

# 77 el Deora

GENUINE 77

**77 EL DEORA** is a San Francisco-based, 5-piece, alt-country/Americana outfit. Formed in 2004, the band has honed its sound through diet, exercise and constant live shows, amassing a loyal following of discriminating roots music aficionados and other social misfits.

At the core are the dueling male and female vocals of Jenn Courtney and songwriter Maurice Tani, framed with Steve Kallai's sweet fiddle, Tani's intrusive electric guitar work, Keith Bahjat's slappin', clankin', doghouse, bull-fiddle, acoustic bass, and the virtuous, ethical drumming of drummer Christopher Fisher. The sound is sometimes breathy acoustic, sometimes searing electric, and often both.

Though the spotlight dances the width of the stage, singer Jennifer Courtney is the primary, recurring focus of attention. Her larger-than-life presence and luxurious, full-sized voice animate the material with personal spark. Alternately strong, vulnerable, sexy and funny, she brings a full palette of color to the songs. Dark and lush, even when the lyric is light, her rich voice delivers a tender kiss on the lips and a startling punch in the gut with successive breaths. If Jenn Courtney sings these songs as if they were written for her, it's because they were.

With Courtney as his muse and central character, songwriter/guitarist Maurice Tani has constructed a repertoire full of dry irony and dark humor. The songs are twangy ruminations ranging from rye to romantic. Tender to aggressive. Smart, original, neo-noir honky tonk in the classic rhythms and themes of western America: cheatin', lyin', drinkin', dyin', broken hearts, shattered dreams, bright twangy guitars and the Ray Price shuffle...



*Left to right: Steve Kallai, Jenn Courtney, Maurice Tani, Keith Bahjat, Christopher Fisher*

## SIRENS ONE-SHEET

# 77 elDeora

77 El Deora examines the battle of the sexes from the streets of Bakersfield to the South of Market on their new CD, **SIRENS**.

And at the center of the fray is the luxurious voice of **Jenn Courtney**. On this debut release, Courtney displays her full repertoire of emotional punches. Alone or sparring in duets with songwriter **Maurice Tani**, she's alternately strong, vulnerable, sexy and funny. Her full and sensual vocals break hearts she'll never meet, and will be forever associated with the words 'restraining order'.

SIRENS, features 13 original tracks from Tani, tailored specifically for Courtney's vivid persona, plus a handful of remade classics. In all, **16 tracks** of smart, original, neo-noir honky tonk in the classic rhythms and themes of western America: cheatin', lyin', drinkin', dyin', broken hearts, shattered dreams, bright twangy guitars and the Ray Price shuffle... Modern music that doesn't seem out of place playing through a dashboard speaker, -unapologetic for its roots in old country.



[www.77elDeora.com](http://www.77elDeora.com)

Distributed in the U.S. by



**WIR** Western  
Independent  
Recording

[www.western-independent.com](http://www.western-independent.com)  
[info@western-independent.com](mailto:info@western-independent.com)



**Artist:** 77 elDeora  
**Title:** Sirens  
**Catalog #:** WIR 0105  
**Release Date:** June 2006  
**UPC:** 711574573523  
**Retail Price:** \$13.99  
**Genre:** Americana/Alt Country

### Track Listing

1. (Ain't I a) Handsome Fool?
  2. This Record Sucks
  3. My Old Address Book
  4. Bad Boy
  5. Is This Gonna Hurt?
  6. The Devil in My Ear
  7. 3:30 in the Afternoon
  8. Lucky Tonight
  9. The Same
  10. Color Me Gone
  11. Fire on the Mountain
  12. Cryin' Over You
  13. Orange Jumpsuit
  14. Wash Your Hands
  15. Workin'
- ...Extra Bonus Track:  
Keep Your Hands to Yourself

### Personnel:

- Jenn Courtney - Vocals
- Maurice Tani - Vocals & guitar
- Keith Bahjat - Bull fiddle
- Christopher Fisher - Drums
- Steve Kallai - Fiddle

