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### **Music like from an Oldies radio station.**

Black Raven Irish Pub- Rick Derman is a virtuoso on his blue lacquered, electric guitar and could effortlessly create a CD called "The most beautiful guitar solos in the world"! On Saturday the American performed in the Irish Pub „ Black Raven" and entertained a nearly full house with excellent cover versions of well-known hits from the Fifties to present day.

Pre-recorded drum and bass tracks provided the musical framework for a performance only comparable to that of the good old radio stations. With a small but important difference: his guitar work and vocals were live. From a repertoire of over 150 songs in various genres such as rock, pop, blues, soul, reggae and country the artist chose classics that included Chuck Berry, Dire Straits, Pink Floyd and Carlos Santana.

Even songs from King Elvis were performed, followed by thunderous applause for the singer. Rick Derman was satisfied with his audience, although it was difficult in the pub atmosphere for him to get a response to the patter he offered between tracks in English or German.

Even the young people, who had grown up with completely different music, rocked and rolled. Songs like "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Knocking on Heaven's Door" were strongly supported by the throats at the tables and bar, visually accompanied by lighters held high. Rick Derman, who writes and produces songs himself, has already recorded with members of the Joe Cocker Band and spoke after the concert with TAGEBLATT:

### **Rick, where do you come from and where do you live now?**

I'm from Florida and I live in Berlin. But I might move to Ireland or Britain soon.

### **How long have you been in Germany?**

For six years now.

### **Do you play only solo or also in bands?**

Currently I'm solo, but previously I had two bands. I would like to start a

new band to perform my original music.

**So no cover music anymore?**

I use the cover music to pay the bills. I've already had two record deals in the States (with Banner Records, Los Angeles and Stuart Cohn, New Haven), but they didn't work so well. My own songs are different and have a different style. I don't want to always stay with the old. I want to find something new.

**In which direction would that be?**

What isn't there yet is hard to describe. I think a mixture of "Oasis" and "Jimmy Page" might describe my new songs. But I still lack band members who feel the same way.

**How will you find your new band?**

That's difficult. Here in Germany there seems to be little space for new ideas. I have reached a plateau where I am at a standstill and so I have to take the next step. For my livelihood I have to give at least twelve concerts a month, but that's with cover versions. This leaves little opportunity to meet the right people.

**And where will your next step take you? To the folk influenced Ireland or the UK?**

Probably to the UK but that's not decided yet.

Interview: Bernd Hannemann