

Bryan Lee



Minnesota Lottery Stage • Friday 1:25 p.m.

Born in Two Rivers, Wisconsin and completely blind by the age of eight, Bryan Lee turned to the guitar and the sounds of Elmore James, Muddy Waters, Albert King and Albert Collins. Bryan remembers thinking that he didn't understand the music, but he knew it was where he wanted to be. Now years later, Bryan understands.

"When I have problems in life, I need to pick up my guitar and play."

Bryan played his way from Wisconsin across the Northwest until in 1982 Lee headed south to New Orleans and landed a gig at the Old Absinthe House in the heart of the French Quarter. For 15 years, he made a name for himself in the Big Easy, playing five nights a week at the Old Absinthe House Bar as the house band. He has managed to acquire fans all over the world. "Live At The Old Absinthe House" was # 3 on the international Blues Charts in 1998. Lee has also had the opportunity to play with some of the best. Among those he's met and jammed with at "The A Bar" are Eric Clapton, Sting, Cyndi Lauper, Little Richard, Jimmy Page and Kenny Wayne Sheppard. In fact, Kenny Wayne performed in front of his first live audience at the age of 13 with Bryan and Kenny credits Bryan as being his "godfather in the blues."

Since the closing of the Old Absinthe House Bar, Lee has hit the road again. And even in his mid-50's he's delighted to find out how much younger crowds appreciate his music. "We take no prisoners. We have to just totally kill. We make a statement, that's the bottom line." While some people look for a cure for the blues, Bryan knows the truth; for him, playing the blues is the surest cure there is.