### With guests:

- Dave Gleason (Dave Gleason's Wasted Days)  
- B-bender Telecaster
- Katie Guthorn & Kathy Kennedy  
(Elvin Bishop, Bonnie Raitt) - Vocals
- David Phillips (Tom Waits, Johnny Paycheck)  
- Pedal and Lap steel guitars
- Jim Pugh (Robert Cray, Chris Isaak)  
- Piano and organ
- Trey Sabatelli (Tubes, Todd Rundgren)  
- Drums

## SIRENS Reviews:

### Freight Train Boogie

<http://www.freighttrainboogie.com/Archives/Archive-S.htm#Sirens>

77 EL DEORA ★★★★★

Sirens... (Western Independent Recording)

A honky tonk band gigging in the SF Bay Area can be tough work, very few good twang-friendly clubs, indifferent crowds or ignorant people who shout “yee-haw” whenever they hear a fiddle. A band needs to be hip, have some attitude and a good sense of humor helps too. Despite their curious name, 77 El Deora has all three covered in spades.



Out front is the double-barreled weaponry of Maurice Tani's witty songwriting and the strong lead vocals of Jenn Courtney. Tani is a master at the play on word and like early Robbie Fulks, respects the tradition of classic country themes, but with a contemporary twist. ... also deftly writes from the female perspective. ...Jenn sings 'em all with with true conviction. A great little disc that I hope gets heard outside of their usual haunts.

*Reviewed by Bill Frater*

## Radio Louisiana

<http://www.gatorsbackyard.com/index.php?op=show&aftersid=76>

77 el Deora

I present to you maybe the best Country California Band that I have ever heard.

I don't normally write such a long review of any CD, but this one is off the meter of enjoyment. It is an Eleven out of ten. You will notice that I did not label them as Honky-Tonk, they are, or Pure Country, Blues, Folk, Rock & Roll, or any other particular style. They are all of the above and more.

The lead singers are Maurice Tani, who writes most of the songs and Jenn Courtney, who has one of the fullest voices you will find in any song. ... it is glorious.

“Sirens” is packed with several styles of music. ... put Charlie Daniels Band, Asleep at the Wheel, Bonnie Rait, The Andrew Sisters, and The Tractors all on one stage, this is what it would sound like. All I can say about this CD, is if you don't have it you just don't like MUSIC. Find 77 el Deora and buy the CD.”

*-Gator*



## Slacker Country

<http://slackercountry.com/sirens.htm>

### 77 el Deora "Sirens"

If you've ever traveled I-40 through Amarillo, you've no doubt seen a true example of classic "Americana:" the Big Texan Steakhouse with its giant billboard challenge - if you can eat the entire 72 oz T-bone steak, it's free. Next to the fabled Cadillac Ranch, it's Amarillo's most famous landmark.

I've known a few people who've tried; but no one who ever walked out without having to pay.

77 el Deora's bass player, Keith Bahjat, says that he has. That seems to me to be a perfect little factoid for a band that calls their style "Oblique Americana."

Their debut CD, "Sirens," is as impressively authentic sounding as the band's image is ambitiously hip. Think of all those great crossover country songs that made it to the pop music top 40 charts in the sixties and seventies, throw in a keen visual artistic sense, and front the whole thing with a very talented male-female duet and you've got some idea of what these guys have going on.

Right out there is singer Jenn Courtney. She's got this incredibly soulful and expressive voice that really grabs you with its depth and range. She's good. Then there's singer/ songwriter/ guitarist Maurice Tani. His voice recalls Ray Price by way of Buck Owens. He's good too.

They've got that pop art thing as well. Poke around their [website](#), you'll find an archive of their show announcement posters, with ultra cool pulp fiction graphics. They're heavy on the girls with guns theme and they're all accompanied by little story snippets with lots of vague intrigue. It's a great way to waste some time on the internet.

And if you think these guys are all style and no substance, then stick just "Sirens" in the player.

Tani has some great country guitar chops and a dead-on sense for country songwriting. His writing reminds me a little of Dwight Yoakam, with a keen sense for what works within the constraints of country music. His songs are rooted in classic country and frequently show a sense of

humor that keeps them entertaining without becoming mere novelty. And he's been around, paying his dues playing every kind of music in clubs and bars in Texas and the San Francisco area since the nineteen seventies.

