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Music

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all over the control room, draped over the backs of chairs, and we were trying to figure out how to put it all back together. Then the drummer mumbled the immortal words, 'Wow, it's like Frankenstein!"

When "Frankenstein" came alive on Top 40 radio, Epic Records charged Winter's gate like torch-carrying townspeople eager for more. The label brass was soon asking the artist to follow up with... perhaps "Dracula" or maybe even "The Wolfman."

It was a horrific request, as far as Winter was concerned.

"They're always looking for a hook," the musician said with some bemusement. "They want a song that sounds like the hit and about three or four more songs that sound like that song, and then they put it all together and call it a cohesive album."

Instead, Winter's records

offered up a determined eclecticism, while he also became known for his energetic stage presence. To accommodate, he created a body strap that allowed the wild-man keyboardist to move freely about the stage.

"That came from my frustration with being stuck behind a big bank of keyboards. I need to get out there and jump around and work up a sweat," he said.

Little has changed in the decades since Winter first blew in. As the musician finally ages into his trademark locks of flowing white hair, the 65-year-old has no intention of slowing down anytime soon, or ever, for that matter.

"I have that bluesman mentality," he said. "When I'm 80 or 90, I still expect to be playing. It's such a huge integral part of my life, I can't imagine giving it up. You'll never hear Edgar Winter talking about a farewell tour. I'm a Texan. I'm going to die with my boots on.'

Edgar Winter will perform Dec. 14 at the Ogden Theatre with Eddie Money & John Cafferty. For more information, call 303-832-1874 or visit www.ogdentheater.net or edgar winter.com. Contact Peter Jones at pjoneslifemusic@aol.com.



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