

Positively Swing!

"The Feel Good Experience"



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

JEFFERY ALLEN SPENCE

Internationally Acclaimed Pianist & Vocalist

BMG Recording Artist

*Creator and Presentor of
GREAT GOBS OF GRATITUDE
(Corporate Seminar)*



RIQUÉ

Multi-Talented Writer, Singer & Performer

3 Time Empower Music Nominee

Broadway World Nominee

*Winner of "Best Cameo"
for the Circle Theater Awards*

*Creator and Presentor of
BEAUTY SIMPLIFIED
(Presentation and Workshops)*



Positively Swing!

*The Great American Songbook
with a Positive Spin*



JEFFERY ALLEN SPENCE

Having now been in the music business for over 40 years, JEFFERY ALLEN SPENCE began his professional career at the age of 15 playing in successful jazz trios, serving as pianist in the Bill Causey Orchestra (Shreveport La) and big band arranger for the Louisiana pageant system. During his high school years he was music director for numerous theatrical productions (i.e. Oklahoma) and leading his own jazz/rock performance groups.

After high school, he studied music, languages and theology at 6 different universities which included jazz studies programs at Loyola University New Orleans and University of New Orleans where he studied piano under Ellis Marsalis.

In the late 70's he toured the world with a touring band from Oral Roberts University, Living Sound. This stint included playing such high profile gigs as Shea Stadium (40,000 ppl) and European events.

During the 80's Jeffery acted as piano conductor for Fiesta Texas (San Antonio, Gaylord Entertainment), orchestrated for Miss America, Cheryl Pruitt Blackwood and pianist duties for the traveling Broadway cast of Ain't Misbehavin' (Strand Theatre)

He has performed with such artists as Brook Benton, Jimmy Witherspoon, Marva Wright, Brian Blade, Everett Harp and has opened for such groups as Spyro Gyra and the Neville Brothers. After establishing his show on Bourbon St., (New Orleans) Jeff did his first recording "Rockin Louisiana Man" for Rabadash Records of New Orleans and was later picked up by BMG Europe. This success prompted many European and Canadian tours.

Having honed his music and comedic entertainment skills on Bourbon Street, Jeff has entertained thousands on cruise Lines (Norwegian, Carnival and Holland America Lines) and resorts around the world. He also performed his musical comedy show over 20 years for Hilton Palacio Del Rio on the Riverwalk in San Antonio.

In the last 10 years, Jeff's focus has been on Personal Empowerment and Recovery related entertainment events. His newly recorded cds include Piano Calm (relaxation cd) and Positively Swing! of which a multi-media show integrating Positivity and Swing music has been created. In the last few years, Jeffery opened GratitudeRoad Recording Studios where he produces CD projects and empowerment oriented television.

Jeffery is currently producing his original song CD entitled "Gratitunes", presenting his Gratitude Science based corporate seminar "Great Gobs of Gratitude" and hosting his interview and music shows "Empowerment Today" and "Recovery Empowerment Tonight" to networks nationwide.

JEFFERY ALLEN SPENCE

SOME COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO HAVE SEEN JEFFERY ALLEN SPENCE PERFORM

"The groove runs deep through Jeff Spence. A complete Louisiana musician, composer, arranger, pianist, vocalist and artist of the highest order."

- John Autin, CEO of Rabadash Records, New Orleans, Entertainment Director BB Kings New Orleans

"(Spence is) A larger than life personality who is also one hell of a singer and musician. No one wants his shindig to end!"

- Kevin Black, Melody Maker, London, England

"From Lond to Vienna to Switzerland: Jeff Spence has stirred crowds with 'down-home' Nawlins jazz and rhythm and blues."

- Larry Burton, Shreveport Times (Shreveport, Louisiana)

"I've seen Dr. John AND I've seen Jeff Spence!"

- Auggie Meyers (Texas Tornados)

"Pure exciting talent and musicianship! A great entertainer!"

- Marva Wright, Blues Queen of New Orleans

RIQUÉ

Currently a member of The Los Angeles Writers Center, Riqué's destiny was cemented with his debut in the Children's Chorus of "La Boheme" with Met Opera star Paul Plishka. Between those bookends, Riqué's journey has included stints at The Nashville Repertory Theatre, featured roles in Independent films and made for TV Movies, a co starring role in the hit series "Nashville" and a recurring role in the series "Get Thee Behind Me". He has also hosted shows on CMT and Shop At Home. His voice over work has included narrating the "Chicken SOUP For The Diabetic Soul" audio book and has recorded with Emmylou Harris. His songs have been covered by pop and country artists including Sheryl Lee Ralph, The Miracles and The Sweethearts of the Rodeo. He has written three soul-baring one-man shows including informational musical empowerment "Beauty Simplified" and the coming of age and awareness "Centered in the Storm." He has 2 albums STILL STANDING and RISQUÉ featuring originals and standards and excerpts from his Risqué Cabaret "Like A Whore In Church."