Tani says that writing for a female perspective is an interesting challenge in that women can get away with lyrics that a man can't. He's found a perfect vehicle for that challenge in Jenn Courtney. Tani hooked up with Courtney in a Bay-area band called The Hillside Wranglers. Time will tell, but at first listen it sounds like a match made in alt country heaven. Wherever that is.

77 el Deora also features Bahjat on upright bass, drummer Christopher Fisher, Tani's former bandmate from Calamity and Main and mandolin/ fiddle player Steve Kallai. Kallai's fiddle seems to really drive the sound behind the vocals.

There's so much great material on "Sirens," it's hard to point to a single, or even a couple, highlights. There are 17 tracks and, well, they're good.

They do a Bakersfield thing ("My Old Address Book") and Tani channels Buck. Courtney does a blustery swagger ("Ain't I a Handsome Fool") and then belts out a plaintive, sentimental ballad ("Is This Gonna Hurt") that rivals K. D. Lang at her torch ballad best. Tani croons a Roy Orbison cover ("Crying") and Courtney kicks out a honky-tonk stomp ("3:30 In The Afternoon"). They both harmonize beautifully on a folksy down-home gospel song ("Fire On the Mountain").

Unlike that 5 pound steak in Amarillo, you won't have any trouble digesting 77 el Deora's "Sirens" all at once and when it's over, you'll probably even be ready for more.

I know I am. These guys are good.

*-jitter*

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## Roots Music Report

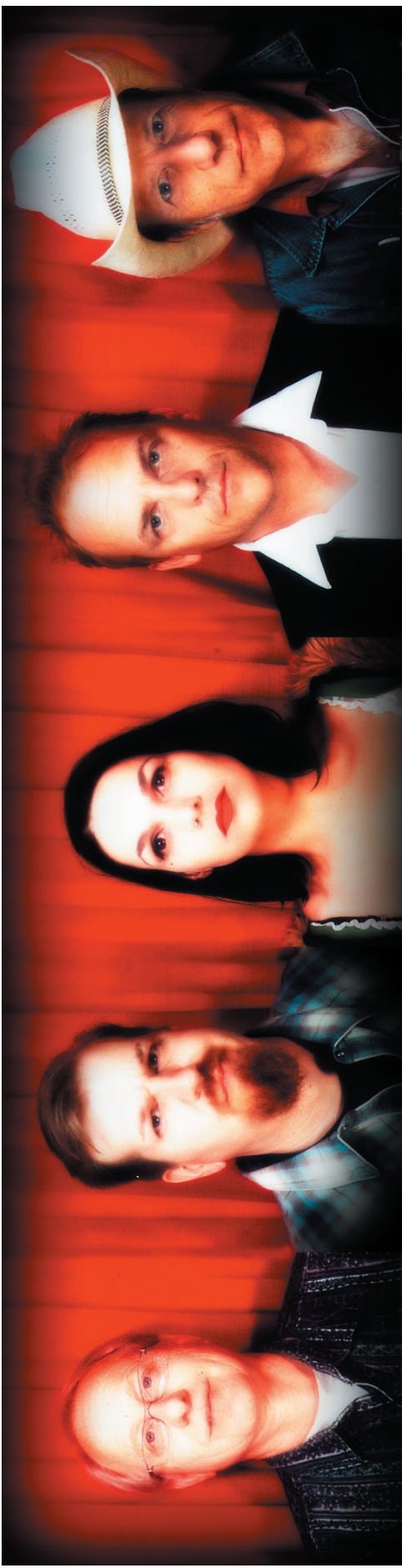
<http://www.rootsmusicreport.com/reviews/truecountry/truecountryrev.php>

77 El Deora: Sirens

Label: Western Independent

Rating: ★★★★★

77 El Deora is one of the most distinctive sounding bands of 2006. Their music and songs are True Country



**Steve Kallai Keith Bahjat Jenn Courtney Christopher Fisher Maurice Tani**



sounding with a bit of Roots/Americana flavoring wonderfully instilled in each unique sound track. 77 El Deora simply presents some outstanding music on this album that represents the True Country and Roots/Americana sound that is sweeping the nation and the world. This is a winning CD that will bring much attention to this band around the globe.

