



Primal Twang: *The Legacy of the Guitar* World Premiere Theatrical Concert

In September 2006 San Diego hosted the world premiere of *Primal Twang: The Legacy of the Guitar* — the first definitive theatrical journey through the guitar’s colorful and surprisingly controversial 3500-year history. The story of the “instrument of the gods” was told through a combination of onstage narration, video projections of rare historical footage and electrifying live performances by world music legend, [Dan Crary](#) and an all-star ensemble of international guitar greats including Grammy Award winners **Eric Johnson**, **Albert Lee**, **Doc Watson**, **Mason Williams** (“Classical Gas”), **Andrew York** (Los Angeles Guitar Quartet), as well as **Richard Watson**, harp-guitarists **John Doan** and **Beppe Gambetta**, Brazilian jazz master, **Peter Sprague** and Grand Old Opry star, **Doyle Dykes**. The program debuted to enthusiastic sold-out audiences at the lavishly renovated, palatial North Park Theatre. The performances were filmed for commercial release.

Primal Twang was the brainchild of flatpicking pioneer and Taylor Guitars artist, **Dan Crary** and writer/producer/director **Anthony Leigh Adams**. The duo wrote a script that begins with the guitar’s ancient ancestors and covers not only the wildly eclectic forms of music played throughout the centuries on variants of the steel-string, nylon-string, and electric guitar, but also the sociological impact the guitar has had in every era.

“*Primal Twang* reveals compelling stories and music from the guitar’s past, present, and future,” says Adams, who directed the production. “Dan and the seven-piece band, perform everything from ancient modal music to classical, flamenco, and the Chet Atkins school, and from the guitar-based vocal pop of the early 20th Century through the jazz, folk, and rock eras, right up to today. At key points in the show, our featured guest artists join the band. So the audience gets to see and hear some of the best guitarists in the world as the ‘instrument of the gods’ emerges from antiquity, gathers steam over centuries, and explodes in our own time to become the ‘universal’ musical instrument.”

Crary, a world-traveler, raconteur, and former communications professor, starred as the singer/narrator, accompanied by a stellar stage ensemble including music director and multi-instrumental, **Dennis Caplinger** (HBO’s *Deadwood*), drummer **Duncan Moore**, classical/flamenco guitarists **Fred Benedetti** and **George Svoboda** (who performed with rising flamenco dance star **Lakshmi Basile**), gypsy-jazz guitarist **Raul Reynoso**, bassist **Jeff Pekarek**, and pop-rock guitarist/vocalist **Jon Walmsley** (he was “Jason” on the TV series, *The Waltons*, and is now an in demand session player in Los Angeles).

Adams states that he and Crary are thrilled that “everyone in the production saw *Primal Twang* as an opportunity to celebrate their special passion for the instrument.” For more information on this unique celebration of the guitar visit: www.primaltwang.com