



Rock 'n' Roy

Guitarist Buchanan wants to make the classic album

By CHRIS COBBS
Sentinel Staff Writer

He provided early inspiration for Robbie Robertson of The Band. He was once invited to join the Rolling Stones as Brian Jones' replacement. He has been called the world's best unknown guitarist.

"Been in the business since I was 9," says Roy Buchanan, now 37. "Seen guys with the No. 1 record. I've headlined over guys with the No. 1 record. I've forgotten who they are, but I'm still working."

Buchanan, takes no special notice of what is said about him. Words don't move him. Music does.

"I'd like to record the classic rock 'n' roll album," says the fellow who admits to being the first white blues cat.

"I'm older than most guys in the business. I remember rock as it was in the beginning. I'd like to play every type of rock 'n' roll I've had in my head through the years."

Buchanan has a reputation for choosing his words carefully. He is not an expansive interview. But he seemed to enjoy talking about the project in his head.

"I'd like to take six months, or even a year, to put down what I felt like," he said. "I'd like to stay with it 'till I was completely satisfied."

"Wouldn't care if anybody liked it as long as I was satisfied myself."

It seems a contradiction in terms to talk about making the classic rock 'n' roll album and not caring if anyone appreciated it. But that's Buchanan.

This is a man who makes no concession to what is merely commercial. This is a man who never plays a song the same way twice, no matter the response to it the first time.

Buchanan has recently released a new album entitled "You're Not Alone." He says it was one of the simplest, quickest albums he ever recorded.

"I knew exactly what sound I wanted when I went into the studio," he explained. "I try to make every album different, I try not to make anything sound the same."

"I was really happy with the engineering on this record, but I have to admit it took me awhile to get used to the album, to the simpler sound."

Buchanan takes no special pleasure from being on the road, but he doesn't have a defeatist attitude, either. "Music is supposed to be fun," he said. "Music should come from the heart. If you play night after night, it can become work. So I go out to party, have a good time when I perform."

"I stop when it becomes work."

When he was asked, nearly a decade ago, to join the Rolling Stones, Buchanan declined on the grounds that learning the Stones' repertoire would have been too hard



Roy Buchanan
Performs two shows Monday

for him. Maybe he was joking. Maybe not.

"I just like to play it as it comes," he says. "I never premeditate what I'm going to play."

Roy Buchanan, along with John McLaughlin, will appear Monday at the Great Southern Music Hall, 46 N. Orange Ave. Shows will be scheduled at 8 and 11 p.m. Tickets are available at \$6 each at all local outlets.

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