THE BATTALI

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No one band is the headliner of

Intertainment. "The bands will determine who playing first, second and third ach night before the show," he aid. "The lineup will not be innounced to the public. That way

eadliners or openers. Another difference can be found the number of bands playing. wo bands typically tour together and play for about an hour and a

Bowen, LaRue and Walker each

straint can really challenge the bands to give the udience their best music and most upbeat perormance, Bowen said.

Texas Tech University in 1998. They started out as simply West 84 but

ich more smooth later changed their name to Wade Bowen &

Wade Bowen was born and bred in Texas. So as his music. But don't let these facts put owen, or his music, in a box.

By Kim Katopodis

THE BATTALION

Sometimes his music has a honky-tonk feel it, sometimes it is more rock inspired. sually, the line between the two is blurred nd what remains is a sound that needs its own enre apart from the usual "Texas music'

Wade Bowen & West 84 will lay at Shadow Canyon tonight long with Stoney LaRue and Django Walker as part of their Farewell to Sanity" Tour.

e tour, but that's just one thing hat makes this tour distinct, said had Kudelka of Austin Universal

one of the bands are perceived as

alf to two hours each

lay for one hour. This time con-

Wade Bowen & West 84 formed their band

Vest 84 because they thought it had better

played together until college. Bowen said his music is constantly evolving.

66

mass appeal.

During his college years, he was heavily influenced by Willie Nelson, Robert Earl Keen and Jack Ingram.

"That was where my true love of writing came from," he said.

Three of the band members knew each other

Country was his first influence, so his first album has a more heavy country sound compared to the band's newest release, "The Blue

Light Live," which Bowen said he sees as the band's greatest This album just dehits album.

fines what we do onstage. It is as raw and because this one is mainly for all the real as you can possibly people that have folget on an lowed us from the beginning," he said. album... There's mess "This album just ups, mistakes, bottles defines what we do breaking, drunken onstage. It is as raw and real as you can screams, stupid compossibly get in an ments, etc, and that's

- Wade Bowen Singer and songwriter of Wade Bowen & West 84

what makes it fun.

drunken screams, stupid comments.et cetera, and that's what makes it fun."

sincerity.

mess ups,

bottle

about this album...it's

There's

mistakes,

breaking,

"The Blue Light Live" shows the evolution of Wade Bowen & West 84. The album takes the listener on a journey through the band's previous albums.

'Honkey-tonk country just got boring," said Bowen. I still love it though."

Out of that boredom grew a new style

and sound.

Both his records from their hometown of Waco but hadn't and his shows have a new attitude. Wade Bowen & West 84 found that since they first started, the audiences have begun to crave a different kind of show. "I enjoy the

rock stuff live," Bowen said. "People are wanting a more upbeat rock show than a few years ago.' Some "I love this album

Bowen's inspiration comes from unlikely sources. "Sometimes I

listen to artists that I wouldn't normally listen to in order to get new ideas for my music," Bowen said.

Bowen's goal is album....That is what to never be a cliche. I am most proud of That goal encom-

> band's live the shows

That's why Bowen encourages people to see them live again if they have only seen them once, because the show changes every night.

Those who are unfamiliar with the "Texas music" phenomenon should be satisfied with texastroubadors.com's definition of Texas country versus Nashville country from Bowen.

"It's a more acoustic sound, a more country sound, and it's raw Nashville artists write for the nation and with a nationwide appeal, Texans write about what they grew up on, and

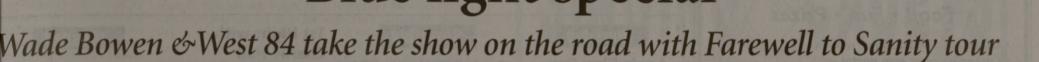


PHOTO COURTESY OF 36D MANAGEMEN

ent sounds, and everyone who listens to it knows that.

Many Texas country bands flock to College Station where their sound is generally well received.

Name recognition (famed country singer Jerry Jeff Walker is Django's father) will draw crowds to Shadow Canyon, but they will stay for the original sound of all three.

Those who like traditional, two-step country may want to skip this one. But music lovers seeking new sounds and a fun live show should plan to be at Shadow Canyon tonight.

passes the feel of Singer/songwriter Wade Bowen in concert Wade Bowen & West 84 play at Shadow Canyon tonight as far as the sounds, it's two completely differ-



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