



BLUE BELLA NEWS

THE BEST IN CHICAGO BLUES

SPRING 2005

Nick Moss & the Flip Tops

On The Road...

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY... Moss' touring schedule has been grueling... and he likes it! After hooking up with **Doug Tackett** and **Dave McIntyre** of **Road Dawg Touring** (Evergreen, CO), The Flip Tops have been touring the country extensively for months. Catch him if you can; here are some upcoming dates...(find a complete listing online at www.nickmoss.com)

APRIL 2005

- 01 Player's (Richmond, KY)
- 02 Sister's (Richmond, VA)
- 04 Nick's a guest on the new CD by **MONSTER MIKE WELCH!**
- 06 Terra Blues (New York, NY)
- 09 Sydney's (Rohoboth, DE)
- 10 Scotland Yard (Hoboken, NJ)
- 12 Mexicali Blues (Teaneck, NJ)
- 13 Barking Crab (Boston, MA)
- 14 Harry's Blues Bar (Hyannis, MA)
- 16 Paula Jean's (E. Setauket, NY)
- 17 B-Bar (Niagra Falls, NY)
- 18 Tully's (Sharon, PA)
- 20 Buddy Guy's Legends (Chicago, IL)
- 22 Lock, Stock & Barrel (Decatur, IL)
- 23 Blues On Grand (Des Moines, IA)
- 24 House Of Blues (Chicago, IL)
- 29 Buddy Guy's Legends (Chicago, IL)

MAY 2005

- 06 Big Cities Lounge (Rockford, IL)
- 07 Bill's Blues (Evanston, IL)
- 12 Lefty's (Salem, OR)
- 13 Highway 99 Blues (Seattle, WA)
- 14 Untapped Blues Festival (Kennewick, WA) - 2pm
- 14 Highway 99 Blues (Seattle, WA)
- 18 Casper Inn (Casper, CA)
- 19 Biscuits & Blues (San Fran., CA)
- 20 Crystal Bay Club Casino (NV)
- 21 Crystal Bay Club Casino (NV)
- 24 Torch Club (Sacramento, CA)
- 25 Ruby's (Merced, CA)
- 26 Mickey's (Ridgecrest, CA)
- 29 Bird Cage Saloon (Prescott, AZ)

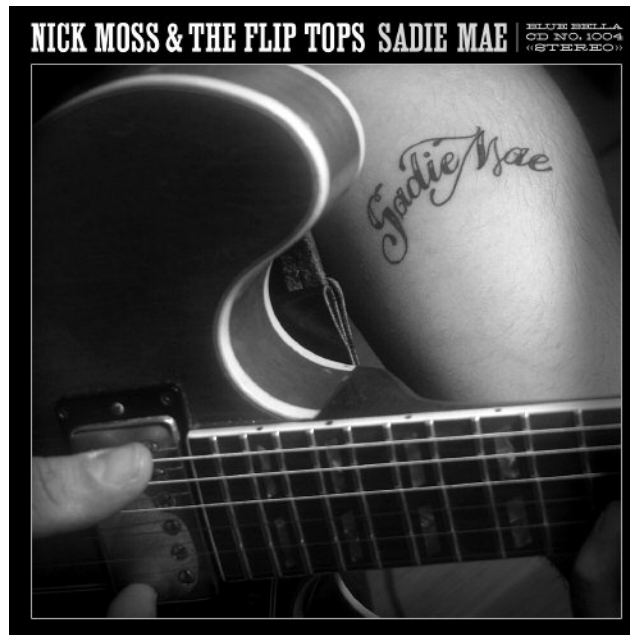
JUNE 2005

- 09 **CHICAGO BLUES FESTIVAL!**
(Front Porch Stage - 3pm)
- 11 Buddy Guy's Legends (time TBA)
...more online...

www.nickmoss.com

Blue Bella Announces New Arrival!

The Anticipated Follow-up to *Count Your Blessings* Due June 14th



A MARKED MAN: The new CD cover shows one of Nick's recent tattoos as he plays his '345. **UPPER RIGHT:** The muse... Sadie Mae Moss was born May 19, 2004 and has inspired Nick ever since. **LOWER RIGHT:** The boys in the recording studio laying down a vocal track for "Just Like That".



The song lyric "the blues had a baby" never rang more true than through Chicago blues gunslinger Nick Moss' newest tougher-than-tough CD *Sadie Mae*. The title track is a celebration of his baby daughter and the Hound Dog Taylor and John Lee Hooker songs which inspired her name. **Sadie Mae makes it apparent that Nick Moss has reached new heights and become a serious musical force to be reckoned with.**

None of that will surprise Moss' growing coterie of fans around the world, who first took notice during his youthful apprenticeship with windy city icon Jimmy Rogers, and understand from his increasing touring schedule and three previous CDs that his career comet is one of the brightest and fastest rising. Moss' formidable command of the time-

less 1950s Chicago sounds—and all its musical twists and turns since then—captivate the listener via his top shelf guitar work, vocals showing a new level of effectiveness and expressiveness, and a program heavy on personal songwriting about topics ranging from his own family to one of Chicago's most notorious ghetto scenesters.

