

Thom Bresh

An Entertainer

Who Happens To Play the Guitar

From a Southern California stage at the age of three, with a loosely strung ukulele, to one of the many great concert halls in the world today, armed with his two sided Langejans “Super Dualette” guitar (he refers to it as “My Band”), Thom Bresh, the 2001 inductee into the “Thumbpickers Hall of Fame” and his six string friends have been entertaining people for a lifetime. Whether he is leaning against a wall telling you how his day went or shaking the walls of a concert hall with that famous hard driving thumb, first and foremost, you will be entertained. He is equally at home on stage in a stadium or on a couch in someone’s living room. Add to this scenario a deep, witty and gritty singing voice set in the middle of that relentless, powerful groove and you have a genuine force to deal with.

The Breshman was born in Hollywood, California and raised in the middle of guitar royalty. Roy Lanham, Thumbs Carlisle, Jimmy Bryant, Curly Chalker, Joe Maphis and Leo Fender. Not to mention the members of this elite guitar court who, in life, would become his close friends and peers. Chet Atkins, Ernie Ball, James Burton, Marcel Dadi, Nokie Edwards, Scotty Moore, Les Paul and Jerry Reed. The list keeps going and growing.

Now let’s put in part three of this equation; the genes. His father, Merle Travis, was the most influential American guitarist of the 20th Century. With this sort of heritage and upbringing, what do you have? As Chet Atkins put it, “Thom Bresh is a guitarist that deserves to be heard.” On every performance Bresh pays tribute to his father when he straps on his custom D’Angelico “Thom Bresh Special”. When he lays into his father’s thumbpickin’ classics, he and that guitar will leave the Travis style pickers hungry and the rest of us breathless. Buster B. Jones sums it up like this.. “Bresh is a drop-top version of his daddy with a souped up engine and a whole lot more chrome.”

But there is even more in the Bresh entertainment arsenal than singing and playing a guitar. His quick comedic timing and sharp ear has made him an incredible impressionist. That led to two HBO Specials. Thom hosted his own TV show and has guest starred on numerous others. Behind the scenes, as a producer, he has received two Grammy nominations and one for an Academy Award.

In his own words.. “The guitar is my first love, my partner in life. We grew up together and we’ll most likely die together. Everything I’ve accomplished was with it. Every great moment in my career was because of it. Remember my heritage. To me, playing the guitar is not about licks and speed. That’s only for the insiders. Playing it makes music and music is an emotion. Emotions are stimulated by feelings and sounds.. That works on everybody. When the sound and feel are right... Wow..

I never really learned how to play the guitar.. I was born with it..
I’m an entertainer... Who happens to play the guitar..”