

Derrick Procell

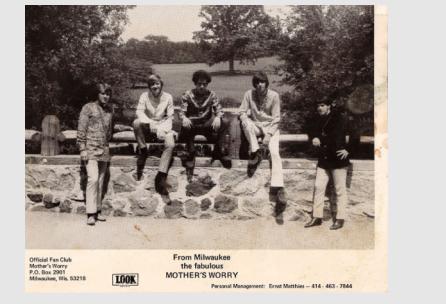
Bio of a Badass Blues Man

Derrick Procell has been singing since he was a kid. He was in bar bands before he was legal. He did his first Nashville recording as the lead singer in a band, *Mother's Worry*, when he was 16.



Milwaukee in the 70's: Derrick is a star on the local music scene, fronting bands rooted in blues, rock, and country. He's a compellingly energetic, and therefore sought-after, front man who not only knocks people out with his voice but also blows 'em away with his two-fisted piano playing and rugged blues harmonica solos. He's clocking hundreds of stage hours working in clubs for almost nothing; fortunate to have girlfriends with jobs.

The eighth band was the charm. Midwestern favorite Arroyo grew a huge following; Derrick's energy and talent made them irresistible to audiences. They filled clubs wherever they went, played festivals, and made an award-winning album. Derrick's notoriety in that band led to opportunities he had never anticipated in the form of studio work and songwriting.



Derrick's amazing chops made him a first-call studio singer for producers in



Chicago. As much as he enjoyed his 90-mile commute to Chicago, listening to all those books-on-tape, after a while it just made sense to relocate. Enjoying success as both a singer and a voice-over, Derrick's been the voice of advertising giants like McDonald's, Chevy, Budweiser, Coca-Cola, Kraft, Ford, and Kellogg's.

Building on his success as a songwriter, Derrick installed a state-of-the-art recording studio in his home. Some of his early songs were recorded by The Brooklyn Tabernacle

Choir, Logan Daniels, and Melissa Manchester. Later, he began providing original songs for TV and film. You've heard his songs on *My Name is Earl*, *Criminal Minds*, *Boston Legal*, *Saving Grace*, *Providence*, *The Office*, *True Blood*, *King of the Hill*, *Bloodlines*, and *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*. He also recorded two CD's of his Americana songs: *Born in the Heartland* and *Takes On the Country*.

"I was really into being a songwriter and a studio rat," says Procell, "but was looking for a wider audience for my music".

One of the many talented people Derrick was privileged to work with as a freelance musician, singer, and producer, in Chicago was Terry Abrahamson. Eventually the Grammy-award-winning collaborator with Muddy Waters would team up with Derrick to begin what would become a fruitful songwriting juggernaut.



When they began writing songs together, he hadn't planned on releasing music from their collaboration under his own name. But as overwhelming positive feedback from other blues artists came back -- all of them wondering who the singer/producer on the demos was -- it became clear that Derrick needed the world to hear his versions of the songs before they became hits for others. The result was his third CD, *Why I Choose to Sing the Blues*.

Thanks to Abrahamson's ties to the blues world, heavy hitters **Eddie Shaw**, **Billy Branch** and **Bob Margolin** joined Procell in the studio to enhance the tracks. It's a record *Chicago Blues Guide* calls "a treasure trove of richly detailed story-songs that immerse the listener in the blues experience from the Delta to Chicago and beyond."

Derrick entralls audiences with his live shows. His years of experience have only added to his ability to command the stage, and his music is deep, real, and compelling. At the end of a gig, he's often left cleaning a stage littered with women's underwear. As Bill Wilson of the blues blog *Reflections in Blue* says, "Bottom line...Derrick Procell is every bit the Real Deal."



More about Derrick at www.DerrickAnAmerican.com

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