

## Indie Voice Blog



### **Getting to know the 2016 LA Music Critic Award winners – Diana Rein**

Welcome to our new series on *Indie Voice Blog*. Now that the winners of the LA Music Critic Awards for the first half of 2016 have been announced, we decided to help you get to know the winning artists through a series of interviews/stories about them. Our first featured artist is three-time winner [Diana Rein](#).

Rein won “Best CD – Female” for *Long Road*, “Best Blues Artist” and was the overwhelming selection for “Fan Favorite,” getting almost twice the votes of her nearest competitor.

All of these articles will follow the same format, so dig it and learn things about Ms. Rein and her music.

IVB: How long have you been performing?

DR: I officially started performing in 2007, although I have always loved music. Unfortunately, those early performing years took a toll on my vocal cords and I developed polyps, forcing me to take a break in 2011 for vocal surgery. I was doing an exercise during acting class where the teacher had me screaming. After the class, I couldn't talk for three weeks. I realized I needed help, so I consulted a doctor, who scheduled me for the surgery. After taking time to heal, I started learning to play guitar in 2013, culminating in the recording of my album in 2015.

IVB: Who are your influences?

DR: I break down my influences into two categories. For my vocals, they would be Bonnie Raitt, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston. As a child I was also influenced by the music of Prince as a child. My uncle was a drummer in a band. When I was 8, I was at the Back Room in Chicago where he was performing and I invited to perform. The vocalist in the band taught me the blues signature and I got to improvise on stage. For my guitar playing, it would definitely be Stevie Ray Vaughan, although I was also heavily influenced as a child by the playing of Tom Kefer of Cinderella. Other contemporary influences are the blues legends, like BB King and Buddy Guy.

IVB: What made you decide to DIY?

DR: I just wanted to send it (my music) out into the universe and see what happened. At the time my son was only two, and I was with him almost 24/7, so I couldn't leave him to go off to a studio and record. Doing my stuff the DIY way allowed me to work around my schedule and record when I was free without feeling guilty about it. I had the tools and the room to do it. I taught myself how to play bass and program the drum machine. I also reached out to friends and fellow musicians for advice on how to do it.

IVB: Are you seeking to be a mainstream artist?

DR: Right now I am very happy being an indie but would love to be more involved in the mainstream blues world. I love how Bonnie Raitt's career has taken shape because she is a household name, but is also very revered in the Blues world. I truly love being surrounded by blues-loving people.

IVB: What are your future plans?

DR: I recently joined up with Kenny "Big Daddy" Williams and his band the Papermoon Gypsies. We will be performing at some upcoming blues festivals and charity events. We are also competing in the Temecula Valley Music Awards showcases. We are performing at the Real Blues Festival at the Coach House in San Juan Capistrano on August 14 at 4 p.m. Our set is just before James Harmon Band and KK Martin Band play. We are also playing at the Long Beach New Blues Festival in September. With the Papermoon Gypsies, we are working on a new album of more traditional blues.

IVB: Do you have any good stories from touring/recording/performing?

DR: I haven't done any touring yet, but have recently learned not to wear leather at a hot outdoor venue. We recently played the Orange County Fair on a hot sweltering day and learned that (wearing leather) was a mistake.

IVB: Where can your fans find out more about you?

DR: I have the usual social media. They can follow me on Twitter and Instagram, like my fan page on Facebook, and check out my website. I love hearing from my fans. They can also subscribe to my YouTube channel. Also check out my publicist, Doug Deutsch Publicity Services, if you need a great one.

[http://www.lamusiccritic.com/indie\\_voice\\_blog/getting-to-know-the-2016-la-music-critic-award-winners-diana-rein/](http://www.lamusiccritic.com/indie_voice_blog/getting-to-know-the-2016-la-music-critic-award-winners-diana-rein/)