

# Dan Patlansky

**While the name Dan Patlansky probably hasn't crossed your path before, that's all likely to change. A South African with a penchant for gutsy Blues Rock, Patlansky found himself hand picked by Bruce Springsteen himself to open for 'The Boss' in Johannesburg. If that wasn't enough, Patlansky's new album 'Dear Silence Thieves' was voted the number one Blues Rock album of 2014 by the Blues Rock Review USA, topping a list that also included Joe Bonamassa, Rival Sons and Philip Sayce. With the album gaining some traction in the US and Europe, James Gaden was keen to learn more...**

**You're a new name to me, despite the fact that your press release states this is actually your seventh album.**

It is, but bear in mind the other six were only released in South Africa, so it's six previous albums on a much smaller scale! (laughs)

**Is Blues Rock something that is popular in South Africa?**

It's a niche market, which I think is the case in most places, but because of our small population, it's really niche if you know what I mean. But in that niche is a great, loyal following and it really has grown over the last ten years. I had a lot of people on their sixties coming to see me when I started but there seems to have been a revival, not just here but all over the world, where younger kids are coming to see a modern take on the Blues.

**What started you on the Blues?**

It was my parents. My father was a big fan of the classic Blues, my mum was into Classic Rock. That was all I grew up listening to. When I decided to pick up a guitar, the most natural form of music to play was Blues Rock. It was a musical family, not in terms of playing, but in terms of being surrounded by the sound, so it's always been a big part of my life.

**The new album seems to have been a breakthrough for you, as you were voted as having the 'Best Blues Rock Album' in the Blues Rock Review in the USA.**

That was amazing. I would have been happy just making the list, with the other names that were on there. It was a big shock when I found I was number one, but a welcome shock! That really sparked interest in myself and the album, especially in the UK, it got me hooked up with Peter Noble's PR company which has made a massive difference. I have played the UK before but on a much smaller scale and it makes a real difference having the right people behind you.

**Your other big achievement was you were hand picked to support Bruce Springsteen – did**

**that happen before or after your Blues Rock Review?**

That was before, it happened in February last year, we had just finished recording the album but it hadn't been released yet. To open for Springsteen was a humbling experience. There was close to 70,000 people in the stadium, and if that wasn't intimidating enough, Bruce Springsteen watched my entire set from the side of the stage! It was a fantastic thing and exposed my music, and the Blues, to a lot of people that probably wouldn't have come to one of my shows.

**Did you get to talk to him?**

I did, for about five minutes. I didn't see him beforehand, but as I came off the stage, he was waiting for us. I got five minutes to talk to him and he was fantastic, so down to earth and humble.

**Tell me the story behind the album's title.**

In 2013, I was in Germany supporting Everlast. He's been doing a stripped down, acoustic thing, just him, a couple of guitars and a piano player. I did my set and Everlast came on stage. During the third song, the whole audience were dead quiet except for these two guys at the back who were having a really loud conversation. Everlast lost his mind! It was crazy. He just stopped in the middle of the song and said to the guys they had to shut up or get out... only he said it with much fouler language than that. (laughs) The guys started arguing with him from the audience, and it went on for nearly 20 minutes while 900 other people stood there awkwardly. (laughs). Eventually Everlast put his guitar down and dived off the stage, ready to punch these guys. That might be a bit overboard, but I understood his point – people have paid to listen to the music and these guys were spoiling that. It inspired me and I called the new album 'Dear Silence Thieves'. I tell that story at all my shows, hoping to educate those who don't know how to behave. If you want to stand and chat, stay in the pub! (laughs)

**The album has a real energy to it, it sounds like a live album.**

It was mostly live, so thank you! There's a few overdubs here and there but for the most part it was done live. I think you capture more energy than if you multi-track everything. You're all feeling the music together, so we track 90% of the song live and then add all the bells and whistles afterwards.

**Do you have the songs written beforehand or do you sketch them out and improvise if you're cutting it live?**

The songs are pretty much complete before we start. We have gone in with a basic idea and beefed it up, but there have been some which you play back and they sound like utter crap! (laughs) Also, you have to be careful not to spend too long in the studio messing about with something. I kind of like to get as close to a complete song as possible and then capture it. When I write a song, I always think about how it will sound live first. I've fallen into a trap before of writing a great sounding song on the record, but I haven't been able to reproduce it live. There's only three of us on stage, so if I put too much in the song, we can never do them. If I have a ten track album, I want to be able to do at least nine of them live. I'll be doing that when I showcase the album at the Borderline – come and check it out!

**Dan Patlansky plays an album showcase at The Borderline in London on 27th April, to coincide with the release of 'Dear Silence Thieves'. He has also been named as the support act for Joe Satriani's 'Shockwave' tour in November.**

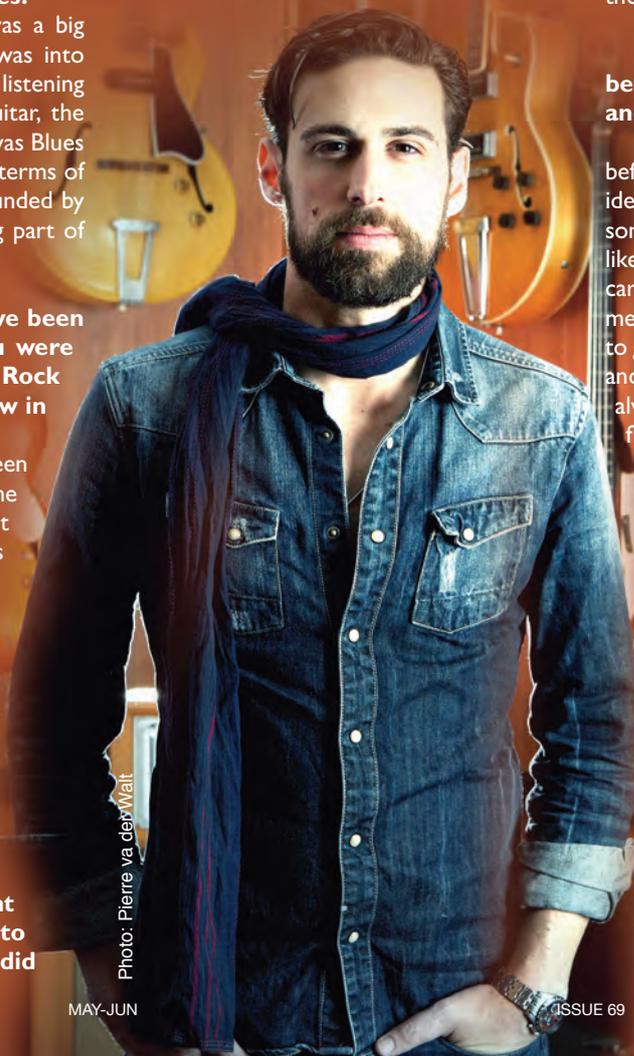


Photo: Pierre van der Walt