His bandleading and arranging skills have crafted unfailingly creative and engaging frameworks for his own music. Sadie Mae wraps its paternal tenderness in quite a wallop. Nick Moss is still a relatively fresh face on the Chicago blues scene, but he's already provided ample assurance with *Sadie Mae* that he's got at least two exciting and rewarding ways of helping the blues see another generation.

—DICK SHURMAN



ALSO SOON-TO-BE-RELEASED...

In conjunction with Rhythm & Roll Records, Blue Bella Records is pleased to announce the new release by Denver's premier traditional blues band, **EASY BILL & THE BIG BEAT...** Following their successful debut, the new *Stay Tuned!* is produced by Nick Moss and features original songs in the spirit of the Golden Age of Rhythm & Blues, as well as covers by Red Prysock, Piano Red, and Guitar Slim. More on page two.

"These guys know when to cook and when to lie back, providing a textbook example of how to merge the modern with the moldy."

—Blues Revue, on Easy Bill's debut on Rhythm & Roll Records, *Midnight Creep*.

BlueBella
RECORDS

IN STORES JUNE 14:

NICK MOSS & THE FLIP TOPS SADIE MAE

NICK MOSS & THE FLIP TOPS SADIE MAE



"(Sadie Mae is) a well-grounded statement by an increasingly centered artist who can rightly be called a master." —DICK SHURMAN

PRODUCED BY NICK MOSS

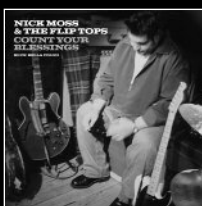
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"Rancho," continued from back page.

Spann on drums. Producer/journalist **Dick Shurman** notes, "(Sadie Mae is) a well-grounded statement by an increasingly centered artist who can rightly be called a master." He goes on to say that, "It's tough, searing and driving



"I don't try to be arrogant; I don't try to re-invent the wheel, I'm not trying to take blues to the next level or in another direction; I'm just trying to preserve what was handed down to me."

—NICK MOSS,
ON RECORDING SADIE MAE

music with modest pretensions and powerful impact, in keeping with its burly purveyor. As the cover suggests, *Sadie Mae* can pack a serious wallop." While talking to Shurman about this release, Nick explained, "I just feel a little more confident in my abilities. This is a little more true representation of how I play live. I don't try to be arrogant; I don't try to re-invent the wheel, I'm not trying to take blues to the next level or in another direction; I'm just trying to preserve what was handed down to me."

Critics, DJs and fans around the world are anxious to get their copy of *Sadie Mae*; the next issue of *Blue Bella News* will feature their post-release reaction.

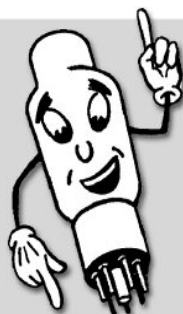
On To The Next Project

In March, Moss and Hundt were back at the "Rancho," this time to work on the new CD by Denver's **Easy Bill and the Big Beat**, for which Nick once again wore the hat of producer. He also produced Bill's debut, *Midnight Stroll*, which was praised by critics and blues fans alike and hit the *Living Blues* Radio Charts at a respectable #18. *Blues Revue* said that "(Easy Bill is) a first class guitarist fronting a fine, tra-



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: "Easy Bill" Towber takes five during his *Stay Tuned* recording session at Rancho de Rhythm Studios; The cover of Bill's debut, *Midnight Creep*; Little Sadie Mae looks on with producer dad as Bill lays down a track.

dition-minded band". The *Denver Westword* cited Bill as "arguably the baddest blues man in town." "**Easy Bill**" Towber is joined by **Mark Richardson** on piano, organ and trumpet; **RD Jones** on bass; **Chris Beers** on drums and percussion, and **Ken Plum** on tenor and baritone sax. The release date for *Stay Tuned!* is June 14th. More info on Bill and the band can be found at www.BigBeatBlues.com.



Nick Moss would like to thank **Skip Simmons**, for all his hard work and expertise. Find out more:

SKIP SIMMONS AMPLIFIER REPAIR

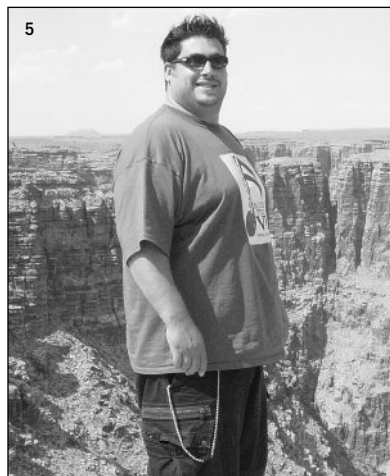
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As Seen on the Road

A Few Shots from Recent Stops



1: Nick and Gerry in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. 2: Gerry blowin' his heart out at the Kankakee River Blues Festival, September, 2004. 3: Nick just after getting his two new tattoos ("Sadie Mae" on left forearm and "Katie Ann" on right forearm), with tattoo artist Adam Rosenthal, Th'Ink Tank, Denver, CO. 4: Also taken at the Kankakee River Blues Fest last year, Nick and Gerry duel on their SGs. 5: Nick takes a break from driving to enjoy the view of the Grand Canyon while touring the west in late 2004. 6: The Flip Tops crash a Mark Hummel gig at Cox Bros. BBQ in Manhattan, KS.

