

BOROUGH BLUES

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This Month at the BBC – 4th January “The Rob Berry Band”



Rob Berry hails from the Deep South - the deep, Deep South of England somewhere between Portsmouth and Southampton and has been to the Borough Blues Club way back in November 2008 - so his return is well overdue.

Rob Berry began studying classical piano at the age of 7, but soon after seeing a Dr Feelgood gig in his teens, the piano was swapped for the blues guitar.

In the 80's Rob began a career as a recording engineer at Bermuda Sound Studios, this led to him to provide the engineering on Keith Richards 'Talk is Cheap' album produced by Steve Jordan. In 1990 Rob moved on to work in a top London recording and mixing house, 'Swanyard Studios' where he worked alongside of some of the best producers and engineers in the business including Alan Moulder (Nine Inch Nails, My Bloody Valentine), Jazzy B (Soul to Soul), Adamski's 'Killer', Bernie Sumner (New Order), Johnny Marr (Smiths) and Andy Farris (INXS) just to name a few.

After some time, the manic long hours took their toll and Rob really wanted to be a player not a technician. Through contacts in the studio business he began to do session work on guitar for the likes of Tom Robinson, Chris White from Dire Straits and many other artists. In 1994 Rob worked at Earls Court as a guitar demonstrator for JHS, the distributors for Hughes & Kettner amps and Jackson & Encore Guitars. Rob also went on to develop a busy schedule of regular gigs in West London and the South East.

In the early 90's Rob headed back out to Bermuda for a summer playing gigs in the tourist resorts and Pubs – he found this great fun and got to jam with some of New York's finest bluesers (e.g. Poppa Chubby and Big Ed & the Side Pockets at the Oasis Club), with frequent trips to Florida & NYC. Rob enjoyed this so much that the holiday turned into a 13 year stay until, for family reasons, Rob returned to the UK in 2007. Since returning he has completed four albums and is regularly performing across the south. <http://www.robberly.com>

FORTHCOMING GIG'S

14 th Dec	Danny Bryant
4 th January	Rob Berry
8 th February	Mitch Laddie
1 st March	Brothers Groove
5 th April	Lawrence Jones
10 th May	Chantel McGregor
7 th June	Billy Walton
5 th July	Idle Hands
2 nd August	Black Top Deluxe
6 th September	Dawson Smith
October	Grainne Duffy
1 st November	Built for Comfort
13 th December	Wille & the Bandits

Next Month at the BBC – 8th February “The Mitch Laddie Band”

Prepare to be blown away as guitar legend Mitch Laddie storms the stage with his volcanic guitar playing and high octane band. Mitch, a star in his own right, has kindly stepped into the void left by the cancellation of Samantha Fish's tour but we hope to get Samantha to Borough Blues sometime in the future.

Mitch Laddie, who is a protégé of Walter Trout, released his second album "Burning Bridges" last year at the tender age of 22. Mitch, who is signed to Mystic Records, saw this album being picked as joint album of the year with Tedeschi Trucks Band by Blues and Soul Magazine. In 2013, this young guitar hero wowed thousands of fans at concerts including the Skegness Rock and Blues Festival and again when he was picked from hundreds of bands to open the massive Galtres Festival.

In September 2013, Mitch Laddie submitted to fans requests for a live album and recorded the album in The Cluny to a sell out crowd. The album will be released February 22nd and both fans and critics alike are hotly anticipating what promises to be a special release.

There is little doubt that. In due course, Mitch Laddie will go down in history as a guitar god. Don't miss him!

Gig Review: December 2013

"Danny Bryant's Redeye Band" with "Borough Blues Workshop Band"



An extremely wet night – but not one to suppress the mood at the Borough Blues Club which was in high Christmas Party mode for a very full evening

of entertainment.

Monday night workshop sessions are an integral part of the Club activities and have benefitted in the last few months from the guidance and leadership of Steve Jenkins, a professional music teacher and an outstanding guitarist. The Workshop Band had worked hard with Steve to put together a support set – and they kicked off the evening in great style with an hour of varied numbers from vocalists Allison Ward, Dave Lewis and Adrian Powell. There was a noticeable step up in quality, precision and arrangements from previous public performances of the band - and its members (too many to mention here) should be proud of the musicality they brought to the event.

Then onwards and upwards to Danny Bryant's first set – seemingly very Walter Trout influenced and characterised by heavy, straightforward bass lines from Alex Phillips and Trevor Barr's Phil Collins-like, persistent snare-shot drumming – filling the room with driving and soulful blues. Danny Bryant is a big man of 32 who was identified as a guitar prodigy at 15 and has gone on to become a very significant part of the European Blues scene – constantly touring and recording – he was making a welcome return to Wales and provided a superb show. He has a great blues voice – highly expressive and yet well

capable of aggressive tones when needed. His guitar playing was sublime – could be fast but never just for the sake of it – and hard-edged at times though balanced by sensitive and thoughtful phrasing at others. Danny is a guitar virtuoso and displayed all his skills with panache for a very appreciative crowd.

At the end of the first set the audience were



treated to a feast of sausage rolls (Greggs, of course) and deep-filled mince pies to celebrate the festive season. Then the traditional club raffle before the band played on – harder than ever! Danny generously invited Steve Jenkins up to share the stage with him and produced one of the highlights of the night – or perhaps the 'Borough Blues Club highlight of the year' in the opinion of a very happy Keith Barwood. Danny and Steve traded licks in sensational fashion to the delight of the crowd – with individual solos and intertwined 'call and response' phrases of great skill. It all added to a wonderful night's entertainment.

Judging by how busy Danny's Mum was with the merchandising the crowd really took to the band and therefore we are sure that we will see them back with us in the not-too-distant future (though we do have an extremely good line up of bands booked for the next year). Finally, just a little postscript on the band – Danny's Dad, who played bass with Danny for many years and who, with Mum, supported and nurtured Danny's career, decided to retire in the summer at the ripe old age of 69. The Borough Blues Club wishes Ken a long and happy retirement.

That's all Folks...