

Reverend Zen unleashes wisdom with 'Angels'

By Diana Nollen
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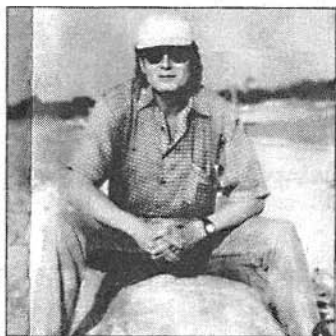
Reverend Zen's Jack Evans, a 1971 graduate of Linn-Mar High School in Marion, could win four best song awards tonight in the Los Angeles Music Awards competition.

REVIEW

The New York-based band is nominated in the adult contemporary and blues categories in the competition billed as the world's "largest and longest red carpet event for independent musicians."

All of Zen's nominations are from the group's debut CD, "Angels, Blues and The Crying Moon" (Blakjak Music), a decade in the making and released in 2006.

Any of the songs on this disc are worthy of praise. It's an excellent, flawless portal into the human experience of love lost, love found, hearts broken, childhood hurdles, psychosis and societal ills.



Reverend Zen

It's really fun to listen to as you're zipping down the road. You need a long, uninterrupted length of time to listen from beginning to end to appreciate the way Evans, the main songwriter and lead vocalist, moves through tempos, styles and moods.

The band is described as a "rock/jazz/R&B group," and all those influences fuel the CD. The award nominees exemplify the band's diverse sound.

"Bad Attitude" is laced with jazz piano and a funky beat; "Don't Try to Tell Me"

Eastern Iowa native Jack Evans is lead singer-songwriter of the New York-based band, Reverend Zen.

layers poetic lyrics over a hypnotic, bluesy beat, with equal parts anger and frustration in Evans' vocals lamenting a shattered relationship.

"Dangerous Times" sports a funk groove as Evans traces the evolution (or lack thereof) of shoot-'em-ups, from the wild west to New York's mean streets of

today. "The Boston Shake-down," an ode to college boys falling prey to feminine wiles, shimmers with burning rock guitar licks and a wink of experience through Evans' seasoned, mellow vocals.

Evans has won 29 songwriting awards from Billboard, VH1 and other industry competitions. In October, he received a prestigious 2007 ASCAP Plus Award for

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On TV

■ See the Los Angeles Music Awards live tonight at 9:30 on <http://synchronicitylive.com/>

songwriters.

For more on Evans' band, go to www.reverendzenmusic.com

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