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### Hicks With Sticks

<http://www.hickswithsticks.com>

77 El Deora: Sirens

77 El Deora hit the bull's-eye with their debut release Sirens. Beside all the great songs, hot musicianship and guest contributors, this CD bypassed the studios. Once the basic tracks were down, individual parts were recorded wherever, and then emailed to the band's 77-story global headquarters at 77 el Deora Boulevard where the final product was hand-crafted on organically certified computers. Fear not, technophobes, the CD is the better for it.

*-Jose Segue*

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### CMT Shop

[http://shop.cmt.com/S-rens-Preorders\\_stcVVproductId4196267VVcatId422792VVviewprod.htm](http://shop.cmt.com/S-rens-Preorders_stcVVproductId4196267VVcatId422792VVviewprod.htm)

★★★★★ 5 Stars

Great new country savors tradition. This new band from San Francisco play what some might call "California Country" ...but this is a very different beast from anything I've heard before. Great songwriting, and phenomenal vocal performances. A must have CD from this 'underground' band.

*-Richard Lauer, Fort Worth, TX*

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### Gritz Magazine

[http://www.gritz.net/subscribers\\_area/features/quarters.html](http://www.gritz.net/subscribers_area/features/quarters.html)

77 el Deora: Sirens (WIR)

To tell you the truth, there aren't that many CD's that cross my desk these days that catch my ear and hold my attention. That being said, 77 elDeora sucked me into their Americana vortex from the first spin. From "Ain't I A Handsome Fool," with two prime vocalists, Jenn Courtney

and Maurice Tani, and underscored by the sweet fiddle of Steve Allai, to the vintage boogie woogie of Courtney's "This Record Sucks." I love it. All 15 songs are awesome, including "Fire On The Mountain." No, not the one by the Marshall Tucker Band. No, Not the one made popular by The Grateful Dead. A new, totally original one. "The Devil In My Ear," "Color Me Gone" and "Orange Jumpsuit" add to the fun of this unique, downright fun loving band.

*-Micheal Buffalo Smith*

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### Americana und so weiter

<http://americana-usw.blogspot.com/2006/07/im-cd-wechsler-102006.html>

10.7.06

### Im CD-Wechsler (10/2006)

★★★★1/2

77 el Deora, „Sirens“  
(Western Independent)

Aus San Francisco kommt die hippe Hardcore-Country-Kombo mit dem seltsamen Namen 77 el Deora um das Sänger- und Songwriter-Paar Jenn Courtney und Maurice Tani. Miles of Music beschreibt das Album schöner als ich es könnte: Intelligent, original, neo-noir honky-tonk in the classic rhythms and themes of western America: cheatin`, lyin`, drinkin`, dyin`, broken hearts, shattered dreams, bright, twangy guitars and the Ray Price shuffle. Beide Gesangsstimmen, die weibliche (Jenn Courtney) wie die männliche (Maurice Tani, spielt auch die Gitarre), sind stark. Und besonders fällt die virtuose Fiddle von Steve Kallai auf. Komplettiert wird das Quintett durch den Bassisten Keith Bahjat und den Drummer Christopher Fisher. Auf der CD gibts zudem zusätzliche Gitarren, Steel guitar sowie Piano & organ. Das mit Hardcore-Country sehen 77 el Deora nicht so eng, da haben auch Elemente von Rock und Rockabilly, von Soul und Blues ihren Platz. Die Songs schreibt Maurice Tani. Als Covers gibts zudem „3:30 In The Afternoon“ von Dallas Wayne und „Cryin' Over You“ von Roy Orbison – und als hidden track eine umwerfende Country-Version des Georgia-Satellites-Hits „Keep Your Hands To Yourself“ mit tollen Fiddle-Passagen. Ein ganz starkes Album.

