

WES LITTLE - DRUMS

FACT FILE

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CREDITS:

PERFORMANCE, TOURING AND RECORDING:

STEVIE WONDER • STING • BEYONCÉ • ALICIA KEYS • STEVEN TYLER • JOE PERRY • JAMIE FOX • JOHN LEGEND • JERMAINE JACKSON • MELISSA ETHERIDGE • MARIAH CAREY • PUBLIC ENEMY • SHAKIRA • BUSTA RHYMES • MARY J.BLIGE • FAITH HILL • JOE NICHOLS • JOE DEE MESSINA • BILLY DEAN • JIMMY WAYNE • LORRIE MORGAN • DUSTY DRAKE • CHUCK D. AND FINE ARTS MILITIA • CHUCK D. AND CONFRONTATION CAMP • MC LYTE • BOOTSY COLLINS • VERNON REID • KRS-ONE • BIG DADDY KANE • DELBERT MCCLINTON • DIANA DEGARMO • THE POINTER SISTERS • MELBA MOORE • RANDY BRECKER • MICHAEL BRECKER • VICTORIA BANKS • BRITT SAVAGE AND TWANG DELUXE • LINDA DAVIS • RICK HUCKABY • DAN COLEHOUR • LORALYE • CLARA OMAN • MARY MCBRIDE

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:

- OLD THINGS NEW - JOE NICHOLS - UNIVERSAL SOUTH - 2009
- BILLY DEAN SINGS RICHARD LEE - BILLY DEAN/RICHARD LEE - BDMG - 2009
- SACRED ROAD - SACRED ROAD - UNIVERSAL - 2009
- THE CHITLINS - "BOOM BOOM" - 2009
- THE PEOPLE THAT MOVE AMERICA - BILLY DEAN - BDMG - 2008
- BILLY DEAN NOW AND THEN (GREATEST HITS) - BDMG - 2008
- WHEN YOU CAN FLY - VICTORIA BANKS - ON RAMP RECORDS,EMI (CANADA) - 2008
- ALL WOUND UP - DAVE FIELDS - INDIE - 2008
- LORALYE - LORALYE - RODEOSTAR (GERMANY) - 2007
- FINGERPRINTS - BRITT SAVAGE AND TWANG DELUXE - HEARO RECORDS - 2007
- FROM NOW ON - CLARA OMAN - BDMB - 2007
- BUILT TO LAST - PETE BEST - ROCKY COMFORT RECORDS- 2007
- TIME'S A WASTIN' - DAVE FIELDS - INDIE - 2007
- A CALL TO CONSCIENCE - IZZY JAMES - INDIE - 2006
- BRENT RADER - BRENT RADER - BDMG - 2006
- LIGHTING IN A BOTTLE - CHUCK D.AND FINE ARTS MILITIA - SONY CLASSICS - 2003
- FATHER OBLIVION - FATHER OBLIVION - INDIE - 2003
- THE DRAKES - THE DRAKES - INDIE - 2003
- OBJECTS IN THE MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR - CONFRONTATION CAMP (FEAT. CHUCK D.) - ARTEMIS/KOCH - 2000

TELEVISION AND VIDEO:

- BARACK OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL "NEIGHBORHOOD" INUAGURAL BALL, 2009, WASHINGTON DC CONVENTION CENTER - RAY CHEW AND THE CREW WITH STEVIE WONDER, STING, BEYONCÉ, MARIAH CAREY, ALICIA KEYS, SHAKIRA, FAITH HILL, MARY J.BLIGE
- SAVE THE WORLD AWARDS, 2009, ZWENTENDORF, AUSTRIA
- "GIMME THAT GIRL", 2009, MUSIC VIDEO - JOE NICHOLS
- "MY IRAQ DIARY", 2009, MUSIC DOCUMENTARY - JOE NICHOLS
- NASCAR AWARDS, 2008, WALDORF ASTORIA, NYC
- DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, 2008, DENVER, CO - RAY CHEW AND THE CREW
- LOOKIN' LIKE I'M GONNA, 2007, MUSIC VIDEO - BRITT SAVAGE AND TWANG DELUXE
- NASCAR AWARDS, 2006, WALDORF ASTORIA, NYC
- GRAND OLD OPRY, 2005, NASHVILLE, TN - BILLY DEAN
- LIGHTING IN A BOTTLE, 2003, RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL, NYC - CHUCK D.AND FINE ARTS MILITIA, DIRECTED BY MARTIN SCORCESE, SONY CLASSICS
- ESPY AWARDS 2003, 2004, LOS ANGELES, CA - HOSTED BY JAMIE FOXX
- PUBLIC ENEMY, BEHIND THE MUSIC, 2000
- BRAKE THE LAW, 2000, MUSIC VIDEO - CONFRONTATION CAMP (FEAT. CHUCK D.), DIRECTED BY ROBERT SPRUELL

