he enjoyed a number of hit singles. From 1970 to 1980 Dickey recorded for RCA Records as one of that label's top country artists. Dickey achieved two top 10 hits on Smash Records: "Patches" and "I Saw Linda Yesterday" (also co-written

by Dickey) and a top 15 on Twentieth Century Fox Records: “Laurie (*Strange Things Happen in This World*).” Dickey’s RCA career produced four number one singles: “9,999,999 Tears,” “Angels, Roses and Rain,” “Rocky” and “Never Ending Song of Love” as well as many others in the top 5-20 range.

As far as Dickey’s induction into the MAMA Hall of Fame, he is overjoyed.

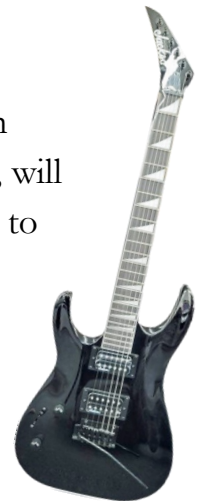
Dickey Lee: “I’ll tell you what, I’m thrilled to death. It’s a big event in my life. I’ve been inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame, and I’ve been inducted into the Nashville Songwriter’s Hall of Fame. But to get in the MAMA Hall of Fame, I’m tickled to death! I’m excited about it, and I’m looking forward to coming up there.”

Dickey is a close friend of MAMA’s Vice President Dave Schossow. Therefore, Dickey is especially looking forward to reuniting with old friends upon his trip to Iowa.

Dickey Lee: “I’m just looking forward to seeing Dave and just seeing some of the old friends up there that I’ve met in the past. It will be kind of like an old homecoming time.”

ELECTRIC GUITAR AUCTION

MAMA will feature a new Jackson left-handed electric guitar, donated by Rieman Music, along with a wooden and glass guitar case. Dickey Lee, who’s left-handed, will play this guitar during his performance, and the guitar and case will be auctioned to the highest bidder during the event. Dickey will sign the guitar to the winner. All proceeds after expenses will be donated by MAMA to middle school music programs in the area.



MAMA encourages fans, musicians and guitar collectors to participate in the auction.

COBBLESTONE DOCUMENTARY

Buena Vista University Assistant Professor of Digital Media Jerry Johnson has been working with his students for the past two years on the creation of a video production on Cobblestone Ballroom.

The working title is *Renovating History*. Jerry and his student crew began producing the documentary, and as soon as the new owners announced that they were going to start renovating Cobblestone. The documentary project began in 2022.

Jerry Johnson: “We’ve been working on it for about going on two years now, probably a year and a half, because we never really made the decision to get involved until the summer and fall of 2022.

Then we started to get interviews and background footage, or B-roll, during the summer of 2023. So, I would say in the fall of 2022 is when we really got in there hot and heavy.”

Jerry’s crew became especially interested in the history of Cobblestone when they began to talk to people in the community.

Jerry Johnson: “Citizens had memories about Cobblestone, and, depending on the year that they frequented the establishment, the stories were extremely specific, like whether it was during the ’50s and the introduction of rock and roll to the ballroom or the ’40s with the big-band era. Or they remember when they would set up the booths and have a delicious meal at the restaurant when they were young. They would dance out on the dance floor. They would all gather around the booths. I had one person who called tell me that her grandfather had dropped dead on the ballroom dance floor.”

Memories abound. One that came to mind, Jerry related, was a man whose grandmother was the popcorn lady at the ballroom. All these interesting stories formulated a desire to learn how Cobblestone became an epicenter for the community, and how it will continue its role in the future.

Jerry Johnson: “We’re looking at the history of Cobblestone and all the famous acts that have performed there, from the Beach Boys to Jerry Lee Lewis. We’re also interested in the people who worked there and how they associated with the owners and the community.”

Jerry admits the production staff slightly alters their goals each time they conduct interviews.

Jerry Johnson: “We find more research and things of that nature, which makes it really fun. So, it’s kind of like uncovering the mysteries of Cobblestone Stone but knowing that they have to do what they’re doing now to renovate it, to make it applicable for the 21st century, but yet embracing and making sure that we don’t forget the past by promoting the legacy.”

Admittedly, Jerry agrees that the working title for the documentary, *Renovating History*, could be construed as an oxymoron.

Jerry Johnson: “It begs the question, ‘How do you renovate history?’ What does it mean to pursue the memories and then detail the current actual operation?”

Cobblestone had been closed for 38 years, and when they opened the doors, everything seemed to be frozen in time.

Jerry Johnson: “We were out there getting all that B-roll footage of the building as well as the materials and posters left there.”

Collaborating with the new owners of Cobblestone has been a positive experience for Jerry and his crew. It's taken a big student workload as the process of assembling a major documentary unfolds.

Jerry Johnson: "It was important to gather students who are going to be able to organize and interview people who have been part of Cobblestone, whether they were a guest, employee or performer."

Jerry has students who are working on interviews, shooting footage and searching for memorabilia collectibles. Students are also diligently gathering photos, video or film.

Jerry Johnson: "That's what we've been doing now. Then we will transcribe. We have students who are going to be starting in the fall, and we're going to be introducing them to transcribing, data entry and asset management, which is now a big deal in the industry."

Writing scripts and graphic design will be upcoming tasks for the production.

Jerry Johnson: "We will begin pulling students in from different programs other than the digital media program. We'll partner with music production, graphic design and communication students."

The Buena Vista University students are hoping to complete the documentary production in 2026.

Jerry Johnson: "The 100th anniversary of Cobblestone would be in 2029, which is too far away. I really want to get the project completed before that. The birth date of Cobblestone was New Year's Eve, 1929. Even though it really started in 1930, it actually was born in 1929. We were kind of thinking about, well, 2028 is like, wait, that's too far in the future. So, 2026 is what we're shooting for, and this is typical of our creative process. That kind of works off the cycle of the students' process and progress."

Once the documentary is completed, Jerry plans to premiere it at Cobblestone Ballroom.

Jerry Johnson: "We'll invite those who are interested and people who were part of the process, and then we will also enter it into film festivals."

After he irons out all the details for the MAMA Event on November 3rd, Jerry plans to have five students in two units attend the event with cameras in hand.

Jerry Johnson: “We’ll be doing interviews, some will be shooting the B-roll footage of the event, and I don't want to just set a camera up in the back and shoot the music because that's not what the documentary is about. It’s about the people, right? We’re looking forward to interviewing famed Nashville singer/songwriter Dickey Lee. We’re going to ask him questions about the history of music and how what influences places like Cobblestone. During our process we have discovered a lot of interesting things about the music circuit, and things that we didn’t even think about that really drives some of our questioning.”

Admittedly, Jerry believes that the MAMA Hall of Fame induction and show validates the story of Cobblestone Ballroom.

Jerry Johnson: “With Cobblestone Ballroom being inducted into the 2024 MAMA Hall of Fame validates the importance the story because it’s recognizing the importance that the venue has had on music throughout history. That’s really the defining production angle. It’s legitimate. It’s recognizing the importance that Cobblestone has had on the history of the community, on art, popular culture and the history of music.”

The 2024 MAMA Hall of Fame Event at Cobblestone Ballroom on November 3rd will be an occasion to remember.