Riqué was nominated for "Best Featured Actor In A Musical" in Broadway World and recently won "Best Cameo" for the Circle Theater Awards for his King Herod in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR.

CENTERED IN THE STORM - A MUSICAL EXPLORATION OF LIFE, DEATH AND FAMILY MATTERS TOLD IN A HUMOROUS, POIGNANT AND UPLIFTING WAY.

DEATH AND FAMILY MATTERS TOLD IN A HUMOROUS, POIGNANT AND UPLIFTING WAY.

Currently in development, CENTERED IN THE STORM reckons Riqué's blue collar-Jersey family's journey to acceptance of the loss of their son and brother to AIDS. It features recorded vocal contributions from multiple Grammy winner Emmylou Harris.

BEAUTY SIMPLIFIED

BEAUTY SIMPLIFIED is a transformational journey that shares how "Beauty Is an Inside Job." Riqué, renowned Image Stylist (and whose clients have included Emmylou Harris, Sheryl Crow, Faith Hill, Dave Matthews, Alan Jackson, and Reba), combines Music, Stand Up Comedy, and his extensive background in the beauty Industry. Simply put Beauty Simplified is "Where the Spirit of Beauty meets the Beauty of Spirit."

LIKE A WHORE IN CHURCH

LIKE A WHORE IN CHURCH chronicles his coming-of-age with his varied careers and stories of working with folks from Diana Ross, Phyllis Diller to Emmylou Harris, Alan Jackson and more. Featuring Originals and Standards from his RISQUÉ RIQUÉ CD, it was performed at Los Angeles Writers Center Solo Show Festival. The show was voted "most popular" and received great reviews such as, "If he wasn't so likable he'd be inappropriate."

RIQUÉ

SOME COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO HAVE SEEN RIQUÉ PERFORM

"My friendship with Riqué started over 35 years ago and I've seen him grow ... into a fine writer, singer and actor. His autobiographical play makes me laugh and cry, and everything he creates comes from a pure and open heart."

- Emmylou Harris

"A multi-faceted creative force, Riqué acts, sings, conjures and evokes – but especially he writes narratives that capture the swell of our humanity. Vulnerable, proud, fearful, strong, philosophical and even angry, his work is marked by his willingness to find laughter in the hypocrisy and inspiration in the things that challenge our very being."

- Holly Gleason, noted entertainment professional

"Riqué is the real deal. Authenticity meets awesome talent. He shoots from the heart and lands every time. The spell he weaves is pure Spirit."

"Riqué...a singer songwriter and actor...a totally unique and vibrant talent...fills the room with an energy that is larger than life. His songs and stories speak to real life experiences that live in us all. There is no one out there doing what he does the way he does it."

"Beautiful, amazing performance. Great talent. I was blessed to be here for this performance."

"Great voice, wonderful, touching, uplifting and educational and an important message. Thank you."

"I was impressed with the work that went into this presentation. It was beautifully given."

"If he wasn't so likable he'd be inappropriate."

JEFFERY ALLEN SPENCE



RIQUÉ



JEFFERY ALLEN SPENCE

Jeff Spence

Here's what he had going last week besides the jazz jam: an organizational meeting of the Friends of Jazz, the debut of the Spence-organized band Blues Plus, and about ten solo piano sessions for places like the Radisson and the Cambridge Club.

For some eight years Spence worked the Christian music scene from Houston to Tulsa. He toured Europe and Mexico with various Christian bands, worked for churches and taught music for Christian colleges.

As did a number of successful musicians, he got his basic knowledge in Shreveport as a teen; he worked in Bill Causey-led big bands and played trombone for the Parkway High symphonic band. At age 15, he was able to start writing stage band charts for beauty contests, he remembers.

Two years ago he returned to secular music, forming a fusion band to play the Aid Station Marina and gigging in Houston with a hot lounge band. Back here he hooked up with Kimberlei Bradford to do contemporary hits both with a battery of synthesizers and with a band. Most recently he had a duo act in Florida.

