

FROM NEW ORLEANS' AND HBO'S **TREME**

DAVIS ROGAN



“Like New Orleans, Davis Rogan is always one bad move away from falling on his ass. And yet, on at least every other occasion, he's the cat that drops from the tree and lands on his feet. Much as New Orleans somehow manages to do.”

David Simon

“Davis minces no words and pulls no punches, like the Crescent City itself, he is a force to be contended with.”

Ani DiFranco

“Davis Rogan is a funky, unfettered genius.”

Jonathan Lethem

“Davis Rogan is an idiot savant, I think they call them savants now. I'm a big fan.”

Sarah Silverman

Davis draws his musical inspiration from Professor Longhair and Fats Domino, as does every New Orleans Rhythm and Blues piano player. What separates Davis is his lyrics. The wit, irony and self-deprecation echo Randy Newman, but the wry observations about life, humanity and New Orleans are uniquely his.

This combination of roots music and sharp lyrics, heard in the 2005 release, *The Once and Future DJ*, drew auteur David Simon to Davis as Davis prepared his HBO series about New Orleans, *TREME*. Davis began working as a consultant and, over six years and four seasons of the show, served as an actor, a scriptwriter, a piano coach, a songwriter and the muse for the character Davis McAlary. By the series' end, Davis had written or placed more music in the show than any other musician.

Davis is a fifth-generation New Orleanian raised in the neighborhood of Carrollton. He began his broadcast career on WTUL at the age of 10, did his college radio stint at KRRC and was a DJ at WWOZ for 13 years.

After graduating from Reed College with a BA in English, Davis began the dual path of teaching elementary school music for the Orleans Parish Public Schools and performing music professionally. Davis' first gig was with Kermit Ruffins, but he came to prominence in the New Orleans music scene with his eight-piece funk, brass and hip hop group ALL THAT, for which he was lead singer, band leader, principal songwriter, arranger and producer. There are three albums to their credit, including one on Rounder Records. In the late '90s, ALL THAT rocked large clubs in New Orleans and toured extensively in the U.S. and Canada.

In the early aughts, Davis formed a small rhythm and blues band featuring his original material. 2005's *The Once and Future DJ* led to the work on the show *TREME*. 2011's *The Real* was a rumination on the meta existence of writing songs for a character who bears one's name. In 2014, with the show wrapped, Davis wrote *Ex Machina*. While rooted in R&B, this album harkens back to the funk and rap sounds of his earlier work. Critics have called it his best yet.

The Davis Rogan Band appears monthly at three clubs on Frenchmen Street in New Orleans and tours nationally. They performed at the 2015 French Quarter Festival and will appear at the 2015 Mid-City Bayou Boogaloo. Davis has played Copenhagen, Paris, Marseille and the Ascona Jazz Festival in Switzerland. He performs regularly as a solo act in Chicago and New York. In August of 2015, he will be playing the Notting Hill Festival in London.