

Young Neal and the Vipers

Walking down a lonely city street after dark, the empty calm envelops you. Then the moaning wail of a '58 Fender Stratocaster tears out of a dimly-lit nightclub and into your ears. Suddenly you're hooked by the siren call of that screaming six-string and hauled, flopping, into the bar.

It could be any one of 200+ nights a year the fierce blues-rock machine called Young Neal & the Vipers plays out from coast to coast. Eight days a week, the group delivers what fans and critics alike agree is a "pounding shock wave of noise that howls with all the intensity of a hurricane throttling itself up to a full-blown gale." (Worcester Phoenix)

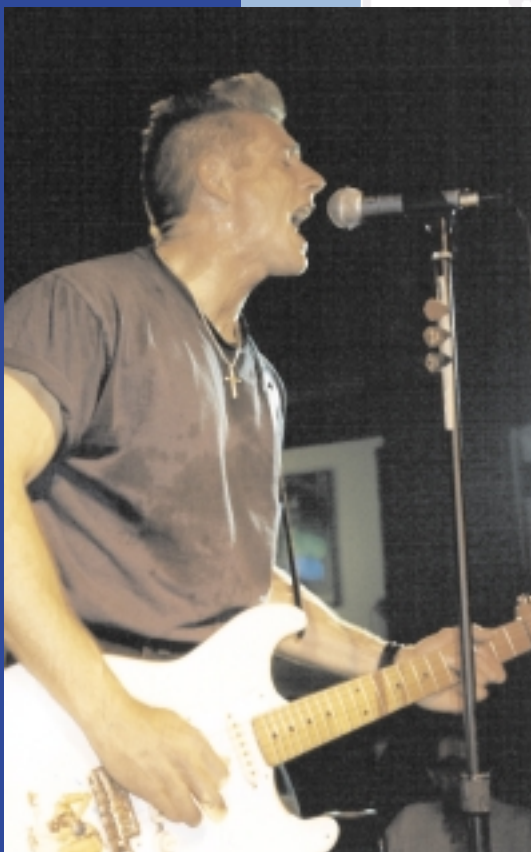
Frontman and lead guitarist, **Neal Vitullo** honed his reputation playing with the greats. At the Benson & Hedges Delta Blues Museum Tribute, Vitullo shared the Madison Square Garden stage with Joe Cocker, Bonnie Raitt, Albert Collins and Greg Allman and the man of the night, John Lee Hooker. Vitullo has performed with Jimmy Vaughan, ZZ Top, and Willie Dixon. He has also wowed crowds overseas, gaining disciples in Belgium, Germany, France, Italy and the West Indies.

Neal Vitullo has evolved from a guitar slinger to a singer and songwriter, and the best front man any band could boast plugging in for. The lineup for the Vipers is the best knock 'em down, drag 'em out rockin' blues band this side of the Mississippi. Banging his heart out, keeping the back beat behind the drums is **Mike LaBelle**, and on bass, the big bad bald man himself, **Hub O'Neil**.

From the back of the roadhouse, Neal Vitullo's energy electrifies the crowd. Stylistic and musical influences fuse into his own brand of showmanship. "Live and on record, Vitullo hammers his guitars with punkish energy, combining the flavor of post-war blues masters with rockabilly twang and the heady power of '60s icons like Jimi Hendrix and Jeff Beck into a guitar orgy." (Worcester Phoenix)

With the kinetic fusion of supremely talented musicians, Young Neal & the Vipers is a well-oiled rock 'n' blues machine that delivers a knock-out performance punch.

The multi-talented Young Neal & the Vipers are ready to take on the world and leave crowds from the East Coast to Europe begging and pleading for more.



Young Neal and the Vipers quotes

Who Asked *You*? A Collection of Notable Quotes

"Where the hell did you come from?"

*Bruce Springsteen to Young Neal & The
Vipers at the Lone Star Café, NYC*

"At home with all forms of honest rock 'n' roll, he goes from Jimi Hendrix ("Little Wing") to Jerry Lee Lewis ("High School Confidential") as easily as he switches from chords to leads - without pausing for breath or spilling a drop of conviction. On stage, his hair slicked back à la early Elvis, he isn't playing songs so much as he's blasting away at them, pushing their outermost edges."

The Providence Journal-Bulletin

"Neal leapt over tables and chairs and pool tables..the consummate showman, he bashed at his guitar with ferocious energy, churning out mournful and vicious blues chords - behind his back and with his teeth while Dave Howard belted out throaty blues..."

New London Day

"Watching Vitullo play guitar is like chasing him up an endless flight of stairs. He will exhaust your capacity of musical comprehension and then continue climbing, leaving you winded and staring in disbelief."

Springfield - Union News

"Young Neal deals out high-energy originals and covers in a maxed-out guitar assault."

