



**Interview: Heidi Duss**

## **Interview with Joe Diffie, Nashville June 6. 2013**

**Your last album was a Bluegrass, why did you choose Bluegrass?**

It is just something I always loved. Before I moved to Nashville I was in a Bluegrass Band, we played about six years together. So when I had the Opportunity to do this, I jumped at the chance.

**Was this your first Bluegrass album?**

Yes it was my first Bluegrass album since I moved to Nashville. It worked out well, the time was right.

**Please tell me about the songs that are on that album.**

I wrote about three or four of the songs that are on there. The album is called Homecoming. It is all about going back to my roots. I tried to find some songs that talk about family, rural life, mailboxes, whatever. We got some great songs on there, one of my favorite songs is called Route 5 Box 109. It's an actual address of one of the writers of the song. It talks about his parents, his mom, biscuits, very rural stuff. Real country stuff.

**Which songs did you actually write?**

I wrote „Tennessee Tea“ and about three more.

**What has been your greatest challenge in your career?**

I think the longevity of it, I've been lucky to do this for so long. The challenging part is to try to keep things going, to keep it moving.

**What are your greatest influences?**

I'd have to say my parents first of all. My Dad was a self taught musician, he plays Piano, Banjo and Guitar, my Grandpa played Fiddle and Guitar and Grandma played Piano. Musically my influences where George Jones, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Tom T. Hall, I had a lot of influences.

**Ist there anything special that really stands out in your career?**

Yes, definitely, being invitet to be a member of the Grand Ol' Opry was one of the biggest thrills. That is something that stands out for me. Also receiving a humanitarian award from the Country Radio Broadcasters, that was very moving for me too.

**If you had the chance to change something in your life, what would that be?**

I'd be taller and skinnier. Seriously, I belive, anything bad or not so good happening, does have a purpose behind it. Later on you think ahhh that is why I had to go thru that .

**Do you have a favorite song?**

From the ones that I recorded, it is probably the Song „Ships That Don't Come In“. That is definitely one of my favorites. It is a very pointed song, it has a lot of deep meaning to it and it means a lot of different things to different people. I really love singing that song.

**Did you write that song?**

No, Paul Nelson and Dave Gibson wrote that.

**What is your biggest disappointment?**

I don't know, most of the times I try to be an optimist, I take things as they come, I really have not been too disappointed in anything.

**Please tell us about the Road House Show in Gstaad, Switzerland.**

Oh that was me, Tracy Lawrence and Mark Chesnutt. We had a great time, everyone in Gstaad made us really feel welcome. The Mountains and surroundings are so beautiful and the fans there are really into the music. We really felt good there.

**Have you ever been anyplace else in Europe?**

No I have not, Gstaad is the only place I have been.

**Have you done anything like this Road House Show here in the States?**

Yes, actually right now we are doing an acoustic show with Aaron Tippin and Sammy Kershaw. We've done about 40 or 50 of these shows, it has gone over real well. We are all up on stage, talk about the songs and kid each other, we just have a lot of fun and there are huge crowds of people coming to see the show.

**Do you go on tour like that?**

Yes, mostly we do these tours in fall and wintertime and the early part of the year. All three of us have our Bands that we go and do our own thing with during the rest of the year.

**Are you appearing somewhere during the CMA Week?**

Yes, I played at the Riverfront stage yesterday. Today I'm doing Interviews. I've done things everyday actually. But I have to leave today for Las Vegas as I have a show there tomorrow night.

**Is there anyplace special that you have not played, that you really would like to play?**

I would like to play more places in Europe because I know I have a lot of great fans over there. Maybe someday we can get something coordinated for us to do several shows over there.

**Is there anything you would like to change if you could do so?**

No, not really, I've been pretty lucky this has lasted so long for me, I just follow the path and see where it leads me.

**Do you live in Nashville?**

Yes I do, I'm originally from Oklahoma, which is a 12 Hour drive to Nashville, I've lived here since the end of 1986.

**Are you now with a new Label?**

Yes I am, I'm with a Label called Bigger Picture, they are a very enthusiastic group. I just began to meet - and interact with all of them. I like their enthusiasm and energy, it's really exciting for me. It has been a while since I had a song on the radio, so we are pretty excited that we have a new song, the name of it is called „Girl Riding Shotgun“. It is really a fun song, I did it with Derek Thrasher from the Jawga Boyz. He does kind of hip hop and rap stuff. But he is just an ol' country Boy, he is such a good guy, I really like him. We got together and wrote this song, not thinking much about it and next thing we knew, all these people at the label are getting all excited and saying oh it's cool, we got to do something with that. That is how we got to this point.

**Is this already released?**

It's a single and was released about two days ago on the radio, it is up on YouTube and iTunes, so check it out. We also shot a video for it, the video should come out about next week.

**Are you working on another new album now?**

Yes, we are, this single will be included in it also. It probably will have about eight greatest hits and 4 to 5 new songs.

**Anything else you would like to tell your European fans?**

Yes, you all come and see us and hopefully we get over there again real soon.



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