



LIL' NATHAN

& THE ZYDECO BIG TIMERS

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

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I FIND PEACE **IN BEING BLESSED AND KNOWING THE IMPACT I'VE MADE AND THE MUSIC I WILL LEAVE BEHIND.**

Only a few zydeco artists can claim a gig at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome which is home of the NFL's New Orleans Saints, the Super Bowl, NCAA Football Championships and other major events. Nathan Williams Jr. was blessed with the opportunity to perform at the Superdome for the prestigious 2013 Bayou Classic. The Bayou Classic is an annual football event that features the showdown between Southern University and Grambling State University. This event draws an astounding 50,000 fans to the Superdome. Lil Nate stole the stage performing his original hit, "Go Hard or Go Home," during the halftime show with the renowned Grambling State Marching Band. The show is a great accomplishment for any artist, but big events have become business as usual for Lil Nate, an artist at the top of his zydeco career.

Lil Nate's unique sound, broad experience and magnetizing stage presence is rooted back to his childhood. At the budding age of 5, he was introduced to the rhythmic southern Louisiana music of zydeco where he played rubboard in his father's band, the legendary "Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Chas". Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Chas were one of the top Zydeco bands who toured across the country at that time. Lil Nate soon moved on to playing the drums and then on to the accordion. His father, Nathan Williams Sr. was an excellent teacher and role model to Lil Nate.

In 2002, at the age of 14, Lil Nate was a freshman at Lafayette's Northside High School when he recorded his first studio album project with the Big Timers, "Zydeco Ballin." Lil Nate then followed-up with his second album release "Doin' It Big Time". This disc gave birth to his classic radio hits, "That L'argent," an English and Creole dance tune about the pitfalls of money. His fans called him "The L'argent Man" and the "Baby Boy of Zydeco". Lil Nate skyrocketed to become one of the top attractions touring the highly competitive zydeco circuit. With his continuous string of hits, like "Dead Wrong," "How You Feel Tonight," "Cuddle Up," "Don't Hit Me Catin" and "Dead Wrong", Lil Nate remain at the top of the zydeco food chain still today.

Over the years, Lil Nate has opened up concerts for many national recording artists such as Keith Sweat, Tank, New Edition, Dru Hill, and many others. He has graced the stages of Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla., the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC, the Houston International Festival and numerous New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festivals. He shared the studio with triple-platinum R&B artist Cupid of "Cupid Shuffle", Hip Hop artist Juvenile, Hip Hop artist Kevin Gates, Southern Soul artist Tucka, and many other musical greats in the industry.

Although zydeco has helped him gain great success, Lil Nate has not only relied on it. In 2008, he earned a bachelor's degree in Jazz Studies from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. This accomplishment allowed him to obtain just a fragment of his future goal of becoming a music and vocals teacher.

A master of the single note and triple row accordion, Lil Nate currently serves as an instructor for UL's "traditional music" program which is part of the Dr. Tommy Comeaux Endowed Chair in Traditional Music. He instruct students in the Zydeco Ensemble which completes each semester with a public showcase of their new skills. "Life is good," quotes Lil Nathan. "I'm truly grateful for where I've been and the blessings to come. I don't take any of my success for granted, if I couldn't continue to perform or play zydeco anymore, I find peace in being blessed and knowing the impact I've made and the music I will leave behind."

(Herman Fuselier is a music writer and broadcaster living in Opelousas, La. His Zydeco Stomp radio show airs from noon to 3 p.m. Central time Saturdays on KRVS 88.7 FM and www.krvs.org.)



ALLOW
US TO INTRODUCE
OURSELVES
WE ARE THE
BAND!





Harry "Big Daddy" Hypolite
R.I.P.



Sid "El Sid O's" Williams
f



Nathan Williams, Sr.
f @



Dennis Paul Williams
f



Nathan "Lil Nate" Williams, Jr.
f @



Isiah Williams
f @



Naylan Williams
f @

ALL IN THE FAMILY!



PRESS CLIPPINGS & FEATURES

COVER STORY **TRAVIS MATTE** **BY HERMAN FOWLER**

Travis Matte, Lil' Nate stir excitement at the Crawfish Festival

TRavis Matte, a Cajun zydeco dancer who has become a star around the country, has returned to the Crawfish Festival at the Cajun Heritage Center in Lake Charles, La., for the 30th anniversary of the festival's inception. Matte, 35, is one of the many artists who have become stars around the country, but Matte and the Zydeco Trippers are the only ones who have returned to the festival's inception.

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WANT TO GO?

- **Where:** Breux Bridge Crawfish Festival, 2013
- **When:** March 15-17, Breux Bridge, La.
- **Admission:** \$15 Friday and Saturday, \$18 for a three-day pass.
- **Information:** www.breuxbridge.com

COVER STORY **WHEN ZYDECO and R&B MEET**

Lil' Nathan joins other music stars at home

By Annetta Simen

When zydeco artist Lil' Nathan Williams Jr. performs at the 30th Breux Bridge Crawfish Festival, he will be performing at home. He was born in Lake Charles, La., and he has spent most of his life in the area. He is one of the many artists who have become stars around the country, but he is the only one who has returned to the festival's inception.