NY BROADWAY AND OFF BROADWAY:

- RAT PACK: LIVE AT THE SANDS, 2006-2007, NATIONAL TOUR, DRUMS (ON STAGE)
- BKLYN THE MUSICAL, 2006, NATIONAL TOUR, DRUMS AND PERCUSSION
- ONCE AROUND THE SUN, 2005, DRUMS, ELECTRONIC DRUMS (ON STAGE) AND CAST AS "RICHIE."
- ALMOST HEAVEN, 2005, DRUMS (ON STAGE)
- DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS, 2005, DRUMS AND ELECTRONIC PERCUSSION
- LOVE JANIS, 2001, DRUMS (ON STAGE)

WES LITTLE BIO:



IN THE LAST YEAR, WES LITTLE PLAYED WITH STEVIE WONDER, STING, BEYONCÉ, ALICIA KEYS, SHAKIRA, MARIAH CAREY, JERMAINE JACKSON, THE POINTER SISTERS, JOE NICHOLS AND JO DEE MESSINA. AS A DECORATED VETERAN OF THE NEW YORK CITY LIVE AND STUDIO MUSICAL SCENE, HE HAS ALSO PROVED TO BE AN UNSTOPPABLE DRUMMING FORCE IN NASHVILLE, TN, TOURING WITH GRAMMY NOMINATED AND GRAMMY WINNING ARTISTS WHILE BRINGING TRACKS TO LIFE IN THE NASHVILLE STUDIOS ON A DAILY BASIS.

WES BEGAN PLAYING DRUMS AT THE AGE OF SEVEN IN THE SMALL SOUTHERN, ONE STOPLIGHT TOWN OF WINGATE, NC. HE MODELED HIS SETUP AFTER BILLY COBHAM'S WITH LOGS FROM THE WOODPILE. UPON SEEING THIS DRIVE TO PLAY DRUMS, HIS PARENTS FINALLY BOUGHT HIM A DRUM KIT FOR HIS SEVENTH CHRISTMAS, A THREE PIECE KIT WHICH WAS SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER THAN COBHAM'S.

AFTER ENTERING AND PLAYING DRUM SOLOS IN LOCAL TALENT SHOWS THROUGHOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL, WES ATTENDED COLLEGE IN NC AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE EARNED A DEGREE IN MUSIC COMPOSITION WITH A MINOR IN JAZZ STUDIES. WES MOVED TO NEW YORK IN 1994 AFTER BEING OFFERED A SCHOLARSHIP TO THE MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC WHERE HE PURSUED A MASTER'S DEGREE IN JAZZ PERFORMANCE. WHILE COMPLETING HIS DEGREE, HE BEGAN TO WORK HIS WAY INTO THE NEW YORK CITY MUSIC SCENE. FROM 1994 TO THE PRESENT, WES HAS BECOME A PART OF MANY DIVERSE PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL SCENES IN NEW YORK AND IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, PLAYING WITH POPULAR ARTISTS BOTH LIVE AND IN THE STUDIO.

HE HAS PLAYED ON SEVERAL NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL MAJOR AND INDIE RECORD RELEASES, MAJOR FILM SOUNDTRACKS AND NATIONAL JINGLES FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION. HE HAS APPEARED IN SEVERAL MUSIC VIDEOS, MOTION PICTURE RELEASES AND VARIOUS TELEVISION APPEARANCES. FROM THE MAJOR FILM RELEASE "LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE" WITH CHUCK D. AT RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL (DIRECTED BY ANTOINE FUQUA AND PRODUCED BY MARTIN SCORCESE) TO JOE DEE MESSINA AND BILLY DEAN AT THE GRAND OLD OPRY, WES HAS COVERED A LARGE MUSICAL MAP (SEE FACT FILE FOR COMPLETE LIST OF CREDITS.) HE HAS ALSO APPEARED OR HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN ROLLING STONE, BILLBOARD, SPIN, THE ONION, MTV.COM, VH1.COM, RAPSTATION.COM AND THE TENNESSEAN. HE HAS ALSO HAD THE HONOR OF PLAYING FOR U.S. PRESIDENTS BARACK OBAMA, BILL CLINTON, AND JIMMY CARTER. HE HAS PLAYED A LARGE VARIETY OF VENUES RANGING FROM CARNEGIE HALL TO CBGB'S.

