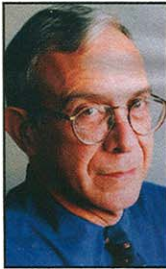


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**The
Indies**TM
By Chris Morris
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BAD GUITAR: Burnside Distribution in Portland, Ore., has picked up exclusive national distribution of **Carlos Guitarlos'** debut solo disc, "Straight From the Heart," on Nomad Records.

The re-emergence of Guitarlos--whom The Indies has known, all too well, for 20 years--is one of the most surprising music stories of the year.

In the early '80s, he served as lead guitarist for volatile Los Angeles blues-punk band **Top Jimmy & the Rhythm Pigs**, which was famously feted on **Van Halen's** album "1984."

After the group imploded in the mid-'80s, Guitarlos (real name **Carlos Ayala**) moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. Plagued by substance abuse problems and suffering from diabetes, he made his living playing on the street in San Francisco's Mission District.

Guitarlos' nephew **Damon Ayala** helped the musician pull things together and record an album of original songs, featuring such guests as **John Doe** of **X**, **Dave Alvin** of **the Blasters** and **Mike Watt** of **the Minutemen**. Initially, "Straight From the Heart" could be found only in L.A. record stores.

The saga attracted the attention of the Los Angeles Times, which ran a front-page story about Guitarlos earlier this year.



As a result of that high-profile piece, Guitarlos--now clean and sober and once again living in Los Angeles--has become a high-profile club performer in his hometown.

To the amazement of many who knew him when he was an unholy terror on the scene, the L.A. mayor's office declared a "Carlos Guitarlos Day" this summer.