The Springfield Advocate

"Live and on record, Vitullo hammers his guitars with punkish energy, combining the flavor of post-war blues masters with rockabilly twang and the heady power of '60s icons like Jimi Hendrix and Jeff Beck into a guitar orgy."

Worcester Phoenix

Young Neal and the Vipers — "The raucous trio from Rhode Island, fronted by Neal Vitullo, — the hippest, hottest, coolest, quickest, root-tootin'est bizarre guitar man ever to bite into this (or any other) little city."

Worcester Magazine

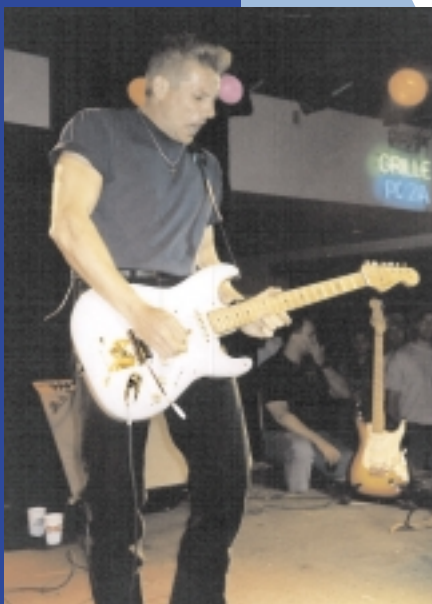
"The air was charged with electric and eclectic rhythm and blues. Guitarist Neal Vitullo soared above, around and through the grooves with stirring solos and syncopated scratching.

No one could escape the effects of the beat that flowed through the air like electricity, eliciting a response from everyone it touched. Some danced, others couldn't keep from rocking in their seats. Intermittent showers and graying skies failed to dampen or darken the spirits of the thousands of revelers."

New London Day

"Rhode Island guitar wizard Neal Vitullo will blow the crowd away at a college-town bar in New England. Young Neal's got chops that fans of Stevie Ray Vaughan and Roy Buchanan will love. His power riffs can splinter your bones. He's got lethal tone and vibrato. He can play blues-rock, West Coast Swing, and straight blues with flair and inventiveness."

Blues Revue



For bookings: (401) 245-6348 | Business email: ynvipers@aol.com

Young Neal
and the Vipers
friends

YOU'RE ON IN FIVE MINUTES...

NEAL VITULLO AND CREW HAVE SHARED THE STAGE WITH

B.B. King
Roy Buchanan
Dr. John
Robert Plant
Bonnie Raitt
Phil Collins
Albert Collins
Mike Rutherford (Genesis)
Buckwheat Zydeko
Johnny Copeland
Joe Cocker
Willie Dixon
Gregg Allman
Mike Jones (Foreigner)
The Fabulous Thunderbirds
Roomful of Blues
Paul Rodgers
Julian Lennon
Kenny Jones (The Who)
Neil Young
John Lee Hooker
Paul Barrere (Little Feat)



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Young Neal
and the Vipers
awards

And the winner is...

Accolades for Young Neal & the Vipers



Best Music Poll:
Best Blues / R&B Act
2002 1998
1996 1995

Best Music Poll:
Best Rock Act 1992



Best of Bands:
1995 1993

Best Blues Act:
1992

The Providence Journal

Best of 1993
I'm Finally Alone (Big Noise)
1991 Critic's Choice
HoolooV00 (Big Noise)

The Nice Paper

Best-Selling CD 1994
I'm Finally Alone (Big Noise)
Best-Selling CD 1992
HoolooV00 (Big Noise)
Best-Selling CD 1991
HoolooV00 (Big Noise)



Veteran trio keeps Sea Note jumping

MUSIC REVIEW

by Jay N. Miller
for
The Patriot Ledger

PERHAPS NO BAND in New England walks the line between rock and blues as well as Young Neal and the Vipers, which is why the trio is one of the region's busiest groups on the club circuit. Friday night they kept the Sea Note in Hull jumping with two typically incendiary sets.

On the national scene, the Fabulous Thunderbirds and Stevie Ray Vaughan forged their individual styles by mining blues roots and

combining them with rock 'n' roll dynamics. Warren, RI guitarist Neal Vitullo has been doing that for decades in this area. In fact, Young Neal and the Vipers are probably a bit too far at the rock end for some blues clubs, but all that does is open doors for them with more mainstream rock venues. Certainly, nobody at the Sea Note was worrying about what exact category the music was, probably because most people were so enthralled by it.

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Hot, blues-drenched guitar

POP MUSIC

by Andy Smith
Providence Journal
Music Critic

AROUND NEW ENGLAND, folks know that the place to find some hot, blues-drenched guitar is wherever Young Neal & the Vipers are playing. And Neal Vitullo (it's the music that keeps him "young") obliges with a grueling schedule that puts him in front of appreciative audiences, practically seven nights a week.