Stay Tuned!
 JUNE 14, 2005

EASY BILL & THE BIG BEAT
 WWW.BIGBEATBLUES.COM

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 BLUES MAN IN TOWN." - Denver Westwood

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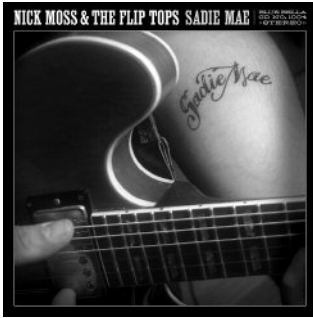
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SADIE MAE IS ON THE WAY!
The follow-up to *Count Your Blessings* to drop June 14th.

FROM THE FANS

The Word on the Street

MANY UNSOLICITED EMAILS COME IN WEEKLY from blues fans expressing their appreciation after having seen a set or heard a CD by Nick Moss & the Flip Tops. Here are a few recent ones...

"...I'm a big fan of (Nick Moss & the Flip Tops)... I've seen them around Chicago and think they're a kick ass band!!! Hearing Nick sing on a CD is nothing compared to hearing him live because in my opinion he's one BAD MUTHERF#!@ER on vocals and has a STINGING guitar sound I've come to enjoy!!!"*

— Fernando (Chicago, IL)

"I just saw you guys on a local PBS broadcast of Austin City Limits. It was awesome!!! I would really like to see you guys live on April 17, 2005... Wow!"

— Ramon (Buffalo, NY)

"Aloha Nick... My wife Jean and I had the extreme pleasure of seeing you the last time you were here; we saw you twice and really had a great time."

— Michael (California)

"I'm a big fan of Nick Moss and was wondering if I could have his autograph please..."

—Bob (Bristol, England)

*"I just wanted to say that I love the **Count Your Blessings** CD and if I get a chance to see Nick and Co. live, well, I would 'count MY blessings' even more!"*

— JJ (Ottawa, ONT, Canada)

"(Nick) has Jimmy Rogers' and Muddy Waters' music coming out of his pores, and I mean that as the highest praise."

— Terence (Washington, DC)

PROUD MEMBER



If you still haven't joined the **BLUES FOUNDATION**... It's time. You'll become part of the Blues family that recognizes that **each of us** has the duty to support the music we love. Plus, you'll have a voting hand in the W.C. Handy Awards and enjoy member discounts at Associated Blues Clubs across the country. Just log on to www.blues.org to join.

"Rancho de Rhythm" Now Open for Business

THEY SAY IF YOU WANT IT DONE right, you have to do it yourself... Though he had great experiences working with Engine Studios in Chicago for the last two CDs, Nick Moss decided to take matters into his own hands.



"Now I have the flexibility to record what I want, when I want, without having to pay by the hour."

—NICK MOSS

After transforming two rooms in the basement of his home into a fully-functioning recording studio, Moss set up shop and enlisted fellow Flip Top **Gerry Hundt** as engineer and technical advisor. Noted for his "organizational skills" as well as his musical versatility, Gerry proved to be an invaluable



MEN AT WORK: Nick Moss (left) and Gerry Hundt go through final mixes.

asset to Nick's creative vision—and **Rancho de Rhythm Studios** was ready to roll. "Now I have the flexibility to record what I want, when I want, without having to pay by the hour." Nick also looks forward to producing other projects with other bands, like the one for Denver, Colorado's **Easy Bill** and the **Big Beat** (see page two).

To test out the new digs, Nick and the boys laid down some tracks with friend and colleague **Gary Primich**, who was in town visiting family, and who did a few gigs with Nick's band at local clubs, including **Buddy Guy's Legends** and **House Of Blues** in Chicago. Although these tracks won't appear on *Sadie Mae*, they may be featured on a future Blue Bella release. The impromptu session helped Nick and Gerry work out some of the kinks, familiarize themselves

with the equipment, and test the capabilities of their new 'tools'.

The New Release

After a few days fresh off the road in February 2005, the Flip Tops assembled once again, this time poised to record the much-anticipated follow-up to the incredibly successful, W.C. Handy-nominated **Count Your Blessings**.

After a two-year recording hiatus, Moss returned to the studio fresh with numerous originals as well as a few inspired covers thrown in for good measure. This session saw him joined by his touring band: **Hundt** on guitar and harmonica, **Bob Welsh** (of the Charlie Musselwhite and Rusty Zinn bands, among others) on piano and organ, **Dave Wood** (formerly with Michael Coleman's outfit) on bass, and **Victor**

Continued on page 2.