

## The Derailers - Bio

Always rockabilly influenced, at times a trio then a quartet, The Derailers, were formed in Austin in 1993. Tony O. Villanueva (guitar) and Brian S. Hofeldt (guitar) wrote most of the group's material on their early recordings. Villanueva and Hofeldt had worked together in bands in Oregon. Villanueva relocated to Austin in the early nineties, and was followed soon afterwards by his pal. In their early days, The Derailers gained a dedicated following in Austin by playing two regular venues - *Trainwreck Wednesday* at The Continental Club, and The Broken Spoke, a historic local honky-tonk. Their first release "**Live Tracks**" [1995] on Austin's Freedom Records, was a recording of their appearance on Austin Public Broadcasting Station KUT-FM's long running show, "**Live Set.**" Their studio debut titled "**Jackpot,**" featuring a trio line-up completed by Vic Gerard (bass), appeared in 1996 on the now defunct Austin label, Watermelon. This album was recently reissued, with an extra cut, as part of the Watermelon Records "Reissue" Series by the Texas Music Group/Lone Star Records. The band also made an appearance in 1997 [Season 22], along with Dale Watson, Wayne Hancock and Don Walser on an "**Austin City Limits**" country showcase titled sub-titled "The Best Of Austin." "**Reverb Deluxe,**" recorded at Austin's Arlyn Studios, appeared about eighteen months after "**Jackpot.**" The first three studio albums by The Derailers were produced by Dave Alvin, and on their second disc the quartet's back line consisted of Terry Kirkendall (drums) and Ethan Shaw (bass). "**Reverb Deluxe,**" initially a Watermelon/Sire Records release, featured twelve original songs, including "Just One More Time," a song that had first appeared on Watermelon's influential "**Austin Country Nights**" [1995] compilation. "**Reverb Deluxe**" also featured a couple of covers - Harlan Howard's "I Don't Believe I'll Fall in Love Today," originally a 1960 hit for Warren Smith, and "No One to Talk to But the Blues," a tune made popular by Lefty Frizzell. The disc also contains a hidden track composed by Prince. "**Full Western Dress,**" on Sire, brought a guest appearance by one of the band's prime musical inspirations, Buck Owens. The Derailers current back line, consists of Mark Horn (drums) and Ed Adkins (bass). Adkins was raised in Ohio. His band, The Roundhead Ranglers opened a show for Austin based country singer Don Walser a couple of years ago. Walser tipped Adkins off that The Derailers were seeking a bass player. The rest of that story, as they say, is history. The fourth studio album, and their first for Lucky Dog/Epic Records was recorded in Nashville at Masterlink Studio and produced by Kyle Lehning. Titled "**Here Come The Derailers,**" and counter to their earlier recordings, much of the material featured was provided by Music City writers such as Kostas and Jim Lauderdale. The collection also included the Charlie Rich rockabilly hit, "Mohair Sam," and the R & B favourite, "If It's Really Got To Be This Way" penned by Arthur Alexander.

Discography: **Live Tracks** [1995] ; **Jackpot** [1996] ; **Reverb Deluxe** [1997] ; **Full Western Dress** [1999] ; **Here Come The Derailers** [2001].

Arthur Wood.  
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