His newest creation, Blues Plus, is one of the strongest R & B acts ever assembled in this town. There's no better singer in the area than Marvin

SAVOY TRUFFLE

Robert Trudeau



Seals. Bassist Mike Parks has played for all the town's best bands (A Train, Stage 618, etc.) Brady Blade, formerly with Late Show and the Killer Bees, has a big sound and even bigger personality. Darryl Mims, guitar, vocals and flute, is the least celebrated member of the group, yet he has played with numerous blues and contemporary acts, notably with Freddie Pierson and at the Glass Hat. He has also done a half hour of his own songs for Cablevision.

Seals, 37, was raised near one of the great Mississippi River-bank blues towns, Osceola, Ark. It's some 50 miles north of Memphis and is most famous for producing Albert King and Son Seals. Marvin is of the same Seals family, but he was one of the runts. Born premature and with seriously impaired sight, he debuted, he says, as a church of blues bands, notably as Albert King's drummer for two years and as leader of his own band, Little Marvin and the Outcasts.

Jeff Spence

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Cast makes 'Misbehavin' click

By JOHN ANDREW PRIME
The Times

The Fair Park Culture Series' 1989-90 season opener Saturday night at the Strand Theatre was a mixed blessing. Most of the weight was on the side of the angels, but the devil got his due, too.

On the good side, the proven show of *Ain't Misbehavin'* enjoyed a talented, energetic and attractive cast, coupled with the undeniably fun sound and infectious rhythms of the late Thomas "Fats" Waller.

Leading the appeal by no slim margin was Jean Cheek, a robust singer with a strong voice, commanding stage presence and the ability to perfectly project the right mood for the right songs. She projected life and energy into upbeat

REVIEW

tunes like *Honeysuckle* just as easily switch and malaise for blues like *Mean to Me*.

Standing in contrast to the two other female thin bundles of energy, borah Harris and They offered different well, from sisterly proved adept at comedy or capers. Two male singers, Fred and Steve Semien, likewise swung with moment and song delivered easily from the bottom. *That Ain't Right* naughtiness of *Fat*

This was compounded by the last-minute substitution of local pianist Jeff Spence for the show's usual bandleader, Darius Frowner. Last-minute is no exaggeration — Spence had less than five minutes' preparation time, according to series Program Director Freda Allen. Frowner's absence was attributed to illness.

Still, Spence handled his chores as central player well, and the crowd responded, applauding and laughing in a spontaneous fashion that was more than polite. The crowd was enjoying itself and the show — the best mark of success for any production.

JEFFERY ALLEN SPENCE

Bourbon Street music alive, well at Mardi Gras restaurant



Jim Beal Jr.

Night Lights

Acoustic-music fans will have a ball this mid-week with a few happenings. But first, because Frenchie's Cajun Jamboree last Saturday left many people hungry for Louisiana action, let's go to Mardi Gras.

Jeff Spence, who worked long and hard for more than a few years in New Orleans, relocated to San Antonio a couple of years ago to work at Fiesta Texas. Spence, who plays New Orleans piano styles ranging from Dr. John to Allen Toussaint to Harry Connick Jr., now plays solo at the Mardi Gras restaurant, 16668 San Pedro Ave., Monday through Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. and with the **Bourbon Street Band** Friday and Saturday from 7 to 11 p.m.

Spence recently finished his end of a new album and is waiting for the post-production part of the project to come together. Few things can make motion and emotion work together like piano music from New Orleans, and we're fortunate to have Spence in the vicinity.



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS

Jeff Spence plays New Orleans-style music nightly at Mardi Gras restaurant.

It's Mardi Gras time as the Big Easy comes to Crawley

FOR starters the venue is surreal - a marquee in the grounds of the Hawth Theatre at Crawley where we sit around bare tables with the bar over the road in the main theatre building.

And there is something bizarre about the line up the band that takes the stage this evening; a tall, bony, grey haired lead guitarist whose gaunt face seems perpetually stalked by worry; a



STAGE STRUCK!

with Kevin Black

muscular black drummer; a finely featured bass player who sports a F... The Law T-shirt that will become a talking point later in the show; and a Scottish keyboardist, Louis O'Neill, who drinks and chain smokes his way through the evening and who carries the air of a lunatic Billy Connolly in his every gesture.

Before they even strike a note, Jeff Spence's backing band look interesting. And there is the man himself, fresh off a plane from The Big Easy, who brings to this marquee beneath the trees some of the music of his native New Orleans.