WES HAS ALSO APPEARED ON SEVERAL AWARDS SHOWS IN THE LAST DECADE. THESE INCLUDE: THE ESPY AWARDS OF 2003 AND 2004, NASCAR AWARDS OF 2006 AND 2008, AND HE CAN BE SEEN MOST RECENTLY PLAYING WITH "RAY CHEW AND THE CREW" AT THE 2009 PRESIDENTIAL "NEIGHBORHOOD INAUGURAL BALL" FOR BARACK OBAMA. TELEVISED LIVE ON ABC, WES PLAYED DRUMS FOR FEATURED ARTISTS STEVIE WONDER, STING, BEYONCÉ, ALICIA KEYS, SHAKIRA, FAITH HILL, MARY J. BLIGE AND MARIAH CAREY. WES ALSO PLAYED THE 2009 "SAVE THE WORLD AWARDS" IN ZWENTENDORF, AUSTRIA WITH "RAY CHEW AND THE CREW." TELEVISED TO 200 MILLION EUROPEANS, WES PERFORMED WITH NOTABLE ARTISTS SUCH AS THE POINTER SISTERS AND JERMAINE JACKSON.

WES HAS APPEARED IN SEVERAL BROADWAY AND OFF BROADWAY SHOWS PRIMARILY AS A DRUMMER BUT ALSO AS AN ACTOR. HE HAS TOURED NATIONALLY WITH ARTISTS RANGING FROM CHUCK D. TO JOE DEE (MESSINA) AND IS CURRENTLY GEARING UP FOR A NATIONAL TOUR AND VIDEO WITH JOE NICHOLS THIS YEAR, ALONG WITH VARIOUS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TV APPEARANCES.

QUOTES:

“MR. WES LITTLE IS A CAT I’VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF BOTH RECORDING AND PLAYING LIVE WITH. VERSATILE AND ABLE TO KEEP BEATS WITH HIP HOP AND BEYOND, IT’S AN ADDED PLEASURE THAT HE’S A HUMBLE ULTRA-COOL HUMAN BEING. HE’S A DUDE WHO GETS THE JOB DONE AND PUTS HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO HIS SKILL, AND WE SEEM TO ALWAYS PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER...ON A GOOD NOTE AND A GREAT VIBE.”

CHUCK D.
PUBLIC ENEMY

“WES LITTLE IS AN EXCELLENT MUSICIAN. I HAVE KNOWN HIM FOR OVER TEN YEARS, AND HAVE WORKED AND OBSERVED HIM IN ALL MUSICAL SITUATIONS. WES APPROACHES HIS MUSIC WITH CARE, SENSITIVITY AND A CLEAR, ARTICULATE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ARTISTIC MANNER. WES HAS A VISION; HE IS DEDICATED AND COMMITTED. I FIND HIM INSPIRATIONAL AND A SOCIAL DELIGHT. I RECOMMEND HIM WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION.”

JUSTIN DiCioccio
ASSISTANT DEAN, JAZZ ARTS PROGRAM, MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

“WES IS MY TOP PICK AS A SESSION DRUMMER. HE BRINGS FRESH IDEAS TO THE MIX, HIS POP AND ROCK INFLUENCES WORK REALLY WELL TO MAKE MY TRACKS HIP, AND HE’S ALSO VERY FOCUSED AND WORKS EFFICIENTLY TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE THE SOUNDS WE NEED WITHIN THE TIME CONSTRAINTS OF OUR BUDGET.”

