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JASON ALDEAN

Nashville's Newest Golden Boy

By John Hood

He may have come from a "hicktown," but Jason Aldean got to revel in the bright lights and big city atmosphere at a recent party to celebrate his first Gold record. The event took place at the Red Iguana nightclub in downtown Nashville on January 10. Aldean and his family, music industry insiders, friends and the media celebrated his success with the staff of his record label, Broken Bow Records, who were also celebrating their first Gold album as a label. Other notable celebs on hand included John Rich of Big & Rich fame, who co-wrote "Hicktown" with Vicky McGehee, who was also in attendance. They wrote the Top 10 hit with Rich's duo partner Big Kenny.

Highlights of the evening included Broken Bow Records President/CEO Benny Brown's heartfelt thanks as he presented Aldean with a Gold record plaque to commemorate album sales of 500,000. Then Aldean took the microphone to thank all the people who helped make his success possible. He thanked his wife and family for their support and putting up with him being gone so much of the time. He also thanked his manager Lawrence Mathis and presented Mathis with a Gold album plaque.



Scott Hunter

Pictured above are Jason Aldean and Benny Brown, President/CEO of Broken Bow Records.

There's a lot of momentum surrounding Jason Aldean these days. He's hitting the road with one of the top acts in country music, celebrating a Gold record and racing up the charts with his new single, "Why." He's got plenty of reason to party. In fact, if this torrid pace continues, Aldean may be throwing another party before the end of the year—one with a platinum theme.



Scott Hunter

Pictured above (L to R) are Vicky McGehee, Aldean and John Rich, co-writer of five songs on the album.

At a pre-party press conference Aldean spoke about how much his life had changed over the past year and how exciting things had been. "I've been waiting on this for about 14 years," he said. "The fact that it's finally happened and we've had the success and sold this many records is incredible. I wouldn't change anything about it."

Aldean also announced that he would be joining the Rascal Flatts tour as an opening act for part of the year. "This is the first major tour that I've been on and I'm looking forward to it. The first night when we go out it's going to be 'Oh, my God,' when we're in front of all those screaming fans they've got. It's going to be fun. It's a good way to kick off 2006, that's for sure."