

ROMANCE FANTASY

<http://www.romancefantasymusic.com> • info@romancefantasymusic.com

There was Michael Valentine, sitting in a lonely room with nothing on hand but an unmade bed, a bottle of whisky, and his acoustic guitar. His back was against the wall, both literally and figuratively. Years ago, there was a meeting of lips, that first kiss, the very first spark, a growing passion which became a raging fire. Now, the only light in his life was the one afforded him by the dawning sun as its rays slip in through a window. . . Welcome to Romance Fantasy.

Formed in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2000, Romance Fantasy's five-man lineup currently includes: Michael Valentine (lead vocals/guitar), Frankie "Angel" Salvo (bass), Levi Stokes (lead guitar), Abe McCormick (keyboards), and Jason Blair (drums). Former members include Ted Sablay and Ronnie Vannucci of The Killers and Clayton Scrivner from the Rodeo Boys.

As the primary lyricist in Romance Fantasy, Michael Valentine (born Rod Pardey) draws upon his experiences in life and love (but mostly love) when penning songs. When not performing in Romance Fantasy, Valentine holds a not-so-ordinary day job as a professional poker player and uses his songs to capture the highs and lows he faces in his life as a gambler (for more info on Valentine's poker career visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodney_E._Pardey).

Recently they toured with The Killers and Louis XIV in Dallas, Houston and El Paso, Texas, and also opened for Paolo Nutini and Peter Bjorn and John at Stubb's in Austin, Texas during the week of the Austin City Limits music festival. Romance Fantasy released a self-titled EP in September 2007 and are planning to record an album in the upcoming winter.

Romance Fantasy's influences are varied: Valentine spent his formative years listening to Elvis Presley and The Smiths, Stokes has studied the guitar style of Zal Yanovsky, and Salvo incorporates a James Jamerson, Mowtown style. Their audience ranges from twenty-somethings who desire an unaffected, popular sound, to more mature listeners who recognize the band's classic appeal.

Influences: The Smiths, The Beatles, Lovin' Spoonful, Blur, Talking Heads, Bob Wills & the Texas Playboys, Rolling Stones, R.E.M., The Violent Femmes, the music of Motown and the original music from the film *Ishtar*.

Styles: rock, alternative, rockabilly, alt-country, western swing, 1970s AM radio