

McDermott & Dawson Acoustic / Electric Duo at JB O'Brien's

By: Kurt "Swingcat" Johnson

You've seen Mark McDermott and Greg Dawson play all over Portland with their full line-up in the Classic Rock & Roll band Probable Cause. But have you ever seen them as just a duo? They now appear at more intimate venues such as JB O'Brien's in King City as an acoustic and electric guitar duo.

With an easy-listening song list featuring music by such artists as Jim Croce and songs such as *Stormy Monday* featuring acoustic southern blues with plaintive, gritty vocals and cutting and emotional guitar riffs, there is a distinctive delta blues roots feel to the arrangements. The show is perfect for a relaxed evening of good food, Irish beer and laid-back music.

Mark McDermott and Greg Dawson, both on guitars and vocals. McDermott explains how the duo came to be; "I was playing with another guy and he had to quit, so Greg was the obvious choice. He's my BEST friend and we don't argue. We do everything from Dylan and Tom Petty, to blues and some original songs. It's all the songs we loved growing up."

Dawson tells how the duo has been received by the audiences; "They love it. We've been real fortunate to play an eclectic mix of music that has a wide appeal both with the duet and Probable Cause.

The people tell us they like how we did a song. One of the things they like is we don't overpower a song and don't drown out their conversation. We fit in with the ambiance of the room." He adds, "So look for the



Mark McDermott and Greg Dawson (Photo by Kurt "Swingcat" Johnson)

McDermott & Dawson Acoustic / Electric Duo in a venue near you!"

On this visit, the duo performed at J.B O'Brien's Irish Pub in King City. Located at the corner of Highway 99W and Durham Road, J.B. O'Brien's features Irish import beers, traditional Irish food entrees and a comfortable and relaxed setting in a convenient location. The bar has a sports bar theme. With continuous multi-channel sports programming, you can watch pro football, baseball, hockey, golf and even wrestling, all at once. There's a giant 65" big screen TV surrounded by four smaller screens to make a sports viewing center.

Well-lit with neon imported beer signs, there's a huge dark wood bar and an island bar in the center of the seating area. There's a cozy gas fireplace and it gives the place an old-world Irish corner pub feel. There's video poker and Keno for the gaming types. The menu offers a wide assortment of appetizers, specialty sandwiches, soups, salads and chicken entrees, steaks and seafood and Irish traditional dishes such as Shepherd's Pie and Irish Stew.

Owner John Howard explains the concept of J.B. O'Brien's; "It's a very laid back setting; Irish with a very extensive menu and it's almost 98 percent made from scratch. Our emphasis is on service. Our crowd is over 30 so it's different from a lot of the clubs that cater to the kids. The live entertainment is something we do on weekends. We have a lot of blues and easy listening. It's laid-back and comfortable to hangout with your friends in the neighborhood."

With a laid-back Irish sports bar setting, great menu selections and top-notch live weekend music, JB O'Brien's has everything needed for a relaxing and enjoyable evening. Drop in one night and catch the McDermott & Dawson Acoustic / Electric Duo and sit back and chill to all those songs you used to love. You can see more of the McDermott & Dawson Acoustic / Electric Duo and Probable Cause at their website www.probablecause.com and [Bandstand](#).

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