

Dance Lessons

MONDAY - SATURDAY 7:30PM-8:30PM

HIP HOP

TUESDAYS 8:30PM

Rock'n' Retro

WEDNESDAYS 8:30PM

Ladies' Night

w/ New Country 93's Jon Michaels

THURSDAYS 8:30PM



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1am



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TICKETS:

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music BY ERIN CADIGAN



Matt the Electrician
w/ Tom Freund
8pm, Tues. July 5
John Henry's

No Electronica Here

Matt the Electrician's sweet folk melodies.

The name sounds technical, but don't be fooled. Matt the Electrician makes sweet folk melodies and bluegrass tunes, and if you're looking for synthesizers or phase shifters, you're in for a shock.

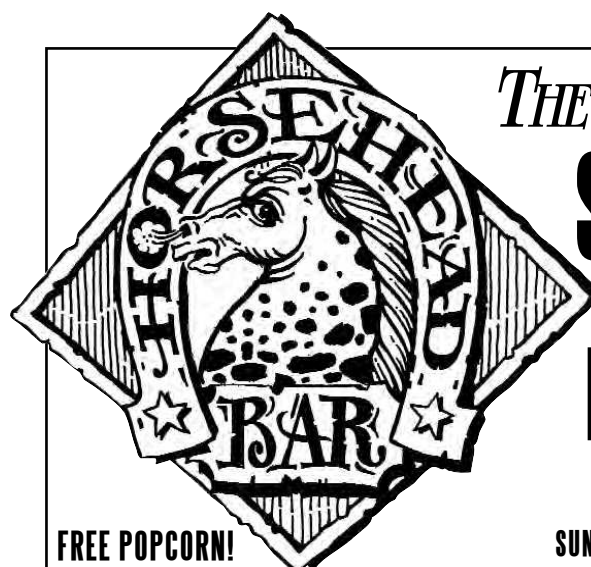
The Electrician used to be known as Matt Sever, and he used to live in Oregon. "I was tired of pounding nails in the freezing rain," he says of his decision to leave Corvallis for Austin nine years ago, "and figured I'd try pounding nails in the hot sun instead." Shortly thereafter, Sever abandoned carpentry for the shade of interior electrical work. As he began to make the rounds of the Austin music scene, often rushing to the stage after the 9-to-5, his occupational identity helped him stick out in a city full of aspiring musicians. Sever's success as a singer/songwriter enabled him to abandon the trade several years ago, but the alias endured.

Listening to his most recent album, 2004's *Long Way Home*, where Sever's own guitar and "banjolele" are joined by a full complement of musicians, it's easy to see why the Electrician has developed such a

following. Although, on the occasional track, Austin's influence seems to peek through in a twangy guitar solo or rejoinder, an undercurrent of sweetly simple melody carries the whole album, sometimes below an enthusiastic full band and upbeat tempo, sometimes waltzing to the surface with banjo and piano alone. Breathy in delivery, even raspy on the edges, Sever's lyrics range from thoughtful to playful in a heartbeat, and, as with "You and I," are capable of tenderness without being overly romantic. "People like that it's not emo rock," he says, "or over-the-top sensitive."

Fresh from success at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival in Colorado, Matt the Electrician returns to Eugene this week on his second west coast tour in the last three months. Leaving the studio band back in Austin, he heads up the coast as a trio with Tom Freund, who heads up the second set on the bill, and drums for both. If you missed the show last time around, mark your calendar. "It's definitely more work than any day job I've ever done," Sever says of his career as a folk troubadour, "but the rewards are a lot better too."

EW



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