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For the attention of:

1 June 2006

Friday 23 June GUY DAVIS *with: Mark Murphy and Roth Patterson*
Plus support: JAY STAPELEY
Chequer Mead Arts Centre, De La Warr Road, East Grinstead



Celebrating his 8th album release, Skunkmello Guy Davis returns to the Acoustic Sussex programme by popular demand (he last appeared in May 2005). This time, he is joined - for the first time in the UK - by two of the he musicians who regularly appeared on his recordings: Mark Murphy (bass) and Roth Patterson (guitar).

As well as being a musician, Guy Davis is a composer, actor, director, and writer. But more than anything, Guy is a 'bluesman'. Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to reviving the traditions of acoustic blues and bringing them to as many ears as possible through the material of the great blues masters, African American stories, and his own original songs, stories and performance pieces.

His influences include such great blues musicians as Blind Willie McTell, Skip James, Manse Lipscomb, Mississippi John Hurt, Elizabeth Cotton, and Buddