

BLUE BELLA NEWS

THE BEST IN CHICAGO BLUES

WINTER 2007

Three Blue Bella Releases Garner Critical Acclaim

CDs Prompt Stellar Reviews, Convert New Fans, and Earn Countless Spins on Blues Radio

JULY 11, 2006 MARKED THE RELEASE of three Blue Bella Records CDs: Nick Moss & the Flip Tops, *Live At Chan's* (1005); Bill Lupkin & Friends, *Where I Come From* (1006); and The Kilborn Alley Blues Band, *Put It In The Alley* (1007). Each would go on to earn critical acclaim in their own right, and collectively, they helped elevate the Blue Bella label to 'real deal' status. The reach seems to be worldwide, as illustrated in an unsolicited email from overseas DJ Bjorn Wiksaas, of Radio Ung (in Kristiansand, Norway): "With releases like these, Blue Bella Records truly steps up to be one of the blues record labels to be taken seriously. Amazingly high quality blues."

Back Where It All Started

The first of two CD release parties took place on August 4th at Chan's Eggroll & Jazz in Woonsocket, RI, the venue at which the CD was recorded.

The band played to a capacity crowd of blues fans back to hear more of the magic that had been recorded one year earlier in the venerable music venue. The group of folks who helped to make it all possible (Bob McLaren, Roy Souza—and his wife Beverly, Russ Carpentier, George Sargent, and Arthur Hardy) were, of course, on hand to lend their support and enjoy a great night of hot blues.



FROM THE EAST COAST TO THE MIDWEST: A) L-R: George Sargent, Nick Moss, Roy Souza, Bob McLaren, Mike Welch, Gerry Hundt, Russ Carpentier and Willie Oshawny at the 2005 recording of *Live At Chan's*; B) Moss sliding into a solo at the *Live At Chan's* CD release party in RI; C) Beverly Souza (left) and Kate Moss working the merch table at Chan's; D) Willie and Hundt at Chan's; E) Kilborn Alley's Andrew Duncanson (center) with Josh Stimmel on guitar and Joe Asselin on harmonica at Buddy Guy's Legends; F) Oshawny, Hundt and Carter; G) Lupkin singing his heart out with the Flip Tops; H) Moss and Lupkin; I) Moss with Duncanson and Stimmel sitting in toward the end of the night. (PHOTOS 'A-D' COURTESY OF ROY SOUZA; PHOTOS 'E-I' BY KATE MOSS)

Owner John Chan documented the evening on video as it went on, while Bob Sloan kept an expert eye on the mixing board. On the 2005 live session, Sloan (with his top-notch mobile recording outfit, Studio Live Recording [www.studioliverecording.com]) captured the great sound that has since been so celebrated. Blues writer and friend of the band, Craig Ruskey, was in the house too, and later posted a killer review of the show (as well as glowing critiques of the three new releases) on Blindman's Blues Forum (www.blindman.forumhoster.com).

Sweet Home Chicago

Later in the month, on August 30th, Buddy Guy's Legends played host to a "Blue Bella Revue" of sorts. It was the official midwest CD release party for *Live At Chan's*, but in addition to seeing Nick Moss & the Flip Tops, the eager crowd was treated to perform-

ances by labelmates Bill Lupkin and The Kilborn Alley Blues Band, the latter taking the stage first to deliver impassioned renditions of their soul-tinged Chicago blues that we all know and love. They closed their set with an exciting version of "Your Next Baby's Daddy," the song that starts it all off on their release, *Put It In the Alley*.

A little bit later, Nick Moss and his "top-shelf Flip Top combo" took the stage and gave the audience more of what they had come for: authentic Chicago blues, this time, Flip Top-style! As if this weren't enough, Bill Lupkin joined the band on stage to perform selections from his July release, *Where I Come From*, a smokin' collection of originals inspired by his time spent with, and the recorded work of, blues stalwarts like Jimmy Rogers, Johnny Littlejohn, Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Dawkins, Muddy Waters and other icons of the era (see his CD

booklet for some impressive vintage photos from back in the day!)