While there's no substitute for Neal's live shows, his discs lets you hear what the excitement is all about. As Neal is quick to tell you, he lives to play the guitar. Check out the searing licks of "Give Your Love (Back to Your Husband)," the buoyant swing of

"Retro Man," or the sheer virtuosity of Neal's take on Roy Buchanan's "I Won't Tell You No Lies."

A tasty mix of originals and favorite songs by the likes of Johnny Copeland, B.B. King, and Bobby "Blue" Bland, the Vipers' CDs and live shows are an apt showcase for Neal's formidable guitar talent, and with able support from Hub O'Neil on bass and Mike LaBelle on drums.

There are nods to some of Neal's influences, like Howlin' Wolf and B.B.- but always with enough individual heart and soul that everything still comes out sounding like Neal.

GUITAR WORLD

Blues at the end of the galaxy

KILLING FLOOR TUNE UPS

by Bill Milkowski
for
Guitar World



THE YOUNG MAN from Warren, Rhode Island stalked on stage with a vengeance, going for broke in his first major New York City showcase. It was a gala benefit for Mississippi's Delta Blues Museum, held at the Lone Star Roadhouse in Manhattan. Before the evening was over, the huge crowd would hear such luminaries as Gregg Allman, Dr. John, Johnny Copeland, Willie Dixon and ZZ Top all take the stage alongside the house band for the evening, Young Neal Vitullo and his Vipers.

While some fledgling guitarists might be intimidated in such heavy

company, Young Neal dug in and played with abandon, bringing some Steve Vai-esque over-the-top energy to his blues drenched solos.

"Blues has always been an 'in-your-face' style of music," says Young Neal.

Vitullo's six-string of choice is a '58 Strat, which can be heard throughout the soon-to-be released debut on Atlantic Records, tentatively entitled Hoolooovoo. Young Neal explains, "The term Hoolooovoo was taken from Douglas Adams' sci-fi book Restaurant at the End of the Galaxy. It means 'the most brilliant shade of blue.' "

Phoenix Best Music Poll: Best R&B Band Young Neal and the Vipers: in the zone

MUSIC REVIEW

by
Bob Gulla
Providence
Phoenix
Music Writer

Neal Vitullo and the Vipers have been perfecting the art of blues, blues-rock, and rhythm and blues for ages, and they have the spinning odometers to prove it.

These days, Vitullo admits his blues style has been regressing back to where he started. 'I find you make circles in this business. You visit a spot and you move on from there and you eventually come back around. Where I'm at right now is more raw blues-rock.'

Vitullo is in another place, too, but this one is a little more familiar - as frontman of a tight, talented band. 'What is it that keeps me going? I love entertaining and I love to play the guitar,' he says. 'I love the feeling I get when I hit the right notes and it all comes from inside you. You're just the medium for the notes. You suck up all the guitar parts from all those things you've been lis-

tening to, like a sponge, and then just when you think you've forgotten them, you're playing in a zone and all those little things start coming out again.'

Vitullo is waiting on a new shipment of a recently recorded King Snake disc called 'Industrial Strength.' That blues-rock band, named for his alter ego, also features Hub O'Neill on bass and Dan Bunge on drums. 'No slow ones,' he says. 'No swing, no jump, just very in your face stuff.' On his award, Vitullo comments: 'I think it's really cool that we were taken out of the mothballs, allowed to do it again, that people take the time to vote. It's extremely cool. People have been very loyal to us over the years. I try to always give a good show - I give all that I have on that night. It's worked so far!'

BOSTON PHOENIX

Blues-laced fire and redemption

NEW MUSIC

by Mike Caito
Boston
Phoenix
Music Writer

Neal Vitullo's spirit of musicality arrives as blues-laced fire, forged through years of touring and sharpened through personal experience. One can sense faith in his music and his guitar playing.

He doesn't get hung up on the blues' intricacies as much as he bears hugs them and charges forward with a sparkle in his eye and reckless determination to make a stamp, a hole in the ground, some scorched earth. Think there's nothing new in blues? Neal's fourth effort, 'One's Enough' (King Snake) begs to differ.

Within, a balance of tales to relate with a sped-up grit that swings

as he leans into it. Slower, crystalline heartbreak and Stratocaster redemption.

It twinkles and gusts, as Vitullo nudges the edge forward in modern electric blues in an oft-splashy manner that may ruffle the tailfeathers of grizzled traditionalists.

Taking their cues, he marks the detailings with brushes of varying sizes pinpointing nuance here, and sometimes using a paint roller to wipe out the pain quicker. It's his thing, what he does well (besides fishing), and once again he takes us down new avenues, with fresh spins and glorious tradition.



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