



A rainy week in Houston that led up to Saturday, October 21st of 2006 wasn't enough to keep over 20,000 music fans away from a muddy field outside the grounds of Sam Houston Race Park. The horse track had seen many Texas music concerts in its day, but nothing quite like this. This year, Sam Houston Race Park played new home to the 4th

annual ZiegFest Music Festival, and despite the mud, everything about the show, including the closely watched weather, shined.

Originally a one-day show established in 2002, which coincided with Old Town Spring's Crawfish Festival in Spring Texas, ZiegFest Houston has grown to feature 14 bands on two stages. And, in the past two years, ZiegFest's brainchild, Matt Peveto, of Mustang Music Group LLC, has expanded the festival to include a second city, Bryan Texas, on an earlier September date.

In a promo video for 2005's ZiegFest, Kevin Fowler is heard saying, "One thing about Texas, is they love their beer and they love their Texas music". And the partnership between Anheuser-Busch and Mustang Music Group to bring this festival to Houston area fans free of charge only goes on to affirm that statement.

Ziegenbock brought the beer; Matt Peveto brought the music. And, it was a proverbial who's who of Texas Music. This year's ZiegFest Houston headlining act, Cross Canadian Ragweed, made their first ever ZiegFest appearance. The bill also included Cory Morrow, Roger Creager, Stoney LaRue, Eli Young Band, Wade Bowen, Phil Pritchett, Cooder Graw, Mickey and the Motorcars, No Justice, Zoot Davis featuring Pete Anderson, Reckless Kelly, and Josh Owen.

The day started somewhat slow, as surely the days preceding ZiegFest had not given much hope of fair-weather to prospected concertgoers. But, surely enough, skies stayed clear and the bands began promptly at 2:30 with the sounds of Josh Owens on the Bud Light stage as the gates opened to the hardest of hard-core Texas music fans. Immediately following him at 3:00,

The Stars of Texas' November cover artists, Reckless Kelly, took over the same stage. Then at 4:00, on the last note of Reckless' set, fans began the trek to the Ziegenbock Stage to check out Zoot Davis, which featured Pete Anderson on guitar, who you'll recall (if you read September's cover story) produced Jason Boland's, *The Bourbon Legend*. The exchange between Reck-



less Kelly on the Bud Light Stage and Zoot Davis on the Ziegenbock Stage was the beginning of an all day event of revolving acts from stage to stage creating a continuous flow of non-stop music.

4:30 brought fans red dirters No Justice, and surely members of Reckless Kelly would've like to stay and watch brother Mickey and his band The Motorcars take stage at 5:00, but Reckless were playing double-header ball and were due to play in Buda's Fire Fest the very same night.

The blinding sun near the 5:30 mark didn't stop fans from enjoying Cooder Graw who even find a way of re-inventing the sound of even their most classic tunes. By now the crowds were starting to come in and Phil Pritchett welcomed them with what is probably the best trio band to rock this side of the Texas music genre.

The only guy that seemed to be missing from this line up was Randy Rogers, but Wade Bowen made sure the crowd knew his presence was missed during his 45 minute long set which began at 6:45. "I'm sure Randy Rogers would like to be here tonight", Bowen stated as he intro'd "Lay It All Out On You" which he co-wrote with Rogers. Eli Young took over at 7:30 and played to what was now becoming an increasingly large crowd which seemed to highly favor the band proving them to be an up and comer with no plans to leave the scene any time soon.

By 8:15 it was becoming apparent the crowds were growing to great numbers and Stoney LaRue had no problem entertaining every single one of them. Seasoned ZiegFest veteran Roger Creager knew exactly how to handle the crowd with intense "Creager-gy", in reference to the amount of energy Roger puts into his live sets. Ziegfest is nothing new to Roger, he has been playing them every since their inception in 2002.

Cory Morrow took the Bud Light stage by storm at 10 o'clock and let fans know the party was just starting. Cory, with newly retooled band in hand and also borrowing key player Steve Littleton from the Stoney LaRue Band, had no problem pleasing the crowd with many of his new songs while still pulling out some set classics.

First timers to Ziegfest, Cross Canadian Ragweed, wrapped up the night playing what seemed to be handpicked solid tunes. Regular crowd favorites were missing out of the set list but that did not stop Ragweed from putting on one of their best performances. Not even the strong winds that began to show up from a cold front moving in could keep the four band members from putting all of their heart into the songs they play best. Even Stoney showed up the join the boys in showing off his lead skills as he wailed on on Cody Canada's PRS guitar.

What began as a warm sunny day was now wrapping up as a windy and cool late night. Shortly after the slated 1am ending time, crews began to tear down the stages as the wind was battling the stage backdrops. The efficiency of the stage crew was just a microcosm of how Mustang Music Group has handled this four-year affair with Ziegfest.

Without going into much detail, I have to say kudos to Matt Peveto and Mustang Music Group and all those that helped him in organizing Ziegfest Houston '06, a job well done. If you have never been to Ziegfest, I highly suggest you do so. It is definitely in the running for best festival for the Texas Music genre.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2007 festivals:
Bryan/College Station: September 2nd, 2007
Houston: October 20th, 2007

And for more information, be sure to visit www.ZiegFest.com.

DG



by: Deric Garza

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