



Bluesman Vanderford does one his own way

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Throughout his life, Freddie Vanderford has played thousands of concerts and appeared on numerous albums.

Facts

Want to go?

Who: Freddie Vanderford (CD release show)
 When: 8 p.m. Friday
 Where: The Showroom, 149 S. Daniel Morgan Ave.
 Tickets: \$8
 Info: 582-0056 or www.hub-bub.com

He has been part of such outfits as the Shades and the New Legacy Duo and even listed as “Funky Freddy” (sic) on an early 1980s compilation, “The Carolina Collection,” that included a band he was in called Bighorn.

But not until recently has the Union County-based Vanderford produced a recording that he could truly call his own.

“Greasy Greens” — the release of which will be celebrated with a performance Friday at The Showroom in Spartanburg — is the solo debut album for the 57-year-old musician who cut his teeth as a protege of the late Piedmont bluesman Peg Leg Sam.

“With everything I’ve ever done, it’s been a duo, trio or band situation,” Vanderford said. “This (album) is the first thing that’s just had my name on it.”

Vanderford enlisted plenty of help on the album. His co-producers Matthew Knights Williams and Brandon Turner appear, along with highly respected Upstate artists David Ezell, Fayssoux McLean, Wes Wyatt, Don McGraw and T.J. Jeter.

“There were a whole lot more people involved than just me,” Vanderford said. “I couldn’t have done it without them.”

Vanderford, an expert harmonica player, shreds his reputation as a strict Piedmont blues preservationist with a musically diverse album that runs the gamut from traditional folk to honky tonk-fueled country.

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