But Jeff Spence is no

classy Bourbon Street lounge piano player. Suddenly, bursting upon those of us who did not know what to expect is an off-the-wall loony, clown-like figure who appears to busk his way through the night, but instead is on a planned roll as fast and as wide as the Mississippi.

Jeff Spence has stolen slices of the lunacy and frenetic energy of Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard and rammed them into a pint-sized personality that grows larger as the gig wears on.

The Rockin Louisiana man sets out to rattle the tent poles with his own brand of inspired

humour and music and he does it with the desirable quality of being able to laugh at himself.

He is a clown prince of Basin Street, one minute rasping like Louis Armstrong, the next wringing the blues out of his smoky voice.

And when he's not belting the keyboard he's either letting rip with a slide trombone, wrestling an accordion into a foot-stomping Cajun number or contorting his face and gingers on the fretboard of a Strat as he jams with the band in a blues song off the CD he constantly and unashamedly plugs throughout the gig.

You don't get slick sugar coated professionalism with Jeff Spence. You get a lot of laughs - he likes to treat his concerts like a night down at the pub - and you start worrying that he might fall off the stage or bump his



JEFF Spence ... "On a roll as fast and wide as the Mississippi"

face on the mic. You also chortle at his outrageous dress sense, plastic beads around his neck, plastic ear-ring and horrible loud-pyjama style trousers, but you get up at the end and follow him around the tent as he blasts out When The Saints Go Marching In on the trombone.

You get carried away

when Jeff Spence throws a 100mph party and you hear some of the sounds of Bourbon Street and the Bayou and the jazz and blues that made The Big Easy famous. And you thunder for more from a larger than life personality who is also one hell of a singer and musician. No one really wants this shindig to come to an end!

And you go home clutching your copy of his highly publicised CD, disappointed to learn that you will have to wait for a year for the next mini Mardi Gras to explode in a marquee in Crawley, and wondering why Spence isn't an international star.

• Jeff Spence is at the Bewbush MAD festival, Bewbush Leisure Centre, Crawley, on August 21 and at the Imperial, Broadfield, Crawley, on August 22 (8.30pm).

Circle Players opens 67th season with 'Jesus Christ Superstar'; solid performances highlight legendary soundtrack

AUGUST 17, 2016 BY JONATHAN PINKERTON



Last weekend, [Circle Players](#) opened their 67th season with "Jesus Christ Superstar". When I spoke with director Jason Lewis and cast members for one of my latest [Rapid Fire 20 Q](#) prior to their Friday, August 12 opening, there was an indication from Lewis that this "Superstar" had been brought into the modern age with mention of the current Syrian refugee crisis and hot button issues like political terrorism and religious turmoil. While I appreciate Lewis' thought process and creativity involved in adding his own touches to the iconic 1970s rock opera, I couldn't help thinking those updates and references are unnecessary. After all, why mess with perfection? After attending opening weekend, I'm happy to report that fans of the work can rest assured that the legendary soundtrack courtesy of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and Sir Tim Rice is still what makes Circle Players' "Jesus Christ Superstar" a spectacular night of theatre.



"That leaves Riqué. While Riqué no longer calls Nashville home, to those who know him, he'll always be a Nashvillian. Currently residing in Los Angeles, "Superstar" marks a homecoming of sorts in that years ago he was among Circle Players' cast of "Pippin". In "Superstar", Riqué plays not one, not two, but three roles. At various times, he is featured as Philip, one of Jesus' apostles, then alongside the aforementioned Brian Jones and Larry Jones as one of the Priests (during which he maintains a stoic exterior in spite of the best efforts of the happy-go-lucky flock. But it's his Trump-tastic turn as King Herod that'll keep audiences buzzing. Director Lewis' decision to poke fun at The Donald during "King Herod's Song/Try it and See" isn't anything revolutionary. I've seen productions that roasted everyone from Ronald Reagan to Ed Koch. That said, Riqué's Herod as Trump, complete with backup dancers, that somehow conjures the showmanship of Robert Preston and the comedic timing of Martin Short, is a much-needed laugh, given the turn of events it sandwiches within the contest of the play."



RIQUÉ WAS NOMINATED "BEST FEATURED ACTOR IN A MUSICAL" FOR BROADWAYWORLD AND WINNER OF BEST CAMEO FOR CIRCLE THEATER FOR HIS PORTRAYAL OF KING HEROD



Positively Swing !

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