

'Getting! On By' with Jesse Dee

by Chiem
Contributor

Raw. Alive. Wrought with emotive sound. Think of James Brown, but a different color, with a guitar and a dark, rocking, corkscrew mop of hair around an expressive face spouting sure-fire lines at directed pitch.

That's how the music and presence of Somerville's Jesse Dee can hit a person. Indeed, Dee's last year has been peppered with gigs at venues including Harper's Ferry, the All Asia Cafe and The Burien. On Sunday, Jan. 22, Dee will play again at the All Asia Cafe singer/songwriter series. He is also scheduled to be featured again soon at The Burien -- this time, at Danielle Mraglia's Sunday song-writer series. Rumor has it that the same bill will also include the very groovy lounge of Max Glantzman.

Dee is in the process of completing an album of original blues- and soul-style songs, which he expects to release this year. "Get On By," his demo, was recorded by buddy Casey Soward. According to Dee, his kitchen doubled as his studio and on Sept. 17, 2004, he recorded all five songs, each cap-

There is a certain realness

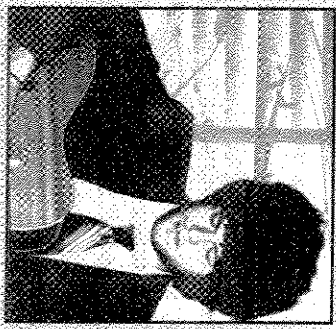
present in the CD. "Around Here" breaks out Dee's forceful vocals and sounds just like he does on stage. "Who Do You (think you're fooling)" moves into another realm, with Dee taking a moment to hum a few heartfelt introductory notes before getting into the first verse.

While singing mostly in his lower register, along the way and at the chorus, Dee also hits some stand-up higher tones that are on target and strong without being harsh. "Somebody" is a longing love song textured with well-placed stops and breaths followed by tuneful wails encountered in the thoughtful, "[humming] Back in Your Direction." "Yet To Come" appropriately closes the experience as the listener may wonder just what is next for Dee.

Truly a marvel to behold in live-time, those looking for an infusion of some modern-day local and inspired soul should keep their eyes peeled for Dee, who does much more than just "Get On By." *The All Asia Cafe is located at 334 Mass Ave., Cambridge.*



JESSE DEE



Jesse Dee to rock the All Asia Cafe Jan. 22, page 7.