

HNTS008: I Don't Wanna Be

Buffett

3,049 words (total compilation)



ON LOCATION, OR OUTDOORS? WITH MARINA
SFX? (I.E., NOT "STUDIO")

V.O.: So this is the part where I usually say:

USE PREVIOUS AD

V.O.: How Not To Sail. Sponsored by...Latitudes & Attitudes. They ruined my life. So why not let 'em ruin *yours* today...at LATS ATTS DOT COM.

ON LOCATION, OR OUTDOORS? WITH MARINA
SFX? (I.E., NOT "STUDIO")

V.O.: But today, I also just need to let you know that you'll be able to get the BOOK *How Not To Sail* for FREE very soon...so be sure you're subscribed to the podcast--which is also free--and if ya don't know how, just go to HowNotToSail dot com,

and you can miss the subscribe buttons.

But now...on with the show.

MUSIC: ERIC STONE, "EVERYBODY WANTS TO
BE JIMMY BUFFETT"

[PLAY FROM TOP, FADE UNDER ...]

V.O: So last we spoke, we were at Marathon Marina, headed for the bar and the salt water pool.

And just like clockwork at most marinas in salty places, right around the end of the day, you'll hear a certain style of music.

MUSIC OUT

BRIAN WATSON: We call it Trop Rock. And it's Buffett-esque. Kenny Chesney "Blue Chair." Beach Boys. Anything that talks about bars, women, boats, Islands, beaches...

V.O: This is one of the many fellows who's likely to be listening to this music at sundown.

BRIAN WATSON: I am Brian Watson and the sailing vessel I own is *Another Road*.

V.O: It's safe to say Brian is a fan of Trop Rock music.

BRIAN WATSON: I've got three thousand songs on my hard drive that are Trop Rock-oriented because one night I was sailing all night and and people were sick and they wouldn't go to the helm or the couldn't get up.

And so I listened to the same Jimmy Buffett album for five times through and I think I broke the album after that because I was done with it. So that will never ever happen again. I can actually go I think seven days without hearing the same song twice.

V.O: By his own count, Brian's been a fan for about forty years. So he's the perfect guy to tell us more about this whole Trop Rock phenomenon.

BRIAN WATSON: So trop Rock. I mean reality is where did it get its name? When did he get its name? Probably about 15 years ago. They something finally created a genre because nobody knew where to put these players like Buffett.

Is it Americana? Is it something else? But I mean, Jim Morris, Eric Stone, Jerry Diaz, uh, Jeff Pike. Those are the the people that started it early on. And then... I've been around for a long time... And then you got the Mike Nashes and you get the Donnie Brewers and you got the Don Middlebrook, who's been around a long long time...
[cut]...Sonny Jim. Tom Shepard.

I mean they're just--[cut] there's hundred or more people that play in this genre today. Where fifteen years ago, there was probably twenty. Fifteen.

V.O: And not only is Brian an expert in this area, he's also, conveniently enough, my boat neighbor at the marina.

DRIVING SFX?

V.O: I drove down to the boat to get this trip started, and on the way south, I found out my buddy Eric Stone was going to be performing not too far from the boat.

Well, actually, it was in North Tampa, about forty-five minutes away. And I rarely make much of an effort to go see live music. But Eric was having a pretty rough couple of weeks after his other half left him...and that's when friends need to show up.

So the next day after arriving, and after getting some prep work done for the trip, I hopped in the Yukon and headed for the Tampa Tap Room.

V.O: What could possibly go wrong?

MUSIC: DRUNKEN SAILOR THEME



Cover This!

V.O: I'd seen Eric Stone at various boat shows doing mostly original music...so little did I realize what kind of gig I was walking into at the Tampa Tap Room.

SFX: BAR AMBIENCE OR ERIC LIVE W TALK?

My FIRST surprise when I walked in was seeing a fellow in the audience who looked kinda familiar.

Did I mention my memory sucks? Names *and* faces. It usually takes me a while.

