

TENNESSEAN

REVIEW: Jason Ricci & New Blood, Rocket Number 9

DAVE PAULSON
Staff Writer
Thursday, 11/08/07

Nashville harmonica wizard Jason Ricci and his versatile backing band rip, strut and slink through 12 blues-inflected numbers on their latest, produced by Grammy-winner John Porter (Los Lonely Boys, Bonnie Raitt, Keb' Mo').



Ricci, adept at blasting out dizzying harmonica lines with thick, gritty candor, has the chops that would earn him a fine rep just as a devoted blues man, but he still feels compelled to stretch out into jazzy territory, and the results don't feel like bored deviations.

Ricci's a decent, husky-toned vocalist, but Rocket is par for the jam-band course, in that its traditional song elements don't match the thrill of the fiery instrumental passages. But Ricci has a deeper well to draw from than most free-spirited jam-band frontmen. Now nine years sober, he did jail time for his drug use. This is a potent, distinctly Nashvillian mix of hard-earned soul and pro craft.