

**FRONT RANGE RECORDS SINGER/SONGWRITER
MIKE SCHIKORA
ON "THE LINNDA DURRE' SHOW"
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 07, 2010 FROM 12-1 PM (ET)
ON WEUS 810 AM RADIO IN ORLANDO AND
STREAMING LIVE ON GLOBAL AUDIO www.BIG810AM.com**



- Mike's country style is captured in his current album, *"This Cowboy's In Love"*
- Worked as a country music staff writer with a small music publishing company for 7 years
- Found his connection in music when he was in the 6th grade
- Earned a BA in Radio & TV Production with a minor in voice - Eastern Washington University
- Has a Half Arabian sport horse breeding business

This rustic Rocky Mountain horseman has come a long way since his arrival in Nashville twenty years ago. He was signed as a staff writer with a small publishing company where he received a lot of attention performing his original music, but was over passed by all the major record labels.

However, that did not dampen his inspiration. It made him stronger and more driven. So when churning out songs for the music mill began to lose its charm, Mike took the advice from someone he highly respected, Don Potter, a seminal component who helped create The Judds sound.

"Don recognized something original in me but said my songs were sounding 'too Nashville' and time off Music Row would help me get back to my originality," remembered Mike. This was a difficult choice to make, but after seven years, he opted out of his writing deal, started his own publishing company, and moved to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Once in the mountains, Mike was instantly re-inspired. He soon realized songs came to him naturally.

"I found when I didn't try to write, songs appeared in my head from out of nowhere, mostly while I'm driving down the canyon in my truck with one hand on the wheel and the other writing down the lyrics," said this rough, gritty cowboy.

Mike grew up in a small logging town (population 3500) in Libby, Montana. After his parents divorced when he was only two years old, his mother moved him and his older brother Don to Mad River, a rural town in northern California with a population of 835. They lived in a large empty ranch with an abandoned chicken coop built over the small stream that ran through it, a run-down rodeo arena and cow chutes. "This was such a fun world for me –perfect for a small kid with a wild imagination," says Mike.

After a few years of rural living in California, they moved back to Montana. It was there Mike made his first connection to music in the 6th grade after hearing someone play the theme to "Bonanza" and "Orange Blossom Special" on the violin.

"I was hooked! The sound on that violin woke something up in me. I went home that day, and told, not asked, my Mom that I needed \$20 for violin lessons. Coming from a Mom raising two boys alone, I did not realize how much money that was to us, but she handed it over without hesitation," said Mike. A year later, a choir teacher heard him singing along while practicing the violin and the next day, he was singing in the choir. Not long after his parents reconciled and remarried, Mike began honing his craft by performing as the lead singer in a band playing weekend honky-tonks.

"Being underage teenagers, playing in bars and watching our folks dancing and supporting us was great," he recalled. After graduating, Mike working three restaurant jobs while playing the bars and bowling alleys to earn money for college during the summer.

After selling his '64 Chevy Impala and applying for college loan grants, he attended Eastern Washington University, graduating with a BA in Radio & TV production and a minor in voice. While in college, he met one of the most influential people in his life, his music professor, Dr. Ralph 'Doc' Manzo. This Italian coach took Mike's unique, high tenor voice and developed him into a full blown 'contra-tenor' studying opera and jazz.

Mike's country style is captured in his current album, *What's Old Is New Again*. After cutting his teeth on an eclectic list of musical influences from Boots Randolph, Floyd Cramer, Chet Atkins, to The Judds and Billie Holiday, his songs showcase his organic, emotive voice. The debut CD marries country rhythm and blues in "She's Got A Mind Of Her Own," to a straight country sound in "Colorado Cowboy," to an acoustic blues feel showcasing amazing fiddle work in "Poor Lonely Me," and the anthem tribute to his hometown in "Montana Skies."

When he is not working in his Half Arabian Sport horse breeding business, training new born foals, working in the pasture, mending fences, or even riding his horse over the Continental Divide, he enjoys playing his guitar. "I was determined to teach myself how to play. I used to practice the country songs that were featured in the Sunday Tennessean newspaper," he added.

"I love the ranch and cowboy lifestyle – everything about it – there's not a better way to live on Earth as far as I'm concerned. When asked as a little kid what I wanted to do when I grew up, I told folks I would be a famous singer and have horses on my own ranch." This Colorado cowboy is well on his way to achieving his dream.

To contact Mike Schikora, E-mail Nicole Zeller at nicole.zeller@plamedia.com

Call 407-774-1085 for Q & A with Mike Schikora on "The Linnda Durré Show."

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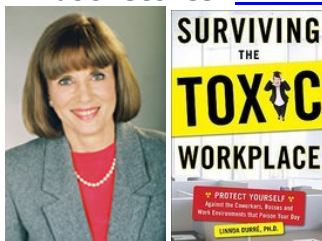
9 AM – 10 AM	PACIFIC COAST
10 AM – 11 AM	MOUNTAIN TIME
11 AM – 12 NOON	CENTRAL TIME
12 NOON – 1 PM	EASTERN TIME

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Linnda Durré is a radio and TV talk show host, journalist, author, writer, business and corporate consultant; an Internet, magazine and newspaper columnist; and an award winning filmmaker. She was admitted to WGA when she sold a TV series to Aaron Spelling, and she has written and hosted for the Disney Channel. She has hosted and produced two TV shows (one national) and this is the third radio show she has hosted and produced.

She has appeared on Oprah, 60 Minutes, The Today Show, Good Morning America, Daytime, The O'Reilly Factor (twice), and hundreds of other local and national TV and radio shows, including the local and/or national news programs on ABC, CBS, NBC, NPR, PBS, CW, and Fox.

She has been interviewed, quoted, and/or cited by the NY Times, LA Times, Investors Business Daily, USA Today, Christian Science Monitor, Pasadena Star News, San Diego Union & Tribune, Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Chronicle & Examiner, Albany Times Union, Parade Magazine, CNN Online (twice), Variety, Backstage, Hollywood Reporter, Dramalogue, Screen Actor Magazine, etc.

Her book, *Surviving the Toxic Workplace: Protect Yourself Against Co-workers, Bosses, and Work Environments That Poison Your Day*, is in bookstores. [www.survivingthetoxicworkplace.com](http://www.survivingthetoxicworkplace.com)



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Visit her websites at [www.LinndaDurre.com](http://www.LinndaDurre.com) & [www.LinndaDurreShow.com](http://www.LinndaDurreShow.com)

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Check her show's profile on 810 AM radio's website: [www.BIG810AM.com](http://www.BIG810AM.com) – read about her show.

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