



# BLUE BELLA NEWS

THE BEST IN CHICAGO BLUES

WINTER 2006

## Nick Moss & the Flip Tops

### On The Road Again...

Well, after short, well-earned break, it's time to hit the road once again, and the Flip Tops aren't *easing* into it! **Road Dawg Touring Co.** will keep them busy with a month of dates right out of the box, and **Frank Bolder** (of the Netherlands) has plans to bring their Chicago blues overseas in May and in following months.

#### FEBRUARY

- 03 Chord On Blues (St. Charles, IL)
- 04 Bourbon Street Rhythm & Ribs (Springfield, IL)
- 09 Slippery Noodle (Indianapolis, IN)
- 10 Fat Fish Blue (Cleveland, OH)
- 11 Jewish Mother (VA Beach, VA)
- 12 Lakeview Lodge (Lawrenceville, PA)
- 13 Tully's (Sharon, PA)
- 14 Terra Blues (New York, NY)
- 15 Scotland Yard (Hoboken, NJ)
- 16 Goodfella's (Williamsport, VA)
- 17 Gotham Blues (Fayetteville, NC)
- 18 JM Randalls (Williamsburg, VA)
- 19 A Dough Re Mi (Mount Pleasant, SC)
- 21 The Keys Neighborhood Bar (Montgomery, AL)
- 23 Blind Willie's (Atlanta, GA)
- 24 House Of Blues (Orlando, FL)
- 25 Dave's Aqua Lounge (Tampa, FL)
- 26 Ringside Cafe (St. Pete, FL)
- 27 The Beached Whale (Ft. Myers, FL)
- 28 The Green Parrot (Key West, FL)

#### MARCH

- 01 The Hurricane Grill (Marathon, FL)
- 02 The Hurricane Grill (Marathon, FL)
- 04 Beach Shack (Cocoa Beach, FL)
- 05 Beach Shack (Cocoa Beach, FL)
- 08 Blues Tavern (Mobile, AL)
- 09 Humphries (Huntsville, AL)
- 11 Brackins Bar (Maryville, TN)
- 12 House Of Blues (Chicago, IL)

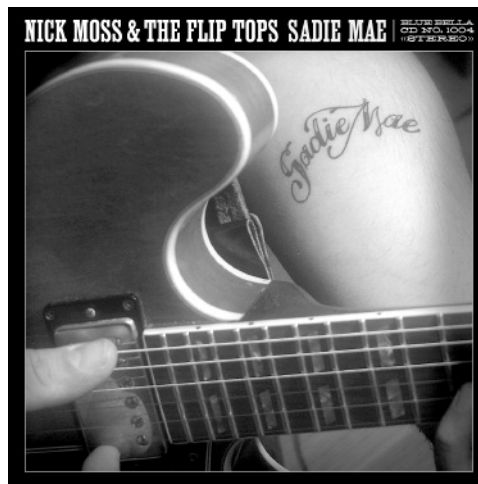
**"Saw you guys tonight at Lefty's and loved every minute. Hurry back. I'll bring friends."**

— Laurie (Oregon), via email

Updated gig info and more at:  
[www.nickmoss.com](http://www.nickmoss.com)

## Latest Flip Top Offering Nominated for Two 2006 Blues Music Awards

### Sadie Mae Release Proves Moss Has Raised the Bar Once Again



THE RECORD: Moss' left forearm and new CD cover bear the name of his little girl.

**CHICAGO, IL - JANUARY 2006** – Rising star blues guitarist Nick Moss, accompanied by his band the Flip Tops, will continue touring in support of his latest CD, *Sadie Mae*, recently nominated for two 2006 Blues Music Awards: *"Blues Album of the Year"* (top honors) and *"Traditional Blues Album of the Year"*. These are Moss' third and fourth BMA nominations (formerly known as W.C. Handy Awards). His impressive release *Got A New Plan* earned him the nomination for *"Best New Artist Debut"* at the 2003 W.C. Handy Awards and *Count Your Blessings* brought in the *"Best Contemporary Blues Album"* nod the following year.

To bring some of you up to date, **The Blues Foundation** has set the **2006 Blues Music Awards** for Thursday May 11, 2006 at the Memphis Cook Convention Center in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. The event brings together Blues performers, industry representatives and fans from all over the world to celebrate the best in Blues recordings and performances from the previous year. Each year, the Foundation presents The Blues Music Awards to the artists selected by its members. They are universally recognized as the highest honor given to Blues artists.

The 2006 show will largely follow the format of the

sold-out and critically acclaimed 2004 and 2005 shows which featured performances by more than 30 nominees in a dinner table setting in the Convention Center's new ballroom.

For more information on The Blues Foundation or The Blues Music Awards, contact Jay Sieleman, Executive Director at (901) 527-2583 or [jay@blues.org](mailto:jay@blues.org).

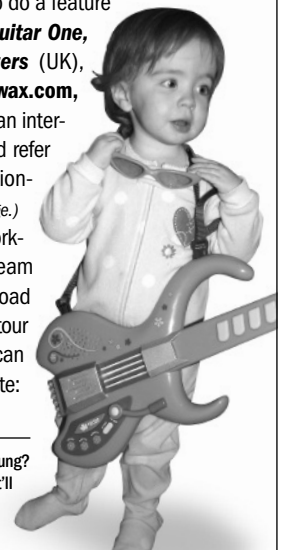
### The Feedback

Much like its predecessor (*Count Your Blessings*) did in 2003, *Sadie Mae* continues to draw an impressive amount of glowing praise from critics, DJs, and fans alike, since the release in June of 2005. With the help of radio promoter **Todd Glazer**, the CD held **July's #1 position on the Living Blues Radio Chart**. Due to the strength of the release and the diligence of Glazer's promotion, DJs were enthusiastically spinning tracks across the country and around the world. *Sadie Mae* bounced off the satellites, too: **XMRadio** and **Sirius** both continue to feature cuts off of the celebrated disc.

Publicist **Mark Pucci** also had a hand in the CD's success. Mark and his partner **Jill Kettles** garnered loads of much-deserved press for Moss and *Sadie Mae*. One couldn't help but read a rave review in everything from blues rags to weeklies to major periodicals. Editors were jumping at the chance to do a feature on Nick, too: **Blues Revue**, **Guitar One**, **Vintage Guitar**, **Blues Matters** (UK), **Blues & Co.** (France), **Blueswax.com**, **Bluesquest.com**... each took an interesting look at who many would refer to as the torchbearer of traditional Chicago blues. (See back page.)

Moss is fortunate to be working with the Pucci publicity team once again for the upcoming road trip (see side bar). Updated tour information, reviews and more can be found by visiting the website: [www.nickmoss.com](http://www.nickmoss.com).

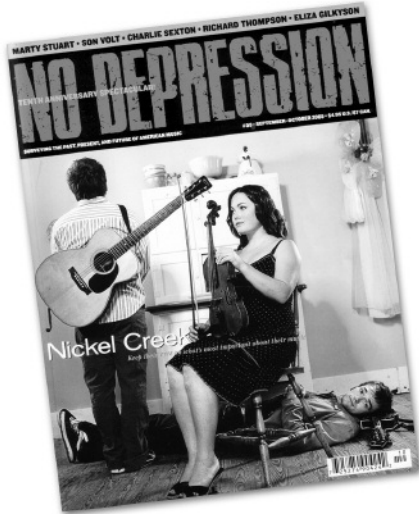
THE MUSE: Can you start them too young? Sadie Mae at 19 months. Some day it'll be an ES-345...



# It's Unanimous: *Sadie Mae* is a Hit

**GUITAR ONE** (August 2005)

"If you're uneasy about the future of the blues, you'll find hope in Nick Moss. He maintains the finest in Chicago's straightforward, gut-bucket sound while eschewing the all-too-common use of "special guests" and clichéd covers. A contemporary, personal take on a classic sound." —Sean McDevitt



**NO DEPRESSION** (September/October 2005)

"Nick Moss is the best thing to happen to Chicago Blues in a month of Blue Mondays, and *Sadie Mae* (his fourth album) is his best yet... Whether playing rhythm or lead, his incisive guitar work is solidly in the tradition of 1950s Chicago, updated just enough to give him his own distinct style." —John Morthland

**DIRTY LINEN** (October/November 2005)

"With all the pseudo rock and soul music that's being passed off as "real Chicago blues," Nick Moss and the Flip Tops' breathtaking new album *Sadie Mae* is an oasis for astute fans thirsting for authentic Chicago blues from the '50s and '60s." —MS