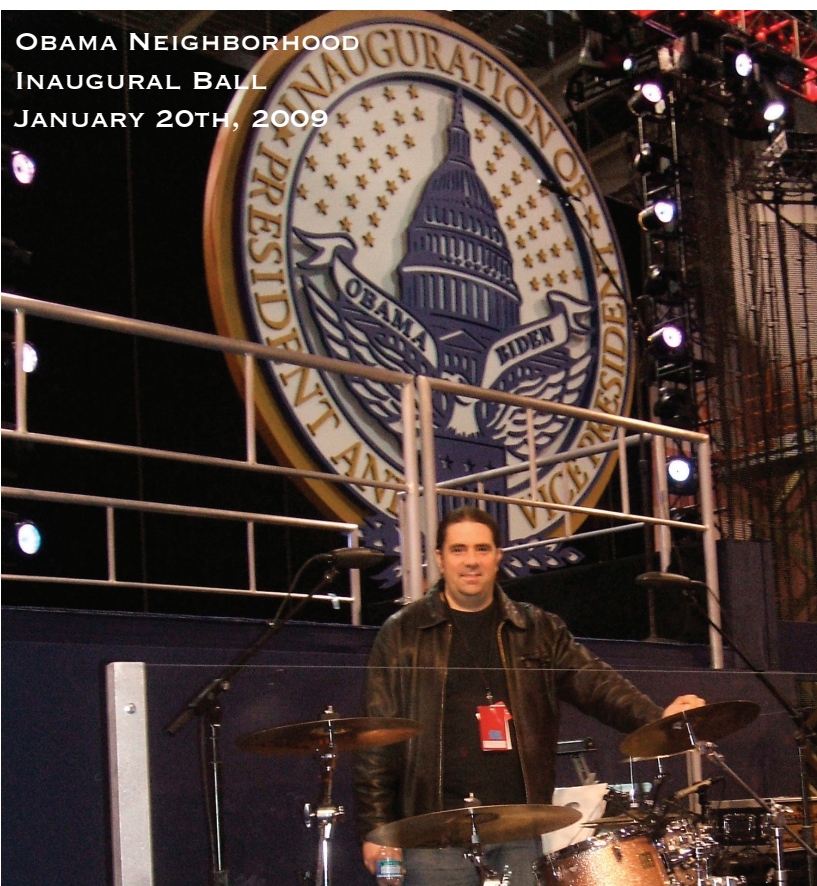
VICTORIA BANKS
AWARD WINNING SONG WRITER
SONY/EMI – JESSICA SIMPSON, SARA EVANS, GRETCHEN WILSON

“I HAVE KNOWN WES LITTLE FOR TEN YEARS. DURING THAT TIME, HE AND I HAVE WORKED TOGETHER IN A VARIETY OF MUSICAL SITUATIONS. WE’VE PERFORMED MANY CONCERTS TOGETHER AND MADE MANY RECORDINGS WITH ARTISTS RANGING FROM CHUCK D (OF PUBLIC ENEMY) TO JAMIE FOXX AND MANY OTHERS. IN ADDITION TO PLAYING LIVE WITH WES, WE’RE DONE A FEW MUSIC VIDEOS AS WELL. THROUGH IT ALL, WES HAS PROVEN TO BE A TALENTED AND CONSCIENTIOUS MUSICIAN AS WELL AS A GOOD FRIEND. WES IS ALSO A GIFTED SONGWRITER.

EVEN WITH HIS EXTENSIVE ACADEMIC BACKGROUND, WES BRINGS A LOT OF “REAL WORLD” EXPERIENCE AND STREET CREDIBILITY TO HIS MUSICAL ENDEAVORS. HIS MASTER’S DEGREE IN MUSIC GIVES HIM AN EDGE IN SITUATIONS WHERE MANY MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EXCEL. AS A MUSICAL DIRECTOR, PRODUCER AND PLAYER, I WOULD FEEL QUITE COMFORTABLE BRINGING WES INTO A SITUATION, BOTH MUSICALLY AND SOCIALLY. BEING A BASSIST, GUITARIST AND DRUMMER, I REQUIRE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE FROM THOSE AROUND ME BOTH LIVE AND IN THE STUDIO. WES HAS ALWAYS SURPASSED THE VISION OF WHAT I WANTED MUSICALLY IN EVERY SITUATION. HE’S A GOOD MAN AND HAS EARNED MY DEEPEST RESPECT AND ADMIRATION.”

BRIAN HARDGROOVE
MUSICAL DIRECTOR, PUBLIC ENEMY
PRODUCER, FINE ARTS MILITIA, THE BANNED







From the start, with 2002's breakthrough Universal South debut, *Man with a Memory*, Joe Nichols established himself as a solid neo-traditionalist who could balance message songs with aching ballads and breezy, playful tunes that evoke a sly smile. Number One hits like "The Impossible" and "Brokenheartsville" introduced the singer's expressive baritone and the subtle way he could express wisdom and humor as well as pain and pleasure.

Nichols' powerful introduction certainly drew the attention of his peers and of country fans: His first year out, he won the Country Music Association's Horizon Award, the Academy of Country Music's Top New Male Vocalist and CMT's Breakthrough Music Video of the Year.

Over the next three critically acclaimed albums—*Revelation*, *Ill* and *Real Things*—Nichols secured his spot as a rock-solid traditionalist who could master lighthearted swing, blue ballads and message songs with effortless aplomb and gather #1 hits along the way (to date, Nichols has accumulated three #1 and seven Top 10 hits). Whether grinning his way through "Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off" or "What's a Guy Gotta Do," or instilling weight and emotion into "I'll Wait for You" or "If Nobody Believed in You," Nichols always sounded convincingly real and believable. Like forebears George Strait and Alan Jackson, Nichols manages to forge a variety of earthy, bedrock country styles into a distinctive sound all his own, all the while sounding as laid-back and natural as the friendly guy next door—OK, make that the extraordinarily charismatic, good-looking guy next door.