It was a jam-packed evening full of blues at Buddy Guy's that night, and before it all was over, Kilborn Alley returned to the stage to jam with Nick Moss and his crew. It was a great combination of stellar blues musicians, and most definitely a crowd-pleaser!

BLUES FANS!

Don't miss the triumphant return of THE KILBORN ALLEY BLUES BAND to Buddy Guy's Legends!

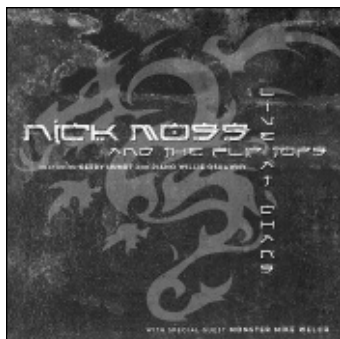
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd!

(at 9:30pm - following a 6pm acoustic set by **Lurrie Bell** and just before the **Kinsey Report** at 11)

The perfect holiday treat for you and your loved ones!



Blue Bella Releases “Hit” Trifecta



NICK MOSS & THE FLIP TOPS
Live At Chan's (BB1005)

BLUES REVUE (10/06)

“[Moss’] approach to this music makes him arguably the most exciting young blues player on the scene today. This live gig showcases Moss and his talented band, featuring bassist Gerry Hundt and veteran pianist Willie Oshawny”
—Hal Horowitz

GUITAR ONE (10/06)

“Hot Lick: Prominently features Moss’ soaring chops on a number of no-frills Chicago blues excursions.”
—Sean McDevitt

DOWNBEAT (9/06)

“No young blues guitarist gets it off his chest so passionately and convincingly as Nick Moss... ★★½!”
—Frank-John Hadley

BIG CITY BLUES (10/06)

“Packed with the raw power of Chicago blues, this CD kicks down all the doors.”
—Dirk Wissbaum

HITTIN’ THE NOTE (10/06)

“They’re a multi-talented quartet and they blaze through these 11 workouts with dogged intensity. After four acclaimed studio albums, *Live at Chan's* is the triumphant clamor of the Flip Tops landing on their first pinnacle.”
—Tom Clarke

MIDWEST RECORD RECAP

(6/06) [CHICAGO, IL]

“Hot, right and tight, this is well worth checking out if you’ve been clucking your tongue about what’s going to happen to the future of the blues. A stone killer.”

GRAND RAPIDS PRESS (7/06)

“Stretching out even more than on his studio albums, the guitarist delivers stunningly classic blues riffs...”

BLUES LETTER/WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY (7/06)

“*Live at Chan's* offers high-energy blues that’s faithful to the postwar Chicago sound, and I hope he’ll take home the hardware in Memphis next May.”
—Eric Steiner

HOLLER/COLORADO BLUES SOCIETY (8/06)

“From slow blues to shuffles to Boogie Woogie, this album just shines.”
—Randall Dubis

BOSTONBLUES.COM/BOSTON BLUES SOCIETY (10/06)

“From the start, the dynamic interplay between Moss’s explosive guitar work, and Willie Oshawny’s keyboard work harkens back to the feel-good days of Muddy and Spann, or Memphis Slim and Matt ‘Guitar’ Murphy.”

BLUES RAG/BALTIMORE BLUES SOCIETY (10/06)

“Nick Moss and his Flip Tops had to go ahead and torch the joint in a magnificent blaze of Chicago blues. What was ignited was one helluva live music experience that never let up until the final closing crashdown on the grease fire that’s ‘Move Over, Morris’.”
—Dennis Rozanski

BLUES & RHYTHM (9/06) [UK]

“Fans have been after Windy City blues torchbearer Moss the past few years about issuing a live CD. Together with his top-shelf Flip Tops combo, he rewards their patience resoundingly with this potent outing.”
—Gary von Tersch

BLUES & CO (10/06) [FRANCE]