But *after* a while, I realized it was one of my boat neighbors from the marina, forty minutes away. Brian, from *Another Road*.

What are the odds? Well...not as great as ya might think.

BRIAN WATSON: Eric was playing a party for the Tampa Bay Parrothead Club, their monthly happy hour...

V.O: It was NOT what I was expecting, after seeing Eric at the last boat show.

BRIAN WATSON: They'll have a musician -- Trop Rock musician -- come in and play, and then there will be a line dance for sure at some

point in the evening.

V.O: ...and a lot of Buffett requests, as you can imagine.

V.O: As Eric told me later... (tells me later?)

ERIC STONE: I love Jimmy Buffett, you know [cut] But [cut] I like a lot of his ballads and stuff [cut] ...you won't hear me playing cheeseburger and all those kind of songs too often, you know.

ERIC STONE (SINGS): *Everybody wants to be Jimmy Buffett / singin' his island songs by the sea / Give my music a chance and you might just love it / I don't wanna be Buffett, I just wanna be me*

V.O: Oh, but I'm guessing there were plenty of requests for Buffet that night...

ERIC STONE: I'll play like coast of Marseille or something like, you know, *African Friend*, you know, it's a really obscure song now and I'll play it and then people come up to me. Are you gonna play me Buffett? I'm like nah. No, I just played ten in a row, but no no...

V.O: So there's Eric, at The Tap Room, who's going to be in the British Virgin Islands the next day headlining a Share The Sail event for *Latitudes & Attitudes* magazine...and there's this fella bugging him about when he's going to start his next set.

ERIC STONE (SINGS): [Bridge]: *Sometimes I love my job / sometimes I get ill / when I get over ten requests / for Margaritaville...*

V.O: Which brings me to this. I'm a musician, too. I haven't played as many gigs as Eric, but I've played enough to know the highs and lows of going from a concert stage where the audience applauds your original compositions to a bar where you're valued in direct proportion to how many songs you can play by *other* people.

ERIC STONE: I think you know when you play in a bar. And it's not a private event or you know, our music festival your the featured actor or whatever.

You definitely have to do covers and we all started playing covers. That's what we do.

But there's some songs that I just don't want to do. Like you never going to hear me play Wagon Wheel. It's never going to happen. I don't care if it's \$1,000 tip. I'm over that song.

V.O: ~~And I have a confession to make.~~ I hear ya, brother. I don't know, maybe I'm jaded and cynical. Okay, I'm *definitely* jaded and cynical. But I'm getting to a point where I really *wish* I could go to a bar or restaurant on the water and *not* hear a [bleeped] guy with a guitar playing [bleeped] cover tunes, many of which played a zillion times myself. If I had a nickel for every time I've played *Sweet Home Alabama* or *Brick House*, I'd have, like...five bucks at least.

ERIC STONE (SINGS): *There was a guy in the corner stumming along / a really bad version of that cheesburger song / As he played on / I started to think / He's tryin' to sing Buffett but he sounds like the dude from NSync...*

V.O: Apparently, somebody decided you can sell more beverages and food if you keep the soundtrack going. But I've already got my own soundtrack, thank you very much. I hear music in my head all the time. In fact, I rarely even play music when I'm out cruising.

V.O: I hate to say it, but even though I'm glad to see musicians making a living...I kinda wish music in places I like to unwind and eat and drink was a little more...rare.

LEA Ad (and Book Plug)

BOSSA ELEVATOR MUSIC

V.O: But speaking of unwinding--*and* Eric Stone--here's a quick message that actually features a Trop Rock tune by Eric. Who knew?

LATS & ATTS COMMERCIAL

ERIC STONE (SINGS): *Smooth seas and blue skies, palm trees and sunshine...*
[FADES UNDER]

V.O: Bob...had a problem. You see, Bob had a magazine. And then Bob ran into some trouble and lost his magazine *Latitudes & Attitudes*.

