

MONDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2004

THE HOUSE WAS ROCKIN'



When we posted this photo last week of Brian jamming with the late Stevie Ray Vaughan and his band "Double Trouble", we received a lot of email from people asking for Brian to share his memories of that evening. Brian was more than happy to do so.

Stray Cats on tour with Double Trouble

The date: July 25, 1989

The city: Memphis Tennessee

The venue: Mud Island

In Brian's words:

That photo was taken on a night when we (Stray Cats) were opening for Stevie Ray on a summer tour. I was watching the show from the side of the stage...he was brilliant as usual! I was standing there, when he suddenly called me up to play. Funny thing was that I didn't have my glasses or contact lenses in so, I really couldn't see that well. (laughing) He actually had to grab my hand and pull me up on stage with him. I remember thinking, this is great, I'm finally going to be able to hear what this amazing guitar sounds like!

He had amps all over the place! He hands me his Strat and just kind of stood there watching me. I think we did "The House Is Rockin". The weirdest thing was that it sounded just like my guitar! It was so strange. When I played his Strat through all those amps, it sounded just like me, playing my Gretsch through a Fender Bassman, same volume, everything. So it just kind of proved a point to me, if I play Stevie Ray's Strat through his wall of amps and he makes it sound so different....it's in your hands, the sound comes from you! That's what really got me, it was his gear and it sounded nothing like him.

Stevie Ray was a great guy. He would get barbecue or his favorite foods flown in and he'd invite me back to have a meal with him. He was battling some demons at the time, like we all do, but he was a brilliant guitar player and I love listening to him.