

With six albums in the last eight years, Cru is slated to release his *Tas Cru Band LIVE* in 2024. This album showcases his 2024 tour band performing his fan's top-ten requested songs. To no surprise, these fan-fed songs are all rough and tumble. Gone are the frills of a studio album. The band just gives each song a best go, kicking down the fences - cage-free – loose, loud and proud! These songs and this very band will be featured on his upcoming Florida run this March.

Cru is a well-seasoned performer and entertainer. He knows how to read an audience. By intuition, Cru adjusts his sets on the fly to make sure he reaches them. While this is a skill acquired from years of performing, having a repertoire of well over 100 original songs to draw on certainly gives him a leg up on most others.

Indeed, above all else Tas Cru is a songwriter. “He is a real writer,” says Bruce Iglauer – owner/producer of the renowned Alligator Records. High praise comes from Downbeat magazine, describing Cru as one of the most unique of roots musicians plying his trade today; “With fresh melodies and his trademark well-crafted lyrics, Cru has the ability to cast a magical hook.” According to Tas, himself, “I insist that words serve more than to treat the listener like a hitch-hiker desperate to reach the guitar solo!” Tas Cru – always original and where the songs matter, lyrics speak, and melodies thrive!

Cru is most known as a blues artist but his songs show that he is truly a roots music eclectic who refuses to be bound to any one genre. Based out of Central New York he performs in multiple formats ranging from a six-piece backing band to solo acoustic. He sings and plays a wide variety of guitars - at home on either electric, acoustic, resonator or cigar box and is known to sprinkle in a bit of harmonica from time to time. Tas made his mark in the blues world as the founder and host of his *Tas Cru Annual Rum Boogie Jam (2008 – 2023)* at the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Today, Tas tours extensively throughout the US and international touring includes Europe and Canada.

He has recorded with numerous blues contemporaries including Mike Zito, Anne Harris, Anthony Terry (saxophone), and keyboardists Bruce Katz, Victor Wainwright and Anthony Geraci. 2023's *Riffin' The Blue* continues to enjoy wide international airplay. Praise for the album includes: “A gem that drives right to the heart of the blues” (Living Blues), “A real winner here, this is blues done up right” (Blues Blast Magazine). Cru was honored with his first Blues Foundation Blues Music Award nomination in 2018 for *Simmered & Stewed*. That album and the two that followed (*Memphis Song & Drive On*) were all recipients of New York's Syracuse Area Music Awards for best blues recordings. His 2021 album, *Broke Down Busted Up* was nominated by Blues Blast Magazine (Best Acoustic Blues Album) and the Independent Blues Awards (Modern Roots Album, Modern Roots Artist and Content Creator Award).

In his early bands, Tas was introduced to the great Sun Records sound and the country blues that later served as a counterpoint to the rock-blues he idolized as did so many young aspiring guitar players of his time. Cru grew up in a very musical and generally unquirky family (except for him). Unlike his talented older brother and sisters, he did not pursue music in school. A brief attempt to play the trombone abruptly ended after being kicked by his middle school music teacher, whose name actually was A (Arden) Sharpe! Tas says he deserved it. Instead, Cru explored and developed his talent by taking up with a rougher crowd of older, self-taught

musicians where he was introduced to the Sun sound and Chess legends like Howling Wolf and Muddy Waters. His first real foray into the blues came after leaving the US Navy when he was asked to join a band formed by a former shipmate. Delray Streeter was rural Arkansas-raised and a performer with boundless bravado and attitude albeit with limited singing and harmonica skills. That partnership, though short-lived proved to be very influential as Streeter's repertoire leaned toward older, rough-hewn blues that certainly informed Cru's songwriting years later. After stints with several working bands, Cru has dedicated himself to writing, recording and performing his own music for the past two decades. Cru's performances showcase his original music almost exclusively.

Tas is a Delaney Guitars (Austin TX) endorsed artist and is signed to Subcat Records, Syracuse NY. Tas Cru is a BMI artist and is represented by Anne Bello Productions and in Europe by Martin Scheschonka (Electric Blues Bash).