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## Blues at Bridgetown 2007, a soundman's perspective

Posted by rikvee - 2007/11/16 01:04

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Another long and hot Blues at Bridgetown has come and gone, and don't I know it! For 14 years Keith Cramond's Audex Sound has provided sound production for this Festival, and I've been there every time, mostly as soundman for the Blue Owls' Nest, one of the two main tents.

22 Acts in a row over 3 days, and, according to the programme, no change-over times(!?)

Every year there are some good surprises (like the excellent Adelaide's "The Others" 2 years ago), and this time the standout for me was Brisbane's Mojo Webb. His guitar was Buddy Guy-like in it's wildness, resonating with the past but also super-excited about it.

At the same time his band rocked, swaggered and slid about the place and, oh yeah, Mojo plays great harp and sax as well!

The other big treat was to hear Liz Stringer, she's from Melbourne and has a duo with drummer Adam May. If anyone calls her music 'roots', that wouldn't really cover it fully.

Although the texture of her voice is in the same territory as Mia Dyson's, Liz has a haunting mysterious quality that reminds me of English folkie John Martyn, one of my all time favourites. I found Liz's way of playing and singing so evocative, it even made me choke up a couple of times; why, I don't really know, all I know is this is some powerful stuff!

Kyla Brox, whose glorious voice has graced the Perth Blues Club stage a few times lately, was another Bridgetown highlight, she's soulful like Nina Simone or belts it out like Chaka Kahn and positively beams with all the enjoyment of it! Her band was tight and professional, and included some inspired bassplaying by Danny Blomely.

The Bridgetown closer was once again a magical performance by local greats the Blue Shaddy Band, a band that knows how to light the fuse and rock like no other!

The sparse but effective lightshow got some help from the dust kicked up by the dancing throng, showing of the beams beautifully (remember all the venues were smoke free this year). To say the crowd went off would be an understatement, they danced like maniacs! Bass player Sandy kicks some serious botty in that band, and of course everyone is great, electrifying harmonica, bristling double percussion and great voice, guitar and stomp by Jim McLelland.

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Whenever these guys play the Perth Blues Club we know that we are in for a good night!

Again, the BB organizers (all locals) worked hard and produced a great line-up, may the Blues at Bridgetown go on for many years yet!

Here's a few MySpace links:

<http://www.myspace.com/mojowebb>  
<http://www.myspace.com/lizstringermusician>  
<http://www.myspace.com/kylabrox>  
<http://www.myspace.com/blushaddy>

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## Re:Blues at Bridgetown 2007, a soundman\'s perspective

Posted by derekplaystheblues - 2007/12/20 12:34

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Hey Rik,

Couldn't agree more.  
I also liked the larrikin behaviour of Tice and Evans and their take on Blues.

Derek

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