“The monster disc of the season... 76 minutes of pure happiness; apocalyptic sounds that send life-threatening chills with each new listen. This able student has absorbed the very essence of (the Chicago blues style) while breathing the freshness of his own personality and rare talent into it.”
—Tonton Erick

JAZZ & BLUES REPORT (9/06)

“The band plays with an abandon that surely had the crowd at Chan’s on the dance floor flailing about as the boogies and shuffles connected to their hips and feet... This is one of the best live discs to hit my player in some time.”
—Mark Smith



BILL LUPKIN & FRIENDS
Where I Come From (BB1006)

LIVING BLUES (9/06)

“Lupkin’s playing suggests the power and intensity of Kim Wilson or the late William Clarke, and he possesses a Godzilla-sized tone that is equal parts well-practiced musicianship and muscular stamina... This is a tremendous ensemble performance led by a master harpist who presents one hell- and hair-raising second outing.”
—Justin O’Brien

BLUES REVUE (10/06)

“HOT DEBUT! ...A sure contender for comeback album of the year. Kudos to producer/guitarist Nick Moss and the tight ensemble of keyboardist Tim Wire, drummer Mark Fornek, and bassists Harlan Terson and Gerry Hundt for imbuing Lupkin’s music with blue-collar clarity and in-your-face urgency... An essential purchase for harp fans.”
—Thomas J. Cullen III

VINTAGE GUITAR (11/06)

“Lupkin has the tone and the chops, and proves here that he’s paid his dues to play some hot blues.”
—MD

BLUESWAX.COM

“Lupkin’s powerful but smooth harp work is a fresh taste inspired by a long line of harp masters. His credible vocals have a seasoned sound that exudes confidence. Simply, Chicago blues maven Nick Moss has produced a completely authentic set led by a harp player and vocalist hopefully back to stay!”
—James Walker

MIDWEST RECORD RECAP

(6/06) [CHICAGO, IL]

“Real Chicago stuff that’s meant for fans and not tourists, Lupkin is strongly in the running for comeback of the year with a new outing like this.”

CHICAGO READER (8/06)

“Lupkin’s 14 originals capture the echoing din of hardcore ’50s electric blues...”
—Bob Mehr

BLUOURCE.COM (9/06)

“Raw, energetic and faithful, Lupkin pulls it all off with the strength of a winner.”
—Gary W. Miller

STUDIO CITY/SHERMAN OAKS SUN (8/06)

“His tone is full and fiery, obviously inspired by Little Walter, but also with a totally individual tone. They say the blues will never die, and here’s one more bodacious reason why.”
—Bill Bentley

BLUES & RHYTHM (9/06) [UK]

“This all-originals project will have fans of that tough Chicago blues sound smiling... Recommended.”
—Gary von Tersch

BLUES LETTER/WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY (7/06)

“An outstanding CD; Chicago blues continues to burn brightly with Bill Lupkin’s return to the scene.”
—Eric Steiner

HOLLER/COLORADO BLUES SOCIETY (10/06)

“Fans of post-war Chicago blues will enjoy this CD. It’s neither fancy nor pretentious, and that is its strength. The presentation is honest and heartfelt. This is music made by people who know the nuances and love the style.”
—Jeff Koepke

BLUES & CO (10/06) [FRANCE]

“This magnificent, 14-song CD proves that he hasn’t lost a step... The damn thing is solid through and through! The accompaniment is so tight, its unbelievable that they were brought together just for this occasion. The blues they throw down is respectful and sympathetic without losing an ounce of energy.”
—Tonton Erick

BLUES MATTERS! (8/06) [UK]

“A personal tribute CD with all of the fervour and emotive drive Chi-town has to offer. Though Bill has good gruff blues delivery, it’s his harp work that pricks back your ears; in fact he is the best Chicago blues-styled player I have come across since Steve Guyger!”
—Billy Hutchinson

Note: These reviews and others can be read on www.bluebellarecords.com.

Thanks to Mark Pucci and Jill Kettles at MP Media for the help with promoting *Live At Chan's* and *Where I Come From*... Their expertise was invaluable.



THE KILBORN ALLEY BLUES BAND
Put It In The Alley (BB1007)

BLUES REVUE (12/06)

"Put It In The Alley is terrific... [It] hews close to Chicago's classic sounds. Andrew Duncanson's vocals and Joe Asselin's harp infuse the disc with a serious Junior Wells vibe; Nick Moss' production contributes to the feel."
—Tom Hyslop

BIG CITY BLUES (10/06)

"The sharp guitar lines and soulful voice of Andrew Duncanson are underscored by the sliding harp to bring the blues right down to those filthy Chicago blues like you used to hear from Junior Wells or Jody Williams. This greasy chunk of Urbana [IL] funk slips and slides from the very first line and doesn't let up till the disc is done."
—Roger & Margaret White

REAL BLUES (11/06) [CANADA]

"Charisma, talent, joy and music that grabs you by the ears and doesn't let go... This is probably the best debut blues album to come down the pike in 20 years. And boy, do we ever NEED The Kilborn Alley Blues Band. Thanks to the Moss's & Blue Bella for giving us blues lovers such a gift of hope & joy (and you can dance to it)!"
—Andy Grigg

BLUES MATTERS! (8/06) [UK]

"The Kilborn Alley Blues Band certainly have that X-factor... These guys are diamonds with lots of facets, and they are shining brightly."
—Billy Hutchinson

BLUES & RHYTHM (10/06) [UK]

"A fine debut from one of the hardest working blues bands on the current Chicago scene. Five stars!"
—Gary von Tersch

MAZZMUSIKAS [BELGIUM]

Formerly RootsTown Music
"If it's a debut, it's a damn fine one; they can compete with the best."
—Marc Nolis

BLUES & CO (10/06) [FRANCE]

"Respectful of the tradition of blues from the '50s and '60s, but with that youthful spark of attitude and urgency that makes it fresh and new. This is an excellent work that is best taken in moderation so the rest of your collection doesn't seem lacking."
—Tonton Erick

RANDOM THOUGHTS...
ON THE KILBORN ALLEY BLUES BAND

"The Kilborn Alley Blues Band is AWESOME... I hope they make it on some BMA ballots!"
—Pete "The Blewzoman" Lauro (www.mary4music.com)

"This is one of the best CDs I've heard this year—their mix of Chicago blues and soul is a joy to listen to!"
—Przemek Draheim (DJ from Poland)

"The cover reads "Gritty Chicago blues and southern fried soul." I couldn't agree more, this CD has everything. Great vocals, great instruments and killer harmonica. Jamming blues, soul ballads and slow burning blues. This is, by far, the best blues album of 2006."
—Willy (fan from Hazlet, NJ)



Radio Reaction

This past summer and fall, you could hardly turn on a blues radio program without hearing *at least* one Blue Bella release... All three CDs took the airwaves by storm and hit the charts (see bottom of page), with the help of our trusty radio promoter, **Todd Glazer** (www.toddglazer.com). Below are a few unsolicited emails from some happy hosts! Thanks to all of the DJs and music directors who continue to be so supportive of the music!

"[Nick Moss] is gonna keep Chicago blues alive single handed. A natural talent that gets better with each release."
— James Nagel, KPFT (Houston, TX)

"Playing [*Live At Chan's*] now... CD of the Year?"
— Mark Jacobson, KSCU (San Jose, CA)

"I am not, and never have been, a fan of live CDs. With that said, *Live At Chan's* is one of the best CDs out there, live or not! It has fast become one of my faves! It just rocks and rocks and rocks..."
— Robb Morrison, WXXM (Memphis, TN) & KTHR (Wichita, KS)

"Just received, what I would say, is the BEST promotional package yet! Three great CDs... A live disc like [*Live At Chan's*] always gets full air-play; they get the whole 76 minutes!"
— "Ramblin' Bert" Rand, WECS (Storrs, CT)

"Todd... playing Nick Moss (best promotional packaging in the biz!!)"
— Big Joe Fitz, WDST (Woodstock, NY)

