

BFTS

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there's not as many of them and all of them are good, most of them. I'm looking to start a band here. I'm looking to make some friends. I've really enjoyed everybody that I've met in Asheville but I've yet to make any bonds, you know? Coming back here is very important to me, so I'm trying to have people to come back to when I leave, you know?"

Yeah, yeah, for sure.

"Because I definitely feel like home here and I would just like it to be more of a home base as far as connections go."

That's awesome. So, who would you describe your musical influences as being?

"I guess like in middle school and high school I liked psychedelic rock and stuff. But I would say Blind Willie McTell, Peg Leg Howell, Big Bill Broonzy, Jelly Roll Morton, you know, like all the greats."

Blind Boy Fuller?

"Yeah, Blind Boy Fuller, you know, I listen to all that stuff. I've been listening to all that stuff since I got my heart broken the first time."

Yeah, blues are good to help with that.

"You know, it helped me out, as weird as it sounds. Real sad music helped me out of depression. It was like, 'Wow, I'm real sad, too. I should sing this shit.'"

You channeled it in a productive way.

"Yeah and now I sing sad songs



with a smile on my face or whatever."

So if you were to describe in particular one thing that comes to mind when you hear, 'What do you like about Asheville and what do you dislike about Asheville so far?' what would you say?

"I guess it's one and the same for me. I love travelers, right? But I also hate travelers. So, I guess, travelers are cool unless they're not. The music is amazing. The beer is cheap and good. I mean, it's kind of like a perfect place for somebody like me. Also, it's like New Orleans, but it's mellow and you don't have to deal with as much violence, drunken people. The home bums are a little bit much sometimes, but,

you know, everybody needs help and shit, one way or another, everybody needs to be given that time of day to talk to."

**MIKEY THE FIDDLER MAN,
MUSICIAN, ORIGINALLY FROM
MADISON COUNTY**

What inspires you creatively, would you say?

"A little bit of everything."

That's good, yeah, kind of like a combination, like a patchwork of things.

"Oh well, yeah, there's all kinds of things that are very conducive to inspiration. You never know what's going to hit you."

Yeah, that's very true. That's

very true. So what's one thing you like about Asheville and dislike about Asheville?

"I like Asheville. Asheville's a friendly town. It's got the most beautiful women in the world. It's a small town but it's got a big town feel, all that stuff that you've heard from everybody else."

Yeah. That's true. That's true. "Anything goes, tolerant town."

Yeah, yeah, it definitely is. It's very tolerant and chill. So if you were to describe your life motto, if you have one, what would you say it would be?

"Git 'er done."