

# Austin City Limits To Feature Johnny Paycheck

Powerhouse Johnny Paycheck sings "Take This Job and Shove It" and "Me and the I.R.S." accompanied by the West Texas Music Company in Austin City Limits on the PBS network Saturday, April 12 at 5 p.m. on Channel 49. Following his energized performance, polar opposite Billy Joe Shaver delivers a set of easy, rolling rhythms and poignant lyrics in his captivating songs.

Paycheck—an almost too appropriate name—has emerged in the second round of his rough and tumble music career as balladeer of the workingman. "Take This Job..." has fueled many strikes and walk-outs and generated some prize anecdotes since its release. Johnny calls the song "tension reliever." By the way, Johnny took his name from a little-known prizefighter whom he admired, long before the song was written by David Allan Coe.

One of the newest in C&W's "outlaw" family, Paycheck has the unfortunate background and experience to have earned the title. He's bounced back from extreme hard times, including a couple of stints in jail, to establish himself as a gentle balladeer as well as a hard-drivin' honky-tonker.

His well-paced set includes a variety of country moods ranging from the high-stepping "I'm the Only Hell My Mama Ever Raised" to the pure twangy honky-tonk pair "Ragged But Right-You're Still On My Mind," sizzlin' country rocker "Trials and Tribulations" and country-fied funky "Friend, Lover, Wife."

At the outset of his musical career, Billy Joe Shaver had to pay a friend to play his songs because he didn't know how to play the guitar. Since that time he has both

mastered the guitar and become a respected songwriter, recorded by the likes of Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings, Tom T. Hall, Jerry Jeff Walker, the Allman Brothers, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Elvis Presley.

Originally from Corsicana, Texas, Billy Joe left the state in 1965 with the intention of heading west. When he didn't get a ride standing on that side of the road, he crossed over and headed east instead. When Billy Joe hit Nashville in a cantaloupe truck over ten years ago, he could hardly have guessed that one of his songs would be the first song Kris Kristofferson would record by another writer.

Billy Joe established himself as a gutsy singer as well as a consistent songwriter and has released three well-crafted albums which clarify the respect he has garnered among fellow musicians. His clean-faced, barnyard charm on stage is reminiscent of a bashful cowboy transplanted from an old Tom Mix movie. His presence is fully as engaging as his music is fine.

Billy Joe mixes a touch of rock-a-billy with pure honky-tonk into just plain good songs like "Black Rose," "Willie the Wandering Gypsy and Me," and "Honky-Tonk Heroes." His son, Eddie, is featured on lead guitar turning some amazing licks on "Ride Me Down Easy" and "Sweet Mama."

Austin City Limits is a production of the Southwest Texas Public Broadcasting Council and is distributed nationally by the Public Broadcasting Service.

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