

ROD PICOTT

Rod Picott is the songs he sings. Since before Woody Guthrie songwriters have soaked their public image in sepia tones singing about the working life but Picott bears the scars of actually living that blue-collar life. **Rod Picott's** songs are inhabited by sheetrock hangers, drinkers, circus hands, boxers and working girls and he sings about his characters with intimacy. Listening to a **Rod Picott** album you can smell the gasoline on a mechanic's hands and the perfume of lovers in dark corners.

The son of a welder and former Marine, **Picott** grew up in the small mill town of South Berwick, Maine. His father's record collection spanned Ray Charles to John Philip Sousa and James Brown. His older brother introduced him to the punk poetry of Lou Reed and Patti Smith. The tall, wiry framed **Picott** worked as a sheetrock worker out of high school until he released his first cd, *Tiger Tom Dixon's Blues* in 2000.

In the singer-songwriter and Americana world Ray Wylie Hubbard, Slaid Cleaves, Fred Eaglesmith have been proclaimed some the best writers working and have all recorded songs written or co-written by **Rod Picott**.

Picott's "Broke Down" released on Rounder Records by co-writer and artist Slaid Cleaves became the most played song on Americana radio for four years in a row and was awarded the song of the year award at the Austin Music Awards. In 2010 *"Broke Down"* found new life in the soundtrack to the Brian Koppelman written and directed film *Solitary Man* starring Michael Douglas. In that same year **Picott's** song *"Circus Girl"* was featured in the PBS documentary "Circus". **Rod Picott's** songs have been placed in many television shows in the U.S. and Canada.

Rod Picott has released nine solo albums, one live album and one album with former duo partner Amanda Shires all to excellent reviews and extensive touring. Many of the albums were chosen by critics in Year-End Best-Of lists. **Picott** has been featured in No Depression Magazine, on BBC 2 Radio London, Sirius/XM Radio, Q Magazine, Maverick magazine, Mojo (U.K.) and Uncut (U.K.) and the Rolling Stone Country website.

Picott has produced a CD for Rounder Records, toured as opening act for Alison Krauss and Union Station, and played the prestigious Shrewsbury Folk and Maverick festivals in England – along with Take Root & Blue Highways Festivals in Holland. **Rod Picott** is lauded for his narrative and melodic songwriting, passionate delivery and darkly humorous onstage storytelling. He plays as many as 200 dates a year.

Rod Picott is also a published author with two poetry collections *God In His Slippers* and *Murmuration* (Mezcalita Press). His book of short stories titled *Out Past The Wires* is published by Working Title Farm.

Rod Picott's writing:

"Life-loving poems that tell you what you need to know."

– Nicholson Baker, best-selling author of *The Anthologist*

"A skilled and honed storyteller who's slow-burning prose works like a series of brutal hits to the body that doesn't let up."

– Brian Panowich best-selling author of *Bull Mountain*

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