

Talented bluesmen Neal, Peterson to perform at Zoo Bar this week

By John Payne
Senior Reporter

Two of the nation's most acclaimed bluesmen are in town this week, as the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., welcomes Kenny Neal and Lucky Peterson.

Both men have proven to be big draws at the Zoo, but this week's shows promise to be extraordinary, as the Alligator labelmates will appear on stage together through Saturday.

"The Zoo is the kind of place I like to play," said Neal during a telephone interview from his Great Plains

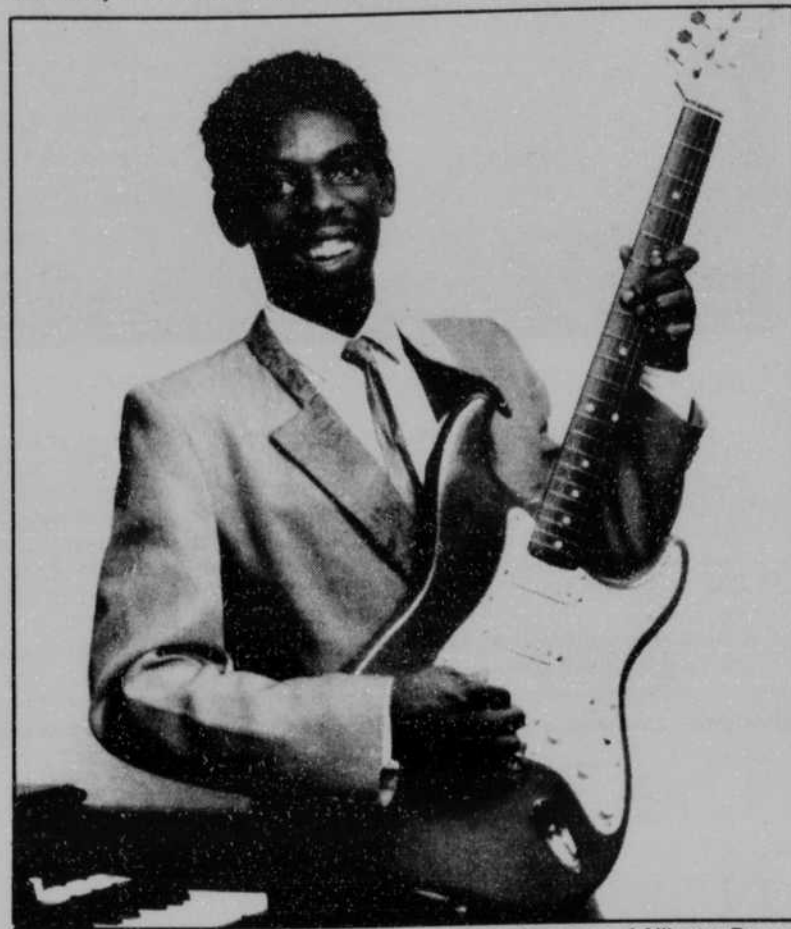
Hotel room. "People who go there know the blues, you don't have to introduce it to them. They already understand what it's about."

A native of Baton Rouge, La., Neal is the oldest of 10 children. His influences include early tutelage from the likes of Buddy Guy and Slim Harpo. The 32-year-old Neal is currently in the middle of an eight-week tour that will take him and Peterson to Kansas City, Mo., and Chicago this month.

Neal is touring in support of his latest release, "Devil Child," and his previous LP, "Big News From Baton Rouge," on which Peterson helped out on keyboards.

But don't expect to see Neal and Peterson tied down to one instrument all night; both are extremely versatile musicians and vocalists. Peterson is adept at guitar, trumpet and drums, among others, and Neal has impressed crowds with his harmonica and vocal prowess.

Alligator's two young blues turks will be backed by Silent Partner, the only blues act to appear at FarmAid III in Lincoln. Silent Partner has backed legendary blues artists such as B.B. King.



Lucky Peterson
Courtesy of Alligator Records



Kenny Neal
Courtesy of Alligator Records



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Blue

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vide a good deal of the humor in this movie.

"My Blue Heaven," without trying to make some assertive statement about

anything in particular, is in line with previous projects by Martin as well as the characters he plays.

Vince Antonelli is a character as stupid but as likeable as Dr. Hfuhruharr from "The Man With Two Brains" and Nathan from "The Jerk."

Other cast members include thirtysomething's Melanie Mayron and

Scrooge's Carol Kane.

This movie, while at best a mediocre comedy, is nonetheless appealing because of Martin's ability for creating off-the-wall characters and turning their foolish behavior into an intriguing and entertaining persona.

"My Blue Heaven" is playing at the Plaza 4 Theater, 12th and P streets.



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