**BIG CITY BLUES** (August/September 2005)

"A solid 75 minutes of back alley, gut-bucket Chicago blues from inspiring guitarist, vocalist, songwriter and producer Nick Moss and his top-shelf Flip Tops combo... If you're getting tired of all the overblown soul-blues and blue-rock projects that seem all the rage at the moment, order this one up... It doesn't let up from start to finish." —Gary von Tersch

**"Nick Moss & The Flip Tops have been to the W.C. Handy altar twice, but never anointed... Here (with the release of *Sadie Mae*) they have a good chance at being third time lucky for the Best Traditional Album."**

—Billy Hutchinson, *Blues Matters Magazine* (UK)

**BLUES ON STAGE** (September 2005)

"There is no one living who can play and write vintage Chicago Blues like Nick Moss... Look-out Chicago—'cause Nick Moss may be crowned the new King of the Chicago Blues with records like *Sadie Mae*." —Dave Glynn

**CHICAGO SUN TIMES** (June 19, 2005)

★★★1/2 - "Among the top-rank Chicago blues guitarists of the 1950s and '60s, Jimmy Rogers stood out as the cleanest and classiest player. It comes as no surprise, then, that Nick Moss is upholding those high standards with his own playing. The Chicagoan's fourth album finds Moss making great strides as a songwriter, with 12 of the 16 tunes self-penned."

—Jeff Johnson

**LIVING BLUES** (September/October 2005)

"...The group performs in a classic early Chicago style, and Moss' rough guitar style directly descends from the pre-British blues boom... The album was recorded in Moss' basement studio, and the raw sound of '50s and '60s Chicago blues has been captured. Although the golden age is long over, these guys are—thankfully—stuck in a time warp."

—Tim Holek



**BLUES REVUE** (October/November 2005)

"(Moss) and his band play tightly, with just enough air to allow the vocals to grab center stage when need be... there's plenty of murderous 1950s Chicago slide guitar..."

NEW ENDORSEMENTS



"I'm knocked out by Nick's playing and singing... He is just a solid blues player, plucked right out of THE era ('50s and '60s Chicago Blues). I'm 200% a Nick Moss fan!"

—Curtis Salgado



"Nick Moss' *Sadie Mae* steps deeper into the Old School Chicago Blues that Nick learned onstage with the legends of that music, and is inspired by both the sweet love for his baby daughter and the mean old world we all live in. It's real, raw, and passionate blues."

—Bob Margolin



**ALL MUSIC.com** (October/November 2005)

"Many so-called blues releases are actually filled with bluesy R&B, soul, pop, and rock. There is no such stylistic confusion in *Sadie Mae* from Nick Moss & the Flip Tops. The music is no-nonsense blues, played with spirit, drive, and swing." —Scott Yanow

**"Nick Moss delivers the pure soul of Chicago blues right to your door! When you can sing and play in this way you don't need any experiments. Simply fantastic!"**

—Dietmar Hoscher, *Concerto* (Austria)

**PUREMUSIC.com** (Issue 49)

"*Sadie Mae* is the work of a young guitarist who has absorbed the blues—not note by note in his bedroom somewhere, but on the road with old masters from Chicago... Chops are there when he needs them, but better yet he has mastered the twin essential ingredients of the form: *time* and *space*. His guitar sits right in the pocket regardless of how intense he gets—and he *does* get intense..." —Michael Ross

**MIDWEST RECORD RECAP** (May 10, 2005)

"...With the kind of roar that powered Muddy Waters out of the south and into the industrial, post-war revolution, Moss doesn't play like an acolyte or a wannabe, he's got his hand on the grail. Hard charging set that was born of road-house sweat and grit. Real blues fans will love this real deal."



**"Le Pied!"**

—Soul Bag (France)

**MARY4MUSIC.com** (June 2005)

"*Sadie Mae*, Nick Moss's newest and fourth CD is sure to receive the same critical acclaim that his previous three releases have. With the last two having received W.C. Handy Award nominations, *Sadie Mae* might just have Nick hoping that the third time will indeed be a charm."

