

## Diamond Dave Hosley Broadens his Lamorinda Horizons

By Jean Follmer



Diamond Dave Hosley tips his hat during Big & Rich's "Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy)"

Photo Jean Follmer

After 21 years of rocking the house at Petar's in Lafayette, "Diamond" Dave Hosley is sharing his talent with other Lamorinda venues. A first class entertainer equipped with a keyboard and an incredible voice, Dave cranks out covers that range from Frank Sinatra to 50 Cent and from Divo to Michael Jackson to Lynyrd Skynyrd. His versatility is beyond impressive and it enables him to appeal to a crowd that ranges from St. Mary's students to senior citizens and everything in between. When he senses the younger crowd is looking for a boost, he'll pump them up with Justin Timberlake or Nelly's "Hot in Herre" and then bring it back down with an amazing Neil Diamond cover or Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl". Are you longing to dance to Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean"? Not a problem, Dave even has the black hat and curly wig to get your rusty moonwalk going again. Dave recently debuted at The Orinda

House to a crowd full of groupies and first timers. Orinda House owner, Ron Bonner, was thrilled with Diamond Dave's performances saying "They went very well. Dave did a spectacular job and we hope to bring him back." Dave was also pleased, saying "I love the Orinda House venue and I really like Ron." Dave also recently played at Joe's and The Roundup in Lafayette and both venues were "mobbed when I was there".

Andrew MacIver of Chicago had a chance to take in a Diamond Dave show while visiting Lafayette relatives. On the way out, MacIver said "It was a top notch performance - there's nothing like it in Chicago. Dave is underexposed, he's a true gem. He's someone every guy in a boring office job should aspire to be." Lafayette resident Tim McNamara agreed, saying "I love it when he sings" his varied selections "because his vocal range is simply astounding." Amy Delong-Martin of Lafayette con-

firmed the accolades by saying "Diamond Dave is one of our local tourist attractions. Whenever a friend from out of town comes to visit, I want to take them to see him because he's very entertaining!"

Hosley is a Connecticut native and moved to the Bay Area when he was 30. As a kid, he played the drums in "all the school bands, concert band, marching band, etc." He also played the piano for awhile. As college approached, he decided to attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston because "music was my best thing in school, it was my forte. I decided to stick with music because I liked it." Dave says successful drummers are able to find a groove in the music they're playing and it takes experience to get it. After a few semesters at Berklee, "I decided to get on the road to get that experience." Dave "toured with various bands up and down the eastern seaboard." During that time "I started to sing backup and then lead and that's where I found my voice." After moving to the Bay Area, he decided he wanted to sing and play piano on his own. Dave would play hotels as a solo act early in the evening and "then walk to a nearby club to play drums in my rock band." When he was ready to go out on his own, he landed in Lafayette and started playing at Petar's. Look for Diamond Dave to return to his regular Wednesday-Saturday schedule at Petar's in coming weeks. There is no need to leave Lamorinda in search of great nightlife!