"I'll be spinnin' Nick's new disc plenty... You're doing a very impressive job with your label. The artwork and packaging is first rate and certainly competes with anything the larger indie blues labels are doing out there... Keep up the good work!"
— Jeff Scott, KUCI (IRVINE, CA)

"I just wanted to tell you how creative the packaging for the new releases was... I really have to scrutinize a lot of releases— Nick Moss and Blue Bella recordings are always stellar from start to end!"
— Laura Diamond, KDVS (Davis, CA)

"Good job with everything. You and Nick are keeping it real; thanks for that."
— Greg Sarni, WBRS (Waltham, MA)

"Congratulations... wonderful... incredible... fresh... new blues... and so much more... Entering our main rotation three weeks in a row... to stay there for nine weeks each. Great job— keep up the great work!"
— Byrd Hale, KZSU (Stanford, CA)

"Just wanted to tell you that I loved all your new releases, and that they will be part of my blues radio show. All three of them! With releases like these, Blue Bella records truly steps up to be one of the blues record labels to be taken seriously. Amazingly high quality blues."
— Bjorn Wiksaas, Radio Ung (Kristiansand, Norway)

"Let me compliment all the bands and artists on these great recordings and wonderful albums... I'm looking forward to do a special 'one-hour Blue Bella/ Nick Moss-and-friends festival'."
— Manfred Borggreve, E-V-W Radio (Germany)

NEW ENDORSEMENTS FROM FELLOW MUSICIANS RE: NICK MOSS...



"No one has impressed me as much in a decade, and I've heard 'em all!"
—Jimmy Thackery



"Great tunes, Nick. You are the keeper of the flame these days."
—Tinsley Ellis

ON THE CHART: Blue Bella was well-represented on the 8/1/06 *Living Blues* Radio Chart. *Live At Chan's* debuted at #2 (impressive for a live CD!), *Put It In The Alley* hit at #8, and *Where I Come From* held down the #16 spot...

Living Blues Radio Chart 8/1/06	
1.	Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, <i>Rattleshake</i> , Alligator
2.	Nick Moss & The Flip Tops, <i>Live At Chan's</i> , Blue Bella
3.	Hollywood Blue Flames, <i>Road To Rio</i> , Delta Groove
4.	Charlie Musselwhite, <i>Delta Hardware</i> , Real World
5.	Cephas & Wiggins, <i>Shoulder To Shoulder</i> , Alligator
6.	Walter Trout, <i>Full Circle</i> , Ruf
7.	John Lee Hooker Jr., <i>Cold As Ice</i> , Telarc/Blues
8.	Kilborn Alley Blues Band, <i>Put It In The Alley</i> , Blue Bella
16.	Bill Lupkin, <i>where i come from</i> , Blue Bella
17.	Lynwood Slim, <i>Last Call</i> , Delta Groove
18.	Bernard Allison, <i>Energized: Live</i> , Blue Bella



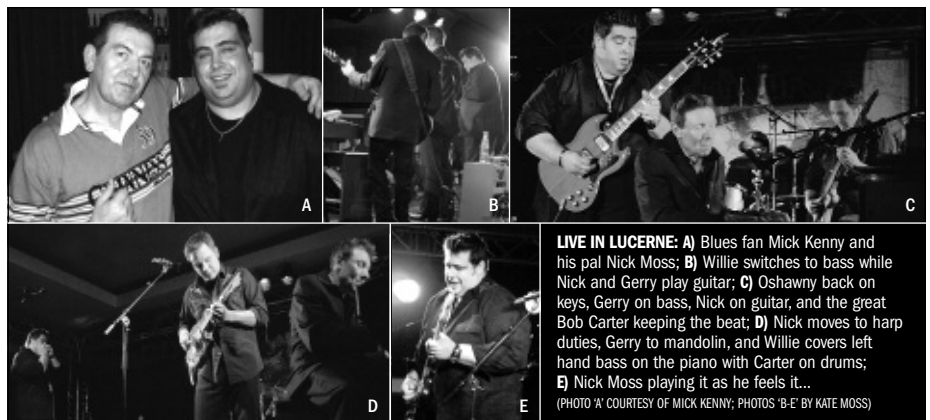
PERFORMANCE SPOTLIGHT (PROMOTERS & TALENT BUYERS: THIS IS FOR YOU!)

