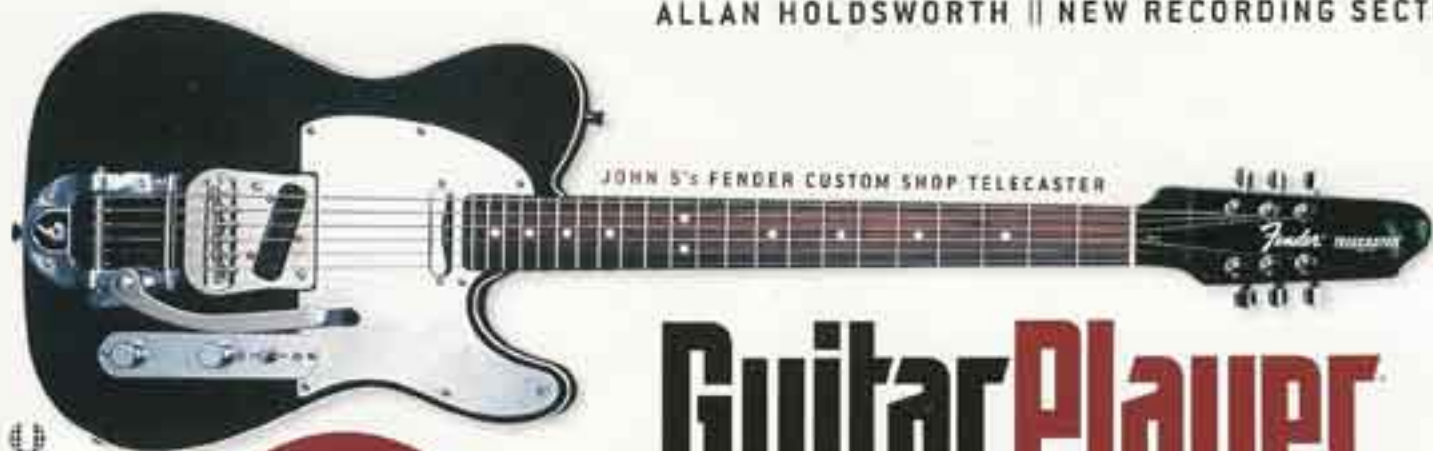


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was designed by Lisa Marano, with both models featuring Leatherface with a variety of strippers, wild life, and chainsaws. While each guitar was signed by Leatherface, one has also been signed by all nine members of Slipknot, Zakk Wylde and Black Label Society, all the members of Slayer, the whole of Judas Priest, and Ozzy Osbourne. Best of all, 100 percent of the proceeds go to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. Click to guitars4kids.com for more info. . . This fall, Queen brings their hit musical to Nevada. Hey, who needs Broadway when ya got Vegas? That's right, debuting in November, *We Will Rock You* comes to Paris Las Vegas for

Thanks to an under-powered P.A., here's what GP Editor Michael Molenda sounded like at the Readers' Choice Awards: "SkishcracklegarbledZZZZZZZ."



GP READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

You'd think I would have learned a thing or two after logging thousands of gigs in tiny clubs with sputtering P.A. systems. But here I was, wireless mic in hand, and not being heard as I attempted to address a rowdy crowd of manufacturers at the premiere of GP's Readers' Choice Awards at Jack Daniel's Old No. 7 Club in Nashville, July 23. Happily, my distorted blathering through a house sound system ill-equipped to conquer the Old No. 7's cavernous expanse was the only misfire in an event that joyously achieved exactly what it set out to do—bestow kudos to the people who make the gear we love directly from the musicians who use the stuff (meaning you).

As a 100-percent reader-nominated/reader-voted event (via online and paper ballots), the GP Readers' Choice Awards was absolutely all about the voice of the magazine's readers—who, I might add, just have to be the most savvy, most gear-obsessed guitarists on this planet—and I want to thank everyone who took part in the process. (Someday, we'll even figure out how to invite you all to the party!) Here is the list of the winners and finalists you selected for the 2004 awards. —Michael Molenda

SPECIAL 2003 AWARDS

BEST NEW PRODUCT

- [1] Line 6 Variax 500 Series
- [2] Diezel Herbert
- [3] MXR ZW-44 Zakk Wylde Overdrive
- [4] Tascam CD-GT1
- [5] Marshall MODE FOUR

MOST INNOVATIVE PRODUCT

- [1] Line 6 Variax 500 Series
- [2] Diezel Herbert
- [3] Fender S-1 Switch
- [4] Kepur 1.Zero Straps
- [5] Vox Valvetronix Series

ULTIMATE VALUE

- [1] Jay Turser JT-200
- [2] Ibanez Artcore Series
- [3] Fender Highway 1 Stratocaster
- [4] Core One AH-606 Amp Head Case
- [5] Line 6 Spider II Series

