

BLUENOTES

DRUMS ALONG THE ATLANTIC

Mauricio de Souza brings Brazilian jazz to Asbury Park

By **RICHARD SKELLY**
CORRESPONDENT

Hot on the heels of good reviews for his sophomore release, "Here, There . . ." West Orange-based jazz drummer Mauricio de Souza continues to make inroads down here at the Jersey Shore. Tonight, Oct. 29, he's scheduled to perform from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Moonstruck, 517 Lake Ave., Asbury Park.

True to what his first two albums are about, de Souza will perform an artful blend of traditional jazz and Brazilian jazz, as well as his own Brazilian-flavored compositions.

De Souza's trio includes veteran bass player Gary Mazzaroppi and pianist Miho Nobuzane. Together tonight, they'll breeze through compositions by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Hermeto Pascoal, Edu Lobo and tunes by American jazz composers Freddie Hubbard, Joe Henderson and John Coltrane, among others.

With days getting shorter and nights getting cooler, it's not such a bad time to be transported — musically, at least, for a few hours — to Brazil.

Call the restaurant at 732-988-0123 for reservations. More information is available at www.mauriciodesouzajazz.com.

Bucks County blues

The Bucks County Blues Society, one of the oldest continuously operating blues societies in the U.S., hosts its 33rd annual Halloween R&B Spectacular at 9 p.m. Saturday.

Headlining will be the Pittsburgh-based "East Coast king of blue-eyed soul," Billy Price, along with special guests, the Gashouse Gorillas.

This year's bash will be held at McStew's Irish

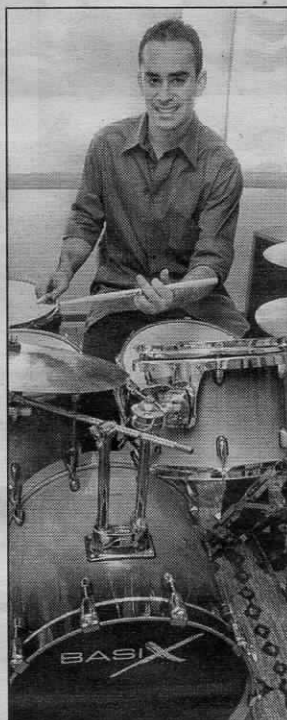


PHOTO: FRANCISCO STUCKERT

Mauricio de Souza performs tonight at Moonstruck in Asbury Park.

Sports Pub just over the bridge from Trenton in Levittown, Pa. Halloween costumes are not required for admission, and donation is \$25. Call 215-946-9424 or visit www.bucksblues-society.com. The group is hosting a Thanksgiving Blues Bash at 9 p.m. Nov. 25 with Rev. Flamin' Harry and the Roadhouse Rockers, and a Dec. 16 holiday blues party with the Night-hawks.

Going to Memphis

Kimon and the Prophets, a Rutherford-based blues-rock trio, will be heading to Memphis in February, courtesy of the Jersey Shore Jazz and Blues Foundation. Guitarist and singer-songwriter Kimon and his group — who have two self-produced CDs — were winners in the electric blues category last Saturday night at the Jersey Shore Jazz and Blues

Foundation's Blues talent search.

Norman Taylor, an acoustic blues guitarist and singer-songwriter based near Camden, will head to Memphis to compete on behalf of the JSJBF in the solo/duo category.

David Amram turns 80

Folk singer, jazz and classical composer and all-around-good-egg David Amram turns 80 on Nov. 11 with a special birthday / fundraiser concert at New York's Symphony Space. Billed as "David Amram: The First 80 Years," the concert is being produced by New York jazz impresario Mark Morganelli's Jazz Forum Arts.

Amram's musical birthday party is a fundraiser for Hudson River Clearwater, Inc., the environmental group co-founded by folk singer Pete Seeger, as well as for the Woody Guthrie Foundation and Archives on West 57th Street in New York.

The Washington Post has called multi-instrumentalist, conductor and composer Amram "one of the most versatile and skilled musicians America has ever produced." The concert will mark the New York premiere of Amram's "Symphonic Variations on a Song by Woody Guthrie," as well as Latin jazz musicians Bobby Sanabria and Candido, John McEuen of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Josh White Jr., Black 47's Larry Kirwan and the Imani Winds.

Show time is 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 11 at Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway at 95th Street. For more information and to reserve tickets, point your web browser to www.jazzforums.org.

Blues at the Ball

Kudos to Count Basie CEO Numa Saisselin for continuing to bring so very hip blues, jazz and roots-rock concerts to Count Basie Theatre at Red Bank. Last Friday's show with Buddy Guy, Jimmie Vaughan was an exception, and at long last Guy appears to be listening to the critics (and fans who've long been urging him to play complete tunes).

In 1989, I saw Buddy and his trio blow the roof of the Berkeley-Carter Hotel ballroom in Asbury Park at a show with Tinseltown's Finns and (the late) Joe Campbell. Guy is an incredibly talented guitar slinger, vocalist and band leader, yet, in recent years he was leaving many disappointed by playing shorter sets filled with a medley of hits and his obligatory portion of the show where he imitates other famous guitar players, i.e., Eric Clapton, Jimmie Ray Vaughan, Jimi Hendrix and the like.

Last Friday, Guy sang with aplomb and played his heart out, taking his five-piece band through nearly a dozen complete songs before launching into any kind of medley of famous guitar players.

"Don't go home tonight and say, 'Buddy Guy has played all right, except he forgot the words to this song,'" Guy told the audience later in his set.

Both Guy and Vaughan have excellent new albums worth picking up: "Live Proof" and "Jimmie Vaughan Plays Blues, Ballads and Favorites."

Richard Skelly hosts "Low-Budget Blues Program" 8-10 p.m. Thursdays on WRSU, 88.7 FM; www.nj.com/wrsu.

IN TICKETS TO SEE

RODNEY ATKINS
IN SAYREVILLE, NJ AT THE
PEARL AND BALLROOM



NOVEMBER 11

Go to JerseyShore.MomsLikeMe.com for your chance to win a pair of tickets to see Rodney Atkins in concert!

like **me** .com | where Jersey Shore moms meet