[MUSIC UP]

But guess what? America's number one boating lifestyle magazine is back again...

...as Latitudes & Attitudes.

ERIC STONE (SINGS): *Latitudes & Attitudes will help me find my way...*

V.O: Check it out today at LatsAtts dot com.

ERIC STONE (SINGS): *...with my loving cup, a little salt and a lick of lime.... [FADE OUT]*

V.O.: Yeah. So that's pretty much the story. The magazine that I got into cruising with, *Latitudes & Attitudes*, transformed into *Cruising Outpost* after Bob Bitchin got screwed over by a very unscrupulous fellow who shut down their offices and moved to South America. Or something like that.

But now they're back as *Latitudes & Attitudes*, and we are super happy about that.

SFX; STUDIO AUDIENCE APPLAUSE

Also don't forget...as a special Thank You, you'll be able to

get the BOOK How Not To Sail for FREE very soon...so be sure you're subscribed to the podcast--which is also free--and if ya don't know how, just go to HowNotToSail dot com, and you can miss the subscribe buttons.

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It's almost as good as a free beer.

SFX: CROWD "AHHHHHHHHH!"

Trop Rock

V.O:

Which brings us back to the Tampa Tap Room and the Parrothead party, where Eric is *semi*-patiently humoring the organizer of the party while thinking about having lost his lady, his upcoming commute to Miami and the BVI, where he's going to actually be the marquis performer or his own music--and waiting on me to produce a vodka tonic in a glass much too small for this situation.

ERIC STONE:

No, I think what happened is I ordered a vodka soda, and you [cut] brought me a vodka tonic.

BRADFORD: And it was in a...like a half-ass glass.

ERIC STONE: Yeah, it was a short glass. Yes, you're definitely not gonna be my handler.

V.O: So we do what any sailors and musicians would do in this situation...we drink. Eric and I drink because we're jaded musicians and Eric's had a rough time, and I'm getting ready to sail into the unknown. And Brian, well, because he's completely *un*-jaded, and having a great time.

BRIAN WATSON: Escapism. It is absolutely about escapism. You can go to a Buffett concert or any concert that is along that genre of Trop Rock walk in and leave your troubles your baggage and then everybody's got baggage some of it doesn't fit in the overhead, but they have baggage that...

You can leave at the door go in and forget about all your worries and think about life in a fun way and then pick up your baggage on the way out.

V.O: I don't know how much baggage Brian has, but he's been to a LOT of Trop Rock performances.

BRIAN WATSON: ~~So. Then the events I go to every year that are Trop Rock related and some of them are more parrothead, but others most of them have now truly become about the artist and the music that we call Trop Rock.~~ There's an event that every year.

It's in New Orleans. It's Martin Luther King weekend. It's called party Gras. I was king of Party Gras 2014. I met my wife on a pub crawl on Bourbon Street.

BRIAN WATSON: I've gone to Meeting of the Minds in Key West every year. I did at 17 or 16 years straight and then I met my wife.

So therefore that got cut back a little bit because the liver will not take five days three times a year.

BRIAN WATSON: So there's...there's Stars on the Water. There's Fins To The West. There is pretty much something every year.

A lot of them will do cruises and it's great because you get that intimate moment and times with the artist. And the Trop Rock artists are not standoffish. They want...they will have conversations.

V.O: Indeed they will. Brian's become friends with a number of Trop Rock artists, including Eric Stone and Mike Nash...

Mike Nash and the Two Tunes

MIKE NASH: I'm Mike Nash and lead singer for Southern Drawl band. [cut]
We just are here in town this weekend because we played
an event called Music On The Bay, which is a really big one
every year here in Tampa.

V.O: And where else would I run into Mike, but just a hundred feet
up my dock, as he's visiting with Brian.

MIKE NASH: Every time we're in Tampa touring through, you know, I try to
get get a day out on the water with Brian and Kathy and
everybody, you know, just get inspired get away from
everything for little bit.

