

IAN SIEGAL

ABOUT THE CD "MEAT & POTATOES".....

"Grounded in tradition, airborne by imagination, this is one of the most inventive Blues recordings ever made by a British artist." **MOJO ******

"Album of the year. Prepare to be amazed." **BLUES MATTERS**

"His lyrics are several notches above the usual Blues fare, displaying rare wit and originality. Siegal delivers them in powerfully raw, Wolf-like tones, and his guitar playing is confident and succinct." **BLUES REVIEW**

"Beautiful album!" **ALOHA** (Holland)

"Sounds more authentic than 90% of today's black blues and takes you on a charming, bewitching ride." **ROOTS TIME** (Belgium)

"Make way for a new British Blues Invasion spearheaded by Ian Siegal." **BLUESWAX**

This is a CD no Blues lover can ignore. An album that makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up." **MANIA** (Holland)

ABOUT THE MAN AND HIS PERFORMANCE.....

"The closest thing I've heard to Chester Burnett." **JEFF BECK**

"I don't have to tell him nothin', he got it." **HUBERT SUMLIN**

"A natural talent - born to it" **BOB MARGOLIN**

"He's got the Muddy shit down, and he's got the Wolf shit down! You should hear this guy sing!!" **PAUL OSCHER**

"The most soulful light-skinned brother I know." **OTIS REDDING jr**

PRESS ENQUIRIES:

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IAN SIEGAL BIOGRAPHY

Born in the deep south (of England!) in 1971, Ian's earliest musical memories are of Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis and Chuck Berry, but it was on hearing the great Little Richard that he really caught the music bug and became nothing short of obsessive about it. This led him into a life-long passion for the Blues and all of its various branches, and most of all, the man he calls "The Blues God" - the inimitable Muddy Waters.

At 16 he began to roadie occasionally for his cousin's band and one night, quite unexpectedly, he was asked to sing. The result was a blown-away audience and a delighted (and rather surprised!) young vocal talent with a long career ahead of him.

It was 2 years later that he picked up a guitar and taught himself to play, listening to the likes of Muddy, B.B King, Robert Cray and Albert Collins. At 20 he dropped out of Art college and travelled to Berlin, busking for a living. This is where he says his playing dramatically improved as, if he didn't make money, he didn't eat! By the time he returned to England he knew that a career in music was the only one for him.

A visit to Nottingham resulted in a five year stay and Ian's first band became one of the most popular on the local music scene, with a residency at renowned venue the Running Horse attracting full houses and appearances at Colne and Burnley festivals getting rave reviews. His first album "Picture Postcards" also showed Ian to be a gifted songwriter with a deep understanding of musical traditions, but with an eye on the future.

Moving to London to further his career was inevitable and Ian became an established part of the London Blues community almost immediately. That's where today's Ian Siegal band was born.

Many gigs followed, along with a number of appearances with American Blues acts - Phil Guy, Sugar Blue, Nappy Brown, Eddie Kirkland, Catfish Keith and Jimmie Vaughan to name but few. He has also sung with other bands, notably The Lee Sankey Group and can be heard on the album "Tell Me There's a Sun".

All the time Siegal's writing and playing skills developed, and appearances on larger festival stages to bigger audiences - such as Edinburgh, Lugano, BRBF - enabled him to hone his skills into becoming one of the most naturally exciting and vibrant talents on the scene today.

Awareness among British Audiences of Ian's talents grew considerably after two consecutive tours opening for Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings, including a performance at the Royal Albert Hall; and then in 2005 (and again, in 2006) he toured playing as a duo with Big Bill Morganfield (Muddy Waters' son). "That's as close as I can ever get to the great man himself," says Ian.

In 2005 he played the main stage of the North Sea Jazz Festival (the world's largest indoor music festival) alongside Robert Cray and Solomon Burke; and had the pleasure (as he says, honour!) of making a guest appearance with Pinetop Perkins and some of the remaining members of Muddy Water's band (Bob Margolin, Will 'Big Eyes' Smith, and Mooky Brill). This was at London's Jazz Café to a packed house.

Ian's first major CD release was in 2004, although recorded two years earlier. "Standing In The Morning" (Taxim TX2077) on which Ian drafted in some top players to supplement his band, in particular the horns of Nick Payne, Frank Mead, Martin Winning, Sid Gauld and John Beecham, who between them have worked with The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, Van Morrison, Albert Collins and Buddy Guy. The album is an entirely original composition, with reviewers drawing comparisons with Tom Waits, Bruce Springsteen, Dr. John and VanMorrison.

His latest CD "Meat & Potatoes" released in April 2005 (Nugene Records NUG502) sees Ian returning to his roots with an album of powerful urban Blues. For this recording he augmented his core trio sound with upcoming Brit guitar maestro, Matt Schofield (who also produced the album), and Jonny Henderson on Hammond organ. This album has drawn widespread praise and put Ian firmly on the map on both sides of the Atlantic.

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