Three European Tours and Countless Delighted Fans

THIS YEAR SAW THE RETURN OF NICK MOSS to Europe... this time with his own band (Nick toured the world with **The Legendary Blues Band** and **Jimmy Rogers**, but hadn't been over there with his own outfit until May of 2006). His exclusive European agent, **Frank Bolder** (Frank Bolder Music & Management, www.frankbolder.com), paved the way for not one, but three tours overseas, in May (France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg), July (Finland, Belgium and Switzerland), and November (France, Belgium, Switzerland and The Netherlands). Major festival appearances and sold out shows confirmed that Moss and his band are a hot commodity in the blues-loving Euro market. One festival of note was the **Lucerne Blues Festival**, where **The Flip Tops** had two headliner slots and impressed fans from all over the world. One great connoisseur of the blues, **Mick Kenny**, all the way from **Dublin, Ireland**, recently sent his take on one of the Flip Tops' Lucerne performances:

"One of my favourite performances this year came from the eagerly awaited **Nick Moss & The Flip Tops** playing straight ahead, no nonsense, no frills **Magic Slim meets Freddie King style Chicago Blues**. Nick keeps his foot on the pedal all the way and is something special to witness on stage with great house-rocking stage presence and confidence and a fantastic band on stage in **Willie Oshawny** on keyboards, **Gerry Hundt** (utility man—on everything required, including bass, rhythm guitar, harp and mandolin) and veteran **Bob Carter** on drums.

There is a superb, raw, exciting and tough cutting edge to a **Nick Moss & The Flip Tops** performance and they took Lucerne by storm this year. When



LIVE IN LUCERNE: A) Blues fan Mick Kenny and his pal Nick Moss; B) Willie switches to bass while Nick and Gerry play guitar; C) Oshawny back on keys, Gerry on bass, Nick on guitar, and the great Bob Carter keeping the beat; D) Nick moves to harp duties, Gerry to mandolin, and Willie covers left hand bass on the piano with Carter on drums; E) Nick Moss playing it as he feels it...
(PHOTO 'A' COURTESY OF MICK KENNY; PHOTOS 'B-E' BY KATE MOSS)

Willie Oshawny straps on the bass and Gerry takes over on the second Fender Jaguar it is easy to see why they are the most exciting high energy blues bands on the planet at the moment.

Nick Moss & The Flip Tops blitz the audience, cranking out rough raw-edged Chicago blues night after night with a combustible blend of grit and spontaneity, cut to the bone. Nick's tone stings, his heart and soul are right on the money, and his band members (Gerry, Bob and Willie) are Ziplock tight behind him. There is a palpable collective understanding as each member onstage encircles and entwines each other in the warm Chicago blues, making it all look so easy and entirely absorbing.

Nick's gritty Chicago blues guitar style is distinguished by its timing and phrasing subsuming the classic styles of the genre into a dynamic signature of his own, and can play bread and butter shuffles till the cows come home. There is a nice little foray

into some mandolin blues from Gerry, which I have really gotten into, thanks to Billy Flynn's tasteful efforts in recent years.

The showstopper for me on the main stage performance was "Down in Virginia" which reminded me of a 400 mile drive and a ferry across the Irish Sea, to the Bishopstock Blues Festival in the South of England on the May Bank Holiday back in 1999 to see the great Magic Slim and The Teardrops put on the ultimate Chicago blues powerhouse performance.

The Lucerne audience was overjoyed and rapturous in its appreciation and got a special treat on Saturday night's show when Nick's wife Kate joined The Flip Tops on stage for several numbers having flown into Switzerland to link up with Nick on the Lucerne dates of the European Tour. This pure old fashioned Chicago magic/sizzling live blues energy picked up a lot of new fans over the two blistering, jaw dropping performances at Lucerne this year."