*-Hanspeter Eggenberger*

# 77 El Deora

## PRINT ADS

Neo honky-tonk, hillbilly noir that swerves erratically between the extremes of electric and acoustic, serious and light, sexy and ...well, lead singer Jenn Courtney is always sexy.

[www.77ElDeora.com](http://www.77ElDeora.com)




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**Sirens**

Neo honky-tonk, hillbilly noir that swerves erratically between the extremes of electric and acoustic, serious and light, sexy and ...well, lead singer Jenn Courtney is always sexy.

"Smart, hip, hard-core country is what 77 El Deora serves up. Jenn and Maurice keep the country duet alive and thriving." --Rob Bleetstein, *radioCountry.com*

"77 El Deora is one of the most distinctive sounding bands of 2006." \*\*\*\*\*Five stars --*Roots Music Report*

"'Sirens', is as impressively authentic sounding as the band's image is ambitiously hip." --*Slacker Country*

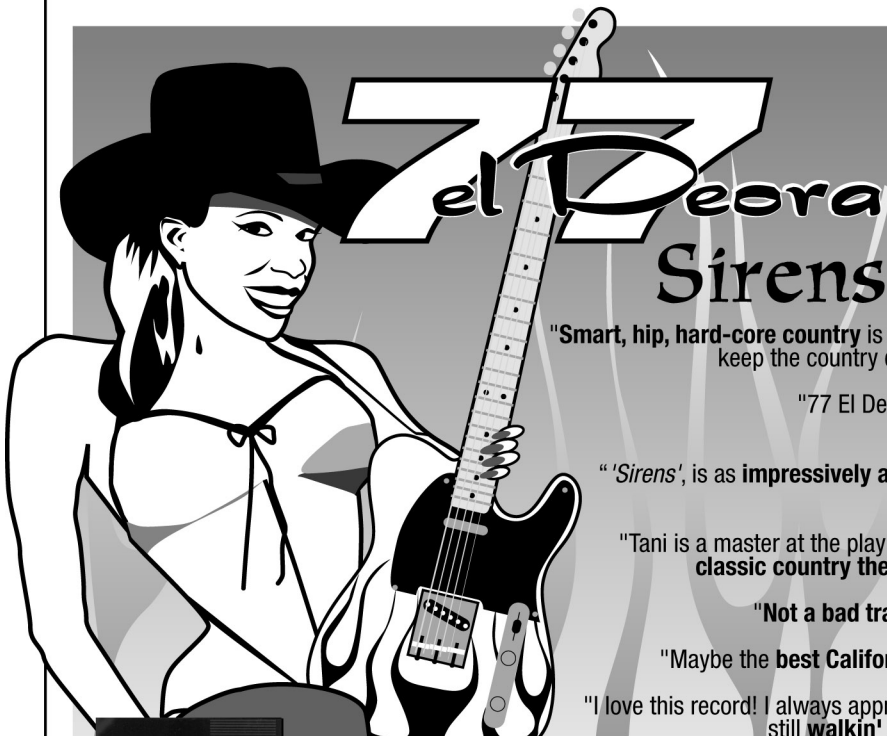
"Tani is a master at the play on word and like early Robbie Fulks, respects the tradition of classic country themes, but with a contemporary twist." --*Freight Train Boogie*

"Not a bad track on the whole dang CD, Sirens is loaded with powerful stories of love, lust and loss" --*Boot Liquor Radio*

"I present to you maybe the best California Country Band that I have ever heard." --*Radio Louisiana*

"I love this record! I always appreciate when bands bring something fresh to the table while still walkin' the line of tradition." --*Dallas Wayne, SIRIUS Satellite Radio*

WIR Western Independent Recording [www.77ElDeora.com](http://www.77ElDeora.com)



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Also from WIR, the precursor to 77 EL DEORA:  
**Calamity&Main: Honky Tonk Heaven**  
 Catalog #: WIR 0103 UPC: 709363716626  
 Retail Price: \$13.99  
 Genre: Americana/Alt Country



Look for our ads in NO DEPRESSION