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Andrew W.K. piano showdown tonight w/ Gonzales ++new Skyscraper EP, Calder Quartet shows coming up

by **Andrew Friscano**

Big Apple tonight! 10 pm show with Jamie Lidell and midnight PIANO SHOWDOWN with @Andrewwk and @akirathedon. Joes Pub!!!! -Gonzales



Hello! I hope you're well. I recently released an album called 55 CADILLAC. The Guardian [asked me to write about it here](#). They requested I explain why I made the album and why it contains only improvised piano pieces. That's somewhat of a tall order for me at

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[and there will be strings \(and comedians\) \(at the Yo La Tengo & Julian Plenti shows tonight\)](#)

the moment (I just had a gag order put on me - really!), but I will do my best to type some words and hope they cover some of the desired bases.

Why and how I made this album is somewhat difficult for me to write about. Allow me to state the following: Over the past 10 years, I've had personal and professional issues with several people involved in my career, and due to formal agreements, I'm partially forbidden from going into detail regarding certain aspects of my recent work and, as a result, the making of the 55 CADILLAC album.

Here's what I am able to say: At the end of 2004, an old friend of mind got in some business trouble and basically decided to take it out on me. To cut a long story short, this person is someone I worked very closely with and had a formal and family business relationship with. Due to various complaints this person had with me, they were able to turn my life and career upside down. I wasn't allowed to use my own name within certain areas of the US entertainment industry and we were in a debate about who owned the rights to my image, and who should get credit for "inventing" it. This made my life complicated and intense for a few years, but I kept working and doing whatever I could to keep moving forward.

By 2008, and after a lot of negotiating, my new business team and I had come to an agreement with my opponent, and I was finally in the clear. That's how this new 55 CADILLAC album became possible - we based the new record label in the UK, so there were no issues within the US. However, as of last week, we've been partially pulled back into the thick of it and I'm getting hourly updates from my lawyer as I type this. I really don't know how to feel about it ñ it's beyond frustrating - it almost feels like a hallucination. It inspires so much rage inside me that my mind has to seek other outlets for that energy and I start to feel dizzy and see stars. Fortunately, I don't have to deal with anyone directly. Thank goodness my lawyers do all the real work.

Anyway, I wanted this new 55 CADILLAC album to sound like freedom. The sound of a piano being played by a free man - nothing more, nothing less. This was the first chance in almost 10 years where I was allowed to simply play and record an instrument - no songwriters, no lyrics to learn, no overdubs, no slow fixes, no remixes, no video shoots or interview practice ñ just the sound of someone sitting in room playing piano for the sake of it. No one telling me what to play, or how to play it. And no masterplans, high-concept visions, worldwide goals with roll-out schedules. No style consultants or acting coaches. No more meetings with sponsors or computerized yelling. No more threats.

Just a huge black piano. And a huge black car.

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Andrew W.K. will be one of the unexpected guests at [Gonzales' show at Joe's Pub tonight \(9/25\)](#). **Gonzales** plays two sets, but the piano battle with Andrew W.K. will be at the midnight show only. **Jamie Lidell** will be there as well.

Andrew W.K. goes [on tour with the Calder Quartet](#) starting September 29th - they play Joe's Pub together on October 2nd.

After that, Calder Quartet plays music of Janáček and Fred Frith with Iva Bittová at (Le) Poisson Rouge on November 17th. [Tickets](#) are on sale.

Andrew W.K. is [playing with Fucked Up](#) in Brooklyn on November 5th.

See Gonzales challenging Andrew W.K. to a piano battle in the video below...

Gonzales Challenges Andrew WK To A Piano Battle

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Tags: [Andrew WK](#), [Gonzales](#), [Jamie Lidell](#), [Joes Pub](#)

Posted on September 25, 2009 3:54 PM

Comments (4)

WOW...that is what I had for breakfast too!!!

Posted by Txn | [September 25, 2009 4:05 PM](#)

so his dad was responsible for the image / character known as Andrew WK and then forbid him from using it ?

Posted by Anonymous | [September 26, 2009 2:41 AM](#)

what a weird story. and he's always mr. positive. had no idea he was battling something so rageful. does this mean he repudiates his earlier work? does this mean "party hard" was just something his svengali told him to do? oh, the questions!

Posted by Anonymous | [September 26, 2009 4:34 AM](#)

nobody was directly responsible for this guy basically whoring himself out for his 15 MTV minutes of fame except himself. He does seem like a decent dude although I can just sit in my living room and entertain myself with my own piano musings...why am I going to pay to here this dude play?

Posted by Anonymous | [September 26, 2009 12:06 PM](#)

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