CATEGORY AWARDS

BEST SOLIDBODY ELECTRIC

- [1] Fender American Stratocaster
- [2] Gibson Les Paul
- [3] PRS CE 24
- [4] Fender American Telecaster
- [5] Ibanez JS-1000/Hamer Monaco [tie]

BEST HOLLOWBODY ELECTRIC

- [1] Gibson ES-335
- [2] Samick RL 5
- [3] Gretsch G6136T White Falcon
- [4] Benedetto/Guild Johnny Smith Award
- [5] PRS Hollowbody 1

BEST ACOUSTIC GUITAR

- [1] Taylor 810
- [2] Martin D-28
- [3] Blueridge BR-160
- [4] Breedlove C25
- [5] Gibson Hummingbird



[1]



[2]

[1] Can you tell that Marshall's Nick Bowcott (center) is really pumped about the Marshall 1960 Series award? [2] Solo-acoustic artist Richard Gilewitz braved the acoustics to serenade the boisterous crowd.

BEST ACOUSTIC-ELECTRIC GUITAR

- [1] Taylor 514ce
- [2] Ovation Balladeer Series
- [3] Takamine EAN10C
- [4] Guild D40CE
- [5] Line 6 Variax Acoustic 700

BEST COMBO AMP

- [1] Fender Twin Reverb
- [2] Bad Cat Hot Cat 30
- [3] Fender Cyber-Twin
- [4] Mesa/Boogie Mark IV
- [5] Peavey Triple XXX 212

BEST AMP HEAD

- [1] Peavey Triple XXX
- [2] Marshall JCM 800 2203
- [3] Diezel Herbert
- [4] Marshall MODE FOUR
- [5] Bogner Ecstasy

BEST SPEAKER CABINET

- [1] Marshall 1960 Series
- [2] Marshall MODE FOUR Series
- [3] Peavey 5150 Series
- [4] Carvin C412 Legacy Series
- [5] Bogner Uberschall 4x12

BEST STOMPBOX

- [1] Ibanez TS-9 Tube Screamer
- [2] DigiTech Whammy
- [3] Fulltone Full-Drive 2
- [4] Keeley Compressor
- [5] Boss MT-2 Metal Zone

BEST MULTIEFFECTS STOMPBOX

- [1] Boss ME-50
- [2] Boss GT-6
- [3] DigiTech GNX3
- [4] DigiTech RP50
- [5] Korg Toneworks AX1500G

BEST RACK PROCESSOR

- [1] T.C. Electronic G-Force
- [2] Lexicon MPX G2
- [3] Line 6 Pod Pro
- [4] Line 6 Podxt Pro
- [5] Eventide Eclipse

BEST ELECTRIC PICKUP

- [1] Seymour Duncan JB Series
- [2] EMG EMG-81
- [3] DiMarzio Evolution Series
- [4] Lindy Fralin Blues Special
- [5] DiMarzio DP153 FRED

BEST ACOUSTIC PICKUP

- [1] Fishman Rare Earth Blend
- [2] L.R. Baggs iBeam System
- [3] Taylor Expression System
- [4] Seymour Duncan SA-1 Acoustic Tube
- [5] Dean Markley ProMag Plus

BEST WAH

- [1] Dunlop GCB-95 CryBaby
- [2] Fulltone CLYDE Deluxe
- [3] Morley VAI-1 Steve Vai Bad Horsie
- [4] Boss PW-10 V-Wah
- [5] Vox V847 Wah-Wah

BEST ACCESSORY

- [1] Evidence Audio Lyric HG Guitar Cable
- [2] Heet Sound EBow
- [3] Planet Waves Instrument Cables
- [4] Dunlop StrapLok System
- [5] Boss TU-2 Chromatic Tuner

BEST STRINGS

- [1] D'Addario
- [2] Elixir
- [3] Ernie Ball
- [4] GHS
- [5] Dean Markley

BEST RECORDING PRODUCT

- [1] Digidesign Pro Tools
- [2] Tascam PocketStudio 5
- [3] Line 6 Pod
- [4] Shure SM57 Microphone
- [5] Boss BR-1180

BEST SOFTWARE PRODUCT

- [1] Apple GarageBand
- [2] Cakewalk Home Studio XL
- [3] Line 6 Amp Farm
- [4] Waves Musician's Bundle
- [5] Sonic Foundry Acid Pro 3.0

NEWS

what may be a ten-year run. The musical, written by Ben Elton, features 20 classic Queen tunes, including "Bohemian Rhapsody." "We Are the Champions," and "Another One Bites the Dust." Queen's Brian May stated: "It's a new animal. This has not been done before. It's breaking new ground. Very rock and roll, a new kind of theater—that's what people are going to say about it." A ringing endorsement, indeed. Tickets are on sale now!... The Bangles were given a rare honor in July, when Sir Paul McCartney gave the