V.O: And here's where this whole Trop Rock world starts to
collide. It turns out that, at Brian's behest, both Eric Stone
and Mike Nash have written the same song.

V.O: Okay, well, not exactly. Here's how Brian explains it.

BRIAN WATSON: There was a day I was sitting on the beach here in Florida,
sun was setting, boat was heading south and I said there
goes a boat gone with the wind.

BRIAN WATSON: Picked up the phone called my best friend musician Jerry
Diaz [cut] and said you need to write this song. He didn't
write it. I ran into Eric Stone while I was sailing around the
Virgin Islands and said Eric write this song. He did write it,
but he wrote it about me buying my boat in the Virgin
Islands, and now I'm sailing and I'm Gone with the Wind.

MUSIC: ERIC STONE, "GONE WITH THE WIND" (PART ABOUT BRIAN BUYING THE BOAT)...FADE UNDER:

V.O: So you'd think that's a good thing, right? A custom song written for you and your boat by a well-known artist.

ERIC STONE, "GONE WITH THE WIND" (CHORUS), THEN QUICK DUCK?

BRIAN WATSON: Fast forward a couple years, have my friend Mike Nash out on the boat telling him about Eric Stone writing this version of Gone With the Wind, and it wasn't the way I would have written it. I would have put a little more, you know storyline to it.

BRIAN WATSON: So Mike not realizing--and we'd been drinking--that that was the story behind the song really, Went out and wrote his own version of Gone With the Wind.

MUSIC: MIKE NASH, "GONE WITH THE WIND"

MIKE NASH: Actually I did not realize that that Eric had written the song already.

I thought he was challenging me to write a new song and so, you know, I just thought was a great idea Gone With the Wind, you know sell--what we all want to do, sell off everything jump on the sailboat and head off on the horizon...

PLAY CHORUS

Tech helps indy musicians

V.O: So that's two songs from one idea, pitched by one fan to three different artists who he has a personal relationship with. This interconnectedness is one thing that makes the Trop Rock community unique.

MIKE NASH: It has opened the world up to me that I never would've experienced because because of these people around the country that let them know they have these events on it. So it enables guys like us without record deals and all that stuff to go and tour...

REPLACE NEXT PARA. WITH SOMETHING NOT
CRAPPY...

V.O: ~~But as I mentioned in the Eric Stone chapter of the book, possibly the most important factor in the growth of Trop Rock is inexpensive recording gear and the DIY distribution of the~~

internet.

V.O: Tracks from Zac Brown Band and Kenny Chesney may feature a full band in a slick Nashville or Atlanta studio, but many popular Trop Rock songs are recorded with bare bones production--either using programmed backing tracks or straight-up acoustic guitar and vocals...sometimes recorded at live shows.

V.O: Heck, Eric even put up a video of me and him playing his song *Latitudes & Attitudes* at his place, which you can see in the show notes. You're welcome.

MUSIC: LATS AND ATTS FROM ERIC'S PLACE,
START FROM DEDICATION TO L&A(?) THEN DUCK
UNDER NEXT, DON'T COMPLETELY FADE (OR
DON'T DUCK?) UNTIL MELODICA ENTRANCE

Wrap-up

V.O: But that reminds me, I have a boat show to get to. And I'll just represent to you that the hangover from The Tap Room was large, but that I recovered. And that Eric did make it to Miami and to the BVI, and eventually met a new very special lady. And that I set out on my journey and finally reached Marathon, and the last marina on my way to Miami.

MUSIC SLOWLY FADE IN? "EVERYBODY WANTS
TO BE JIMMY BUFFET"

V.O: And as I walk along the dock in the late afternoon on my way to the bar and the salt water pool, I still may be grumpy about hearing cover music all the time in bars...but the feel-good music of the Trop-Rockers is starting to grow on me.

V.O: We could all certainly do worse than to have a good time.

MUSIC UP FOR A BIT...THEN FADE AND BRING IN
DRUNKEN SAILOR THEME?