

## Snider returns to Juanita's

Arkansas Times Staff  
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**TODD SNYDER: At Juanita's.**

Singer-songwriter Todd Snider admits to an “unhealthy fixation” on such mentors as John Prine, Billy Joe Shaver, Jerry Jeff Walker and Kris Kristofferson, but fact is, they like him a lot, too.

“Those are guys that I really looked up to as a kid, that I listened to,” he said, “they’ve been incredibly gracious. I can call them in the middle of the night and they can call me drunk in the middle of the night. If I feel like I’m stuck on a song, I’ve been able to get feedback from them. I’m lucky for that.

“A lot of people say they get to meet their hero and their hero turns out to be a jerk, but not these guys.”

Snider played at Kristofferson’s recent induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, and reportedly brought down the house with his version of “Me and Bobby McGee.”

Snider returns to what he says is one of his favorite haunts, Juanita’s Cantina Ballroom, on Friday, May 20, in a 10 p.m. show. Tickets are \$15.

Snider will be contributing “Maybe You Heard” to a Kristofferson tribute album by fellow artists. As for his own album, Snider believes he’s about three or four more songs from “being ready to go.” Also, Snider’s first record company is issuing a compilation of the best of three earlier Snider albums, he said.

“I picked everything about it,” he said. “I didn’t use any of the singles. I never liked the singles that much. I really detach from my songs anyway. Once they leave the house they’re gone, they’re out of there.”

In 12 years of touring, Snider says, he has “about a 4,000-way tie for first” for favorite show he’s played. “I’ve never been booed, but I think I would enjoy it. We played in Fayetteville where a fight broke out and I got punched, but I still enjoyed it.”

He’s back in Fayetteville, at JR’s Dickson Street Theater, on Saturday night. “I’m in better shape this time,” he adds.