

The Eyewitness Blues Band

The Eyewitness Blues Band is the brainchild of KCBS/CBS 5 reporter Mike Sugerman and KCBS morning anchor Stan Bunger. The two were discussing BandWorks, a Bay Area school of rock and roll, and Mike decided to do a “from the inside” story on the school. There was just one problem: Mike and Stan didn’t have a band. However, that would not be a problem for long.

Although they were novices, Stan and Mike decided they would both play guitar. They recruited KCBS reporter Doug Sovern for bass duties. Doug has been playing bass for 30 years and recorded an album in the 80’s with his band, the **Nice Boys From New York**.

After an exhaustive search for a drummer, Mike was able to convince CBS 5 photographer Zack Heene to join the band. And finally, the day before the first rehearsal, CBS 5 reporter and anchor Joe Vazquez offered that he knows his way around a karaoke microphone and is the vocal star of his shower. Joe’s strong voice and absolute lack of fear impressed the other members, and he became the band’s front man.

Once enrolled at BandWorks, this motley group of rock stars in training began working with teacher Chris Detrick. Chris was patient and enthusiastic as he guided the group through learning and polishing songs they would soon perform at a BandWorks concert at Berkeley’s Ashkenaz. After eight weeks of practice, the Eyewitness Blues Band hit the stage and blew the crowd away. Granted, the crowd was comprised mostly of the band’s family and friends, but they were still blown away.

Since then, the band’s stumbled into more amazing gigs than anyone has a right to expect. Among other appearances, they’ve opened for Bill Clinton and the Doobie Brothers (separate events), helped set a new guitar-playing world record, and entertained inmates inside San Quentin State Prison.

And to complete the circle, onetime instructor Chris Detrick has rejoined the band, this time on lead guitar. He’s the only member of the band who *doesn’t* work as a professional journalist. We call him our “citizen journalist”.

Throughout this experience, the members of the Eyewitness Blues Band have learned that they love moonlighting as rock stars. But they’re realists: they’re still working their day jobs, and delivering rock and roll on deadline.

Contact: Doug Sovern 510-333-7887 or sovern@kcbs.com

www.eyewitnessblues.com