

# PRESS RELEASE

12/20/2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Rick Hinterthuer: 501-940-0872; [rickhint@gmail.com](mailto:rickhint@gmail.com)

## **World Class Zydeco/Blues Band to Play Buffalo River Birthday Bash March 12, 2017 (Sunday) - at George's Majestic Lounge**

New Orleans music icon Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes and the Louisiana Sunspots, his world-class 6-piece band, will be performing at George's Majestic Lounge at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> in a special benefit concert celebrating the 45<sup>th</sup> birthday of our nation's first national river – the Buffalo River.

Doors open at 6 p.m. There is a \$15 entry fee at the door. Net proceeds and other donations will go to assist the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) in their mission to preserve and protect the Buffalo River now and for future generations.

Sunpie, originally from Benton, Arkansas, has a special connection with the Buffalo River. He served as a Buffalo National River Park naturalist for 4 years and as a Ranger for the National Park Service for 30 years while also pursuing his musical career.

Sunpie recently completed a 58 city tour spanning 34 countries, playing in the bands of both Paul Simon and Sting in their "Paul Simon and Sting Together" tour. Along with his musical group, he has traveled worldwide playing festivals with his unique style of what he calls Afro-Louisiana music incorporating blues, zydeco, gospel, Caribbean and African influenced rhythms and melodies. He is a multi-instrumentalist, master accordion and harmonica player, and also plays piano, rubboard, talking drum, and dejembe. His sound is known as Bouje Bouje music meaning "music that moves" and is Louisiana music at its best. Sunpie has performed for over 20 years at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and shared the stage at festivals with artists from across the globe including Willie Nelson, BB King, Dr. John, The Neville Brothers, Willie Dixon and Phish. He has recorded 6 critically acclaimed CDs with his compositions currently featured in 16 Hollywood film productions.

Hope to see you there. Let's celebrate!

## Additional Information on Sunpie and the Louisiana Sunspots

**Bruce “Sunpie” Barnes** is a veteran New Orleans musician, former park ranger with the National Park Service (30 years), actor, photographer, book author, former high school biology teacher, former college football All-American (Henderson State University), and former NFL player (Kansas City Chiefs). Sunpie learned accordion from some of the best Zydeco pioneers in Louisiana, including Fernest Arceneaux, John Delafosse, and Clayton Sampy.

In addition to his musical work, film acting has also been an important part of his busy career and he has appeared in such Hollywood productions as Point of No Return, Deja Vu, Under Cover Blues, Jonah Hex, Treme, The Big Easy, Skeleton Key, Heartless, The Gates Of Silence and Odd Girl Out.

Sunpie is deeply involved in New Orleans parade culture and he has co-authored several books including the 2015 critically acclaimed book “Talk That Music Talk” - Passing On Brass Band Music In New Orleans “The Traditional Way”. Over 300 of Sunpie’s photographs are featured in this book.

He is the Big Chief of the North Side Skull and Bone Gang, one of the oldest existing Black Carnival groups in New Orleans. Sunpie is also a active member of the secondline parading organization, Black Men of Labor Social Aid and Pleasure Club.

**The Louisiana Sunspots** feature some of the best musicians in Louisiana. The Drummer, Leroy Etienne played with Sherman Robinson and the bass player, Mike Harris played with Walter “Wolfman” Washington. Both bands were invited to perform at the White House. Eric Lucero played trumpet in many popular bands including the Iguanas and Better Than Ezra. Sunpie’s son Aurelien currently plays with the New Breed Brass. His guitarist Matt Hampsey is a graduate of UNO’s prestigious Jazz program.

### **Hyperlinks:**

- PhotoArchives [https://images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;\\_ylt=A86.J7z.m0IYemEAKAUnnIIQ;\\_ylu=X3oDMTEyZDVnc3VxBGNvbG8DZ3ExBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDQjI2OTFfMQRzZWMDc2M-?p=Sunpie+and+Louisiana+Sunspots+Photo+Archives&fr=yhs-mozilla-001&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001](https://images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;_ylt=A86.J7z.m0IYemEAKAUnnIIQ;_ylu=X3oDMTEyZDVnc3VxBGNvbG8DZ3ExBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDQjI2OTFfMQRzZWMDc2M-?p=Sunpie+and+Louisiana+Sunspots+Photo+Archives&fr=yhs-mozilla-001&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001)
- Whiteoak Productions – Bio: <http://www.whiteoakproductions.com/sunpiebarnes.html>
- All Music - Bio, Discography: <http://www.allmusic.com/artist/bruce-sunpie-barnes-mn0002299031>
- Festival Video (Zydeco): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H1028YI9VI>
- Festival Video (Blues) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGWJdmsCxMQ>
- Swing Video from 2016 Bloomington Blues and Boogie Woogie Festival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IXAekrc4L0>
- American Blues (Sunpie on Piano): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5aFVUsYwyo>
- Off-Beat Magazine new album review – Island Man: <http://www.offbeat.com/music/sunpie-and-the-louisiana-sunspots-island-man-bfr/>
- Blues in Cheginy 2012 Festival interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4OxlodBzpQ>
- Sunpie Barnes and Rockin Dopsie Jr. – Scratch my back (harmonica) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjZdD4kdYBQ>
- Wetland Blues Interview: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0Z\\_E1tyjl8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0Z_E1tyjl8)
- Augusta Heritage Center (Sunpie) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65ogwv3h4lw>