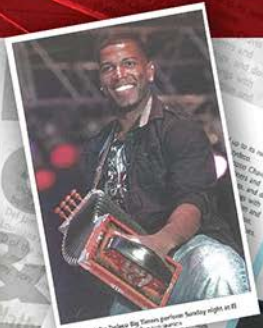
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Helping that his performance at the Lafayette Music Festival will help pay zydeco music on...



Lil' Nate and the Zydeco Trippers perform Sunday night at the...

Lil' Nathan

Lil' Nathan and the Zydeco Trippers sound like a classic zydeco band. They have a sound that is a mix of zydeco and R&B. They have a sound that is a mix of zydeco and R&B. They have a sound that is a mix of zydeco and R&B.

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Family Tradition
Family, Friends & Fun II
with Annual
HEB HERITAGE DAY

Saturday
March 9, 2014
with Annual
HEB HERITAGE DAY



LIL NATE: I'VE TAKEN ZYDECO PLACES IT HADN'T BEEN

LIFE IS GOOD FOR LIL NATHAN AND THE ZYDECO BIG TIMERS. A LIVE DVD IS IN THE WORKS FROM THE BAND'S RECENT RETURN TO FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE LOUISIANE.

THE BIG TIMERS OPENED FOR R&B SINGER JOHNNY GILL AT CYPRESS BAYOU CASINO IN CHARENTON. THE BAND FOLLOWED THEIR NEW ORLEANS JAZZ AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL SHOW WITH A ROCK 'N' BOWL SET WITH CHRIS ARDOIN AND THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF BEAU JOCQUE'S ZYDECO HI-ROLLERS.

THOSE SWEET GIGS STILL PALE IN COMPARISON TO THE BIG TIMERS' 2013 SUPERDOME EVENT – A HALFTIME SHOW WITH THE GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND AT THE ANNUAL BAYOU CLASSIC.

"IT'S BEEN GREAT," SAID LIL NATE, AKA NATHAN WILLIAMS JR. OF LAFAYETTE. "I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE, WORK WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE. I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE ZYDECO IN A FEW PLACES IT HADN'T BEEN. I'VE ALSO HAD A CHANCE TO CREATE A CATALOG OF MUSIC WHERE PEOPLE IDENTIFY ME AS THE ARTIST. THAT'S PRETTY COOL. IT'S REALLY STARTING TO DEVELOP MORE AND MORE INTO LIL NATHAN.

"IN THE PREVIOUS YEARS, I'VE BEEN INFLUENCED BY A LOT OF ARTISTS. IT'S STARTING TO BE WHERE PEOPLE ARE KNOWING ME FOR A CERTAIN SOUND."

LIL NATE ADDS TO HIS MEMORIES AND RESUME WHEN HE RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN ALIVE! AT 6 P.M. FRIDAY AT PARC SANS SOUCI. CONCESSIONS, WHICH HELP KEEP DTA! FREE, BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M.

LIL NATE CONTINUES TO BUILD A LEGACY THAT STARTED 13 YEARS AGO. FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FATHER, LEADER OF NATHAN AND THE ZYDECO CHACHAS, HE RELEASED HIS FIRST CD AS A 14-YEAR-OLD FRESHMAN AT NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL.

SEVEN CDS LATER, LIL NATE REIGNS AS ONE OF THE TOP ATTRACTIONS ON THE ZYDECO CIRCUIT. HE HOLDS A DEGREE IN JAZZ STUDIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE.

ALONG THE WAY, HE'S PLAYED GIGS AT UNIVERSAL STUDIOS IN ORLANDO, FLA. AND THE RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER IN WASHINGTON, DC.

"IT'S GETTING BETTER AND BETTER," SAID LIL NATE. "ONCE YOU START GETTING KNOWN, IT TAKES YOU TO DIFFERENT PLACES. I'M WORKING ON A CRUISE FOR NEXT YEAR.

"BUT I DON'T TAKE FOR GRANTED WHAT HAS HAPPENED. I'M EXCITED ABOUT WHERE I'VE BEEN. EVEN IF I COULDN'T PLAY ZYDECO ANYMORE, I'M STILL EXCITED ABOUT WHERE I'VE BEEN WITH THE MUSIC."

LIL NATE CONTINUES TO SERVE AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN UL'S TRADITIONAL MUSIC PROGRAM. PART OF THE DR. TOMMY COMEAUX ENDOWED CHAIR IN TRADITIONAL MUSIC. HE TRAINS STUDENTS IN THE ZYDECO ENSEMBLE, WHICH FINISHES EACH SEMESTER WITH A DANCE SHOWCASING THEIR SKILLS.

