

# Rolling Stone writer calls Clinton home

By John David Harrison

Clinton residents will be intrigued to learn that a high-caliber music journalist lives right here in town.

Jim Beaugez, who regularly contributes to *Rolling Stone* and *Guitar Player* magazines, among other publications, has lived in Clinton with his family for the past four years. Originally from Ocean Springs, Beaugez decided to set his roots down in Clin-

ton due to the town's charm and comfortable family environment. Settling in the Jackson metro area has also been beneficial from a writing standpoint.

“Living right between New Orleans and Memphis and just down the road from the Mississippi Delta is pretty handy...I’ve interviewed The Roots in Memphis and covered Jazz Fest in New Orleans. Ardenland has done a great job bringing talent to the Jackson area, too,

and I take advantage of that when I can,” Beaugez said. Beaugez didn’t read or write much in his youth and mainly spent his time focusing on playing guitar and forming rock bands. Later, while a student at Mississippi State University, Beaugez decided to major in English, and his writing career began shortly after. He was hired as a music critic for the student newspaper, *The Reflector*, and eventually worked his way up to the editorial

staff.

Upon completion of his degree, Beaugez was hired to write for *Destinations*, a travel magazine. Some of his travel writing has highlighted interesting locations in Mississippi, such as Clark Creek Natural Area in Wilkinson County and the Isle of Caprice, an island off the coast that was submerged in the 1930s.

Today, Beaugez’s writing focus for *Rolling Stone* is Americana music, and he’s covered artists such as Jason Isbell and The Avett Brothers. He also covers artists and musicians in *Guitar Player*, where he is able to write about multiple genres. Along with Clinton native and videographer J.B. Lawrence, Beaugez has created a series for *Guitar Player* called “My Life in Five Riffs,” which highlights guitarists and musicians like Nels Cline and Ryan Bingham.

While roots rock and Americana

take the forefront of what Beaugez is doing, he’s had experience covering other genres, as well, from bluegrass and country to punk and metal.

“To me, it’s not as much about the genre as it is the story. You have to find the conflict in a situation to make it a compelling story. That’s what I really like about writing - the challenge of finding that twist, the unexpected,” Beaugez said.

Besides music, Beaugez writes about technology for the audio-visual industry.

“People are doing amazing things in AV these days with virtual and augmented reality, smart projection systems and vast LED displays that wrap around buildings. It’s a fun vertical market,” he said.

“Music was the biggest thing in my life before marriage and kids, and I still listen to tons of it across genres,” said Beaugez. “I just never got it out of my system. I’m incredibly lucky to get to write about something that I love so much.”

# Rolling Stone



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