—Peter "Blewzoman" Lauro

**GRAND RAPIDS PRESS** (June 15, 2005)

★★★ - "...Through 16 tracks, Moss makes sure his fourth album puts a decisive stamp on his emerging status as one of Chicago's most captivating blues-meisters." —John Sinkevics

**THE VIRGINIA-PILOT** (September 9, 2005)

"*Sadie Mae* is simply one killer blues album that doesn't just recreate '50s-style Chicago blues as much as it keeps it vital, fresh and full of power and passion." —Eric Feber

**"From the opening... you know exactly the nature of the cards on the table here. Yup, it's all aces and kings... Nick and the boys deal a pack of solid Chicago blues... A winning hand."**

—Juke Blues (England)

**ROUND ROCK LEADER** (May 19, 2005)

"*Sadie Mae* by Nick Moss & the Flip Tops is another unadulterated exercise in classic Chicago blues sensibilities by one of the best young bands on the scene." —Michael Point

**SING OUT!** (Winter 2006)

"All-around Chicago blues stylist Nick Moss, along with his marvelous Flip Tops combo play that straight-out-of-the-1950s hard-core Windy City blues with an authentic feeling and personalized drive like few others these days."

—GvonT

"From the first time I saw Nick, I knew he had a grasp of the elusive Chicago Blues sound so many younger players tend to miss... Since then Nick has only gotten better, more talented and varied with age."

—Mark Hummel



"Nick is one of a handful of the best Chicago Blues players in the world today. He's the only guy I know who does Lefty Dizz songs... I love it!"

—RJ Mischo



## Radio Reaction

**"Moss is an absolute gem. What a great release. I think this cements him as a serious player in the blues world."**

—Jon Norton, WGLT Music Director (Normal, IL)

**"Yes... I love this one. It is the best blues I have heard all year!"**

—KAFM (Grand Junction, CO)

**"Love it and playing the heck out of it."**

—Leo Schumaker, KCSB (Santa Barbara, CA)

**"Sixteen songs? Typical Mossonian proportions!"**

—Greg Sarni, Blues Trust/WBRS (Boston, MA)

**"Dynamite new CD."**

—Niles Frantz, WBEZ (Chicago, IL)

**"This guy has what it takes to go the distance. Feeling like that can't be taught, it just has to ooze out of your soul!"**

—The Blues Hound, KPFT (Houston, TX)

**"The 'Nick Moss' is great! One of the best CDs of the year!"**

—Marty Kool, KXCI (Tucson, AZ)

**"Another great album! Traditional Chicago blues is in good hands!"**

—Paul Wanner, Producer/Host, WATD-FM (Rayham, MA)

**"*Sadie Mae* is one of the finest recordings I've heard in a long time."**

—Harold Tremblay, KFAL (Minneapolis, MN)

**"Thanks so much for sending me your fantastic album... fabulous stuff."**

—Frank van Engelen, Blusiana Radio (The Netherlands)

**"The whole disc sounds great: rhythm section, guitar work and vocals. Nick was able to take me back to the 1950s and it was a beautiful experience."**

—Przemek Draheim, Radio Brawo (Poland)

**"(*Sadie Mae*) might well be one of this year's absolute best. The four CDs he has out proves that he's truly the new 'King of Chicago.'"**

—Bjorn Wiksaas, Radio Vng (Norway)

Need radio promo for your CD? Visit [www.toddlglazer.com](http://www.toddlglazer.com)

### 7/1/05 Living Blues Chart

1.	Nick Moss & The Flip Tops, <i>Sadie Mae</i> , Blue Bella
2.	Marcia Ball, <i>Live! Down The Road</i> , Alligator
3.	Chicago Blues Harmonica Project, <i>Diamonds In The Rough</i>
4.	Little Charlie & The Nitecats, <i>Nine Lives</i> , Alligator
5.	Eugene "Hideaway" Bridges, <i>Coming Home</i> , Armadillo



NICK MOSS & THE FLIP TOPS SADIE MAE  
NOMINATED FOR TWO 2006 BLUES MUSIC AWARDS!

“... A well-grounded statement by an increasingly centered artist who can rightly be called a *master*.”