THE UNIVERSITY WORK HELPS HIM KEEP ALIVE HIS GOAL OF BECOMING A MUSIC AND VOCALS TEACHER. "I LOVE TEACHING. IT KEEPS ME DETERMINED TO FINISH MY QUEST ON BEING A TEACHER. IT KEEPS ME IN THAT CLASSROOM SETTING. I GET A CHANCE TO STILL BE A PART OF MY ALMA MATER AND TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT WHAT I DO. THEY PORTRAY IT PRETTY WELL.





DANCING IN THE RAIN WITH LIL' NATHAN & THE ZYDECO BIG TIMERS AT NEW ORLEANS JAZZ FEST

ALL DAY, I'D BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO LIL' NATHAN AND THE ZYDECO BIG TIMERS' CLOSE-OUT SET ON FRIDAY (APRIL 24) AT NEW ORLEANS JAZZ FEST'S SHERATON FAIS DO-DO STAGE. JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, LIL' NATHAN'S DAD, NATHAN WILLIAMS, HAD THE FLOORBOARDS SHAKING AT ROCK 'N' BOWL. WITH HIS BAND, NATHAN AND THE ZYDECO CHA CHAS. I WAS READY TO SEE WHAT THE HEIR APPARENT COULD DO. THEN THE WIND KICKED UP. IN THE DISTANCE, LIGHTNING STARTED CRACKING LIKE STROBE LIGHTS. A JAZZ FEST STAFFER TOOK THE MIC. IT WAS 5:38 P.M. THE STAGE WOULD SHUT DOWN AT 6 (EXACTLY THE TIME LIL' NATHAN'S SET WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN.) THE UNSPOKEN MESSAGE – WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS STILL DOING HERE? IT'S ABOUT TO POUR!

COMING ON EARLY, AND WITH A LITTLE MORE THAN 20 MINUTES TO PLAY WITH, LIL' NATHAN GOT RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS. ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE BAND – WASHBOARDS, KEYBOARDS, GUITARS, DRUMS – HE RAN THROUGH WHAT SOUNDED LIKE A HALF-DOZEN SONGS WITHOUT COMING UP FOR AIR. NO SMALL TALK, NO "HELLO JAZZ FEST," JUST STRAIGHT UP HIP-HOP-TINGED ZYDECO DANCE MUSIC – ACCORDION JAMMING, GUITARS WAILING.

LIL' NATHAN IS NATHAN WILLIAMS JR. THOUGH HE'S CERTAINLY BLESSED WITH GREAT MUSICAL DNA, HE HASN'T RESTED ON HIS FAMILY'S LAURELS. HIS FIRST CD, "ZYDECO BALLIN'," CAME OUT IN 2002, WHEN HE WAS JUST 14. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE, HE MAJORED IN JAZZ STUDIES AND MUSIC MEDIA, AND SINCE GRADUATION, HE HAS WORKED HARD TO CREATE A SOUND THAT'S ALL HIS OWN.

ON FRIDAY, A HALF-DOZEN OTHER STALWART FANS GATHERED WITH ME AT THE BARRICADES, TWO-STEPPING IN MUDDY RAIN BOOTS. THE CLOUDS BEGAN TO LEAK FAT FAT DROPS, CREATING A POLKA-DOT PATTERN IN THE SANDY FIELD.

AN OLDER GENTLEMAN IN AN ALOHA SHIRT AND RAIN-SPECKLED EYEGLASSES ASKED ME TO DANCE. WE SWUNG AROUND WITH AN APOCALYPTIC JOY AS MY DAMP SKIRT TWIRLED AROUND MY LEGS. ON STAGE, LIL' NATE (THAT'S WHAT HIS WEBSITE CALLS HIM) WAS STILL WORKING IT HARD, THOUGH HIS EYEBROWS ARCHED DRAMATICALLY WHEN THE LIGHTNING BEGAN TO STRIKE WITH A MORE WORRISOME FREQUENCY.



AND THEN, JUST LIKE THAT, THE PLUG WAS METAPHORICALLY PLUGGED. A JAZZ FEST STAFFER STOOD IN THE WINGS SIGNALING FOR A WRAP. LIL' NATHAN GAVE HIS "THANK YOU JAZZ FEST, GOOD NIGHT," AND THE BAND PLAYED THEIR FINAL CORDS. IT WAS BRIEF BUT BLISSFUL -- A JAZZ FEST MEMORY, WELL WORTH GETTING WET.

The Times-Picayune
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Show the world that you are not invisible! Get official Nathan Williams Jr. merch in the online store!



Looking for your Meet & Greet photos from a recent Nathan Williams Jr. show? Get your pictures here!



Keep up with Nathan Williams Jr. no matter where you are at with the official Mobile App. Download it here!

BOOKING INFORMATION

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