

DAVE ELLIS: SELF-STYLED MO'FO WITH BLUES IN HIS BLOOD

24 May 2004

Wavering his appearance fee, and delivering a ninety-five minute set when forty-five would have satisfied contractual requirements .. [Dave Ellis](#) was the most welcome of **visiting blues preachers** to our fair city.



Dave Ellis: Everything He Touches Turns To Blue ..

Hailing from London and about to have his world turned upside down by a forthcoming **Buddy Guy support slot** .. [Dave Ellis](#) left the [Sussex Arts Club](#) congregation as newly converted blues disciples.

The evening was billed '**Shoes For Blues**' and all proceeds were destined for [Task Brazil](#), a UK-based charity working on behalf of Brazilian street children.

Opening the evening was 'this city's rising daughter', [Rachel Innes](#). Playing tracks from her newly released '**Live and in the Studio**' album, Rachel sat alone at her keyboard and captivated the audience with her brand of blues & jazz inspired songs.

[Dave Ellis](#) took to the stage and played the opening numbers solo before being joined by his 'very good friend', rhythm-guitarist **Keith Crowe**.

Strangely enough it's **Dave's self-penned cuts** that leave the most lasting first impression. '**Out Of The Frying Pan (Into The Fire)**' is the highlight of a clutch of heavy-riffing Dave composed tracks.

Probably sensing that he wasn't preaching to the converted Dave took time-out to introduce the origins of each cover .. from **Robert Johnson** through to the song **Eric Clapton** chose to lay bare his first vocal, and on to the reworking of a **Led Zeppelin** cover.

Dave uses his vocal as an accompanying rather a lead instrument. He weaves in and out of the song often seemingly **losing himself in the moment**.

Commanding a well deserved two song encore [Dave Ellis](#) really should make the South a regular stopover.

There are all too few blues artists who retain the energy, authenticity and work-ethic of [Dave Ellis](#). He is a self-styled mo'fo and a probably one of the best UK blues artists still treading the boards. An honour and a pleasure to have borne witness.