— DICK SHURMAN

**EXTRA! EXTRA!**

**News to Note**

**BE SURE TO KEEP AN EAR OUT FOR THE LATEST** from Blue Bella Records: Nick just finished producing a CD for a young band called **Kilborn Alley** (recorded at his own **Rancho de Rhythm Studios!**) Stay tuned for these great sounding Chicago Blues due out this spring... A brand new **Nick Moss & the Flip Tops LIVE CD** is in post-production. Recorded at **Chan's (RI)** in 2005, this one will be smokin'... Nick's next project will bring him back into the studio soon: a CD for the talented **Bill Lupkin** (Jimmy Rogers' harp player in the '70s—hear him on Rogers' *Gold Tailed Bird* on Shelter.) This will be the long-overdue follow-up to Lupkin's critically-acclaimed *Live At The Hot Spot*. Nick and Bill go way back; check out Bill's harmonica on Moss' **Got A New Plan!**

**The Word on the Street**

*“Just got your latest Sadie Mae CD at Borders, and I have to tell you, it kicks man! Nice work!”*

— Dave (Harrisburg, PA)

*“I'm just another fan...but a big one! Thanks for keeping traditional blues alive! You rock, Nick!”*

— Steve (Virginia)

*“We checked out your show this last August both at Crystal Bay Club and again at Biscuits the following week. Thanks again for bringing your music back out here for us. We love it!”*

— Dan and Michele (Burlingame, CA)

*“I just saw you on 'taLkIn' bLuEs'. I missed the beginning but heard you were from Chicago... Thought you sounded GREAT !!!”*

— Sandra (Toronto, ONT)

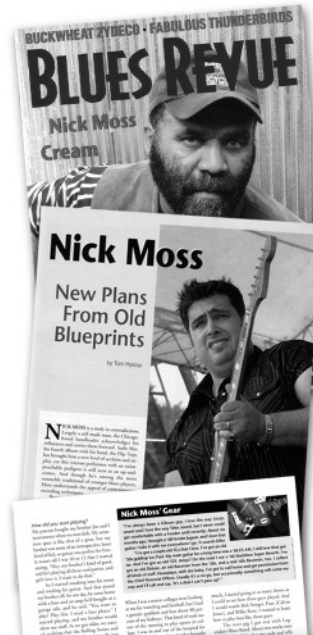
*“Your guitar playing style is about my favorite in the world, and watching you inspired me to want to get out my guitar and start working at it again. I needed a boost to become re-excited about music. Thank you for that.”*

— Aaron

*“Your new CD is OUTSTANDING. I saw you at Biscuits & Blues in San Francisco earlier this year and I really enjoyed your performance...”*

— An avid 62-year-old admirer, Emmy (CA)

**Blues Revue** (Dec/Jan '06).  
Article by Tom Hyslop. Photos by Robert Barclay.

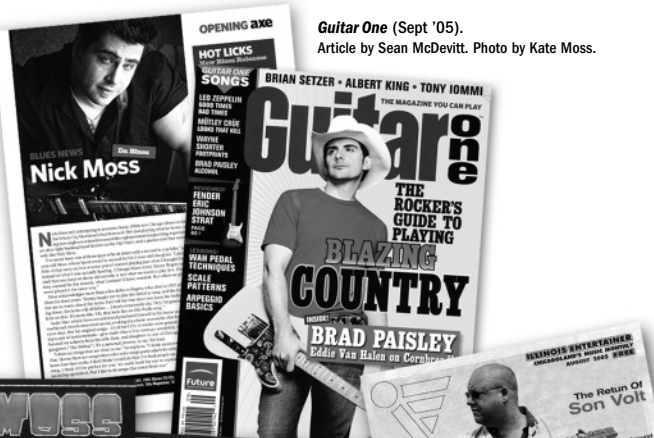


**Your Favorite Mags...  
Now Featuring Nick Moss!**

Again with the help of **Mark Pucci Media**, Nick was able to secure some prime editorial real estate... a much needed tool to get his product seen and heard.

Also of note but not pictured here: features in **Blues Matters** (UK) and **Blues & Co.** (France). See them on [www.nickmoss.com](http://www.nickmoss.com)!

**Guitar One** (Sept '05).  
Article by Sean McDevitt. Photo by Kate Moss.



**Vintage Guitar** (Dec '05).  
Article by Willie G. Moseley. Photos by Kate Moss.

**Illinois Entertainer** (Aug '05)  
Article by Kevin Toelle. Photo by Mark Scott.