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JESS NOVAK & BRIAN GOLDEN OF
**GOLDEN
 NOVAK
 BAND**
 INTERVIEWED BY BRIAN LUSH

This debut CD of yours is amazing. It's a very soulful album and you've got some amazing musicianship on it. And now that it's out there for people to get a listen to how do you feel about the finished work?

BRIAN: I'm very happy with the way that everything turned out. The primary sessions themselves were amazing and we were lucky to have the musicians that we had on board. It was a great experience.

How about you JESS?

JESS: I feel like - It's really cool listening to the album now after some time has passed and listening with different people and getting their reaction. When we did it we had the idea to record just four songs as an EP and then in the studio those four songs became seven songs. The whole plan for the recording had shifted while the whole thing was being recorded. The album captures a whole lot of different moments. You have a crazy funk song and then a very emotional ballad next to an upbeat song about making out and then a blues tune. It's got

such a unique combination of songs and styles. It's just really cool how it all came together and it's fun watching people's reactions to that.

And talk about the beginning of THE GOLDEN NOVAK BAND. What got the two of you together to do this project?

JESS: I was sitting in with another band and the second that I played with GOLDEN I was recording my own solo album and I said to him afterwards that he was going to be on it. From that point on this whole thing kind of took off.

BRIAN: That's tough one. I can only say that it was meant to happen. I remember the day we did the first GOLDEN NOVAK gig. We had just looked at each other and realized that we had started a new band. We had a FACEBOOK page made and we kind of went from there and at that point we hadn't even finished the album yet. It was like the album kind of created the band and the band kind of created the album. It's kind of a neat little paradox.

It is neat! Doesn't happen all that often.

JESS: No it doesn't. It was totally natural.

And talk about each of your musical experiences before coming together with this project?

BRIAN: I started playing guitar when I was thirteen years old with a little help from my stepfather who is a fantastic guitar player. I grew up watching him play and he kind of got me started on the path. He wasn't huge help. If I got stumped on something he might've thrown me a couple of hints which made it priority to figure it out by myself. I guess just because the music industry is so tough he didn't want me getting into it with all kinds of false expectations. So right away I knew it was going to be a lot of work. I spent my teenage years playing eight to nine hours a day while other kids were outside playing basketball or riding a bike. I was in my bedroom playing guitar and listening to JIMI HENDRIX and PINK FLOYD. I got very serious about it when I was fifteen or sixteen and I started playing in bands. From that point I had been a in a band ever since in some sort of professional regard. Last year was the first time that I had stepped out and decided to do this thing for a living. Everything I have done has led me to this point.

JESS: I came from a very musical family. My mother's name is MELODY and that's funny because she doesn't play or sing or do anything. It was always an expectation in our family that everyone would at least pick up an instrument. I started on violin when I was seven years old. I really enjoyed violin but I was never into classical. I did orchestra all while I was growing up and even had the chance to tour Europe but at the same time my brother is ten years older than me and he played bass and he introduced me to things like CREAM and KOOL AND THE GANG and JIMI HENDRIX. When I heard all of this stuff I wanted to play like that. How was I going to play like that on violin? I really didn't understand how until I was twenty-five. I had played out in Syracuse and studied Music Industry and Music Journalism in school. And then when I was in Syracuse writing about the music scene I got asked to do a show and when someone saw me playing violin for this gig I started playing in this band and started singing by default and I learned guitar. All of these experiences have led me to GOLDEN and

before I knew it this whole thing has taken over my life.

And JESS what is it that BRIAN brings to the table that makes this thing work?

JESS: Well as far as musicians go he's one of the best guitarists that I've ever heard in my whole life. On top of that he is really soulful which is something that is missing from music in general these days. There is so much fake everything out there with everyone trying to 'be' something and with GOLDEN, he's just pure onstage. There is nothing fake. Ever. It's refreshing.

And BRIAN the same question goes out to you with regard to JESS.

BRIAN: JESS is extremely passionate about anything she puts her mind to whether it's her writing or her playing or booking shows. Her musicianship has grown in leaps and bounds over the last year. She gives a hundred and ten percent in any given situation. To be able to witness that and see that on stage is just astounding. It's definitely one of my favorite aspects of being in this band - watching this whole thing grow and get better every time.

Explain the songwriting process between the two of you. How do you go about it?

BRIAN: A song is a song. We get together to rehearse whenever we have time and she'll have something new and start playing it for me and then I'll start picking it up and start figuring out what I'm going to do on top of it and vice versa. As soon as the song feels like an equal work and then we put it on the shelf until we dust it off again until it's ready for the stage.

With this album behind you what's next for the two of you as a duo?

JESS: Well, we already have enough songs for two more albums. A new album will be coming eventually and of course there will be a lot more touring. With the touring that we've already been doing the road is already paved for us to do more so it's just a matter of time before we do that. So recording more and traveling further and hitting bigger stages and writing like crazy is what is in the pipeline for us.