

ROBBIE REAY

BLUE
BLOODS

DISCOVER
THE UNDISCOVERED

WORDS: Robbie Reay PICTURES: Colin Campbell

Established Blues Musician Robbie Reay performs in the UK and international venues. He plays original contemporary blues with slide guitar, cigar box guitar, and a Mississippi stomp box, mixed with incredible vocals. Robbie is concentrating on his solo act, although continues to play with his band The Killer Cats, and as a duo accompanied by harmonica player Willie Cran. Robbie's repertoire is intertwined with acoustic and electric delta blues, sincere balladry, and occasional innuendo in a virtuoso style that's hard to beat. He lives the blues, he breathes it and said, "once you've experienced the blues it stays with you, it's not something you get rid of." "The blues is simply life, when I play for you I do it with soul, conviction, emotion, truth and feeling. I'm selling my soul to you for those few moments of time."

At the age of 10, Robbie received his first guitar as a gift. Initially taught by a talented folk musician in the North East of England, Robbie continued his musical journey honing his skills as a rhythm guitarist playing the Working Man Club circuit in 50's Rock n Roll bands.

For years Robbie was in turmoil with songs in his head, bursting to come out. Without the means to record or any real direction, he remained frustrated with a longing and yearning to create but wondered which way to go. He was at the crossroads in life. With the help of friends and mentors, Robbie finally realised his true calling - Blues. Folk Blues, Piedmont, Acoustic or Electric, whatever, he'd found the answer.

Fired up and hungry like a pea vine train, he embarked on a musical pilgrimage to Mississippi in search of answers. Where did the music he used to play come from? He found himself standing at the devil's crossroads, south of Dockery just before midnight, waiting for the man. Nothing happened. Disappointed and walking back along the dirt track, an old man came out of the shadows and said "Ha, I see you've been to them crossroads". Almost speechless, Robbie said, "how do you



know?" "Well that's easy" said the man. "Looks like ole Papa Legba took your souls!" Looking down at his feet, Robbie realised he had nothing on them! So, there it was, the start of an amazing musical journey, the start of Barefoot Blues, the album and the book. The rest they say is history!

Website: www.robbiereay.co.uk