

music blog - The RockIt Room, San Francisco

By Tiki Houseman, 20-July-2008

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I managed to pull myself out of my flat and go to the [RockIt Room](#)¹ to see [Todd Shipley's band](#)² (and believe me, it would take a band like Todd's to pull me out last night because I wasn't feeling too well).

The last time I saw Todd (with Dave G on bass and GG on drums), was at the Peacock Lounge in the Haight. I couldn't really hear Todd's voice too well, but the RockIt room has a professional sound man, so I could really hear everyone -- joy!

I have a few favourites --which, unfortunately, are not on his MS page. He's coming out with a CD (soon, I hope). Todd describes his music as country, rockabilly and swing -- it is in a very good way.

(Sometimes people describes their musical style as something and you're a little shocked when you hear because it doesn't align with your expectations. This is no fault of the artist - it's very difficult to be objective enough to describe yourself because we have blinders or whatever in our way. I struggle with my own classification and people have describe my style as punky, folky, bluesy or like Colexico -- not really sure. The POINT IS: I think that if someone is right about their classification, then they really are focused and have a good sense of where they are in their music, and I think Todd has a very good sense of himself and where he fits in his music.) Sorry for the rather long digression.

Todd has a lot of charisma, which certainly helps the great writing. I also like watching [GG](#) on the drums and Dave G on bass (plays with a pick!). GG is multi-talented -- plays drums, violin, guitar, mandolin and baseball (I threw that in because I like to point out that musicians do occassionally stray from their instruments and recording and venture out to do things "normal" people do. I think sometimes that we thrive on little sleep).

[Dave G](#)³ is also multi-talented -- mostly I see/hear him on bass, but Dave is one of my favorite songwriters. His lyrics are top notch and to me, whether I hear him sing his own songs or sing backup, he seems to always pour his heart into the songs. Unlike some guitarists who double on bass, his bass playing doesn't get in the way of the guitar or the songs -- he can hold the pocket.

I only stayed for one song of [Big Lion](#)⁴, who Todd opened for. I was anxious to get home

¹ RockIt Room, San Francisco

² Todd Shipley – <http://www.myspace.com/toddshipley> -and- <http://www.toddshipley.com>

³ Dave G – <http://www.myspace.com/davegursommusic>

⁴ Big Lion – <http://www.biglionband.com>

and rest again. I took the 38 on Geary to the Rokit Room, and I was going to take it back. But after waiting on the corner of 5th and Geary for 30 minutes with a perceived mosh pit of bus riders, I treated myself to a cab ride home, probably because I had been having poor luck with Muni yesterday: while waiting for the 12 near the Ferry Building, the bus decided to drive on the far left lane of the Embarcadero, almost missing me entirely! I had to wave him down and cross two lanes of busy traffic. Definitely not cricket. On the ride to the Rokit Room, the bus decided to stop a half a block away from the bus stop, and then started moving when this old man had not finished getting off the bus -- what is wrong with their drivers?