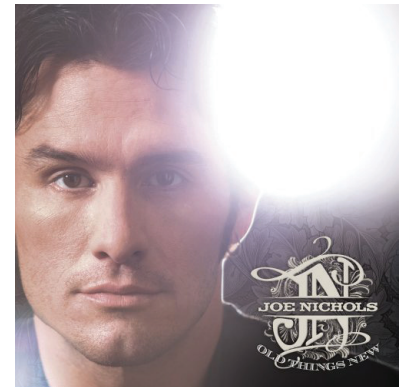
He not only drew the praise of critics and fans of old-school country music, but he gathered a wide array of fans across the board who love his authenticity and genuine talent. Only four albums in, he's already received four Grammy Award nominations. One fan, Nickelback singer Chad Kroeger, started covering a Nichols hit during the superstar band's concerts. "I haven't been able to get this song out of my mind," Kroeger said of "Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off," in front of one sold-out arena. "I love this song."

On *Old Things New*, Nichols' new sense of self-confidence helped Nichols assert his opinions more openly in the studio. In the past, he says, he was content to let others make decisions and focus on singing. But he was involved in all facets of *Old Things New*, a commitment welcomed by co-producers Brent Rowan and Mark Wright.

Billboard Magazine Review - ★★☆☆

October 30th, 2009

It's no stretch to say that Joe Nichols is country music's finest vocalist in at least a generation. That's not to diminish the often stunning vocal work of his immediate predecessors—what elevates Nichols above his peers in terms of vocal chops is that he's a natural singer. This was evident on his 1996 debut and it's fully realized on his sixth album, "Old Things New." The set's title track evokes the primal pain and loneliness of George Jones during his Billy Sherrill-produced '70s heyday, while Merle Haggard's influence is displayed on the bone-chilling "This Bed's Too Big." Playful moments emerge on "Gimmie That Girl" and "Cheaper Than a Shrink," the latter extolling the painkilling virtues of good whiskey (though Nichols has successfully battled his own demons recently). The haunting "An Old Friend of Mine" finds the 32-year-old Nichols reciting words of sober resolution while communicating tortured forbearance. It looks like his honky-tonk forefathers—Haggard, Jones, Lefty Frizzell and Gene Watson, to name a few—were effective tutors. -- Wade Jessen



Washington Post Review

October 27th, 2009

No one in Nashville has a "countrier" voice than Joe Nichols. And it isn't just the twang that makes it so. Equal parts grit, glamour and gloom, the 32-year-old singer's pipes reveal experience hard won, raw emotion and, not least, soul. Honesty in a voice is a hard thing to quantify, but on many of these songs, Nichols finds shards of truth so sharp they'll leave you catching your breath.

After the fluffy but charming opener, "Gimme That Girl," Nichols gets dark in a hurry. "It's Me I'm Worried About" is rooted in the best of country's rich sub-genre of self-pity songs. The title track follows, another wonderful slow boozier about trying to recapture scraps of the past that have slipped away. "Man, Woman" is set to a feistier beat, but the sadness is set in stone.

"Cheaper Than a Shrink," a testament to booze as medication, is the album's liveliest -- and funniest -- song. ("About 18 bucks will get you four six-packs/No pouring out your heart to some high-dollar quack.") But it's also a setup to the album's sucker-punch finale, "An Old Friend of Mine." The cleverly crafted closer is an alcoholic's farewell to drinking, and Nichols, who has admitted to struggles with addiction, sings accompanied only by piano. Not since George Jones's "He Stopped Loving Her Today" has a country singer sounded so haunted. -- Joe Heim

People Magazine Review - ★ ★ ★ ★

October 30th, 2009

Drinking songs are a big part of the tradition of country music. In fact, Joe Nichols scored his biggest hit with one: 2005's "Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off." He finds more potent inspiration at the bottom of the bottle on *Old Things New*, one of the year's best country albums. On "Cheaper Than a Shrink," a humorous honky-tonker, Nichols extols the therapeutic benefits of alcohol: "Bout 18 bucks'll get you four six packs/No pouring out your heart to some high-dollar quack." But it's the rehabbed singer's own drinking problem that brings real-life substance to "An Old Friend of Mine," a classic country ballad about giving up booze. On tunes like this and the cozy "This Bed's Too Big," Nichols, with his rich, barrel-deep baritone, sounds like the heir to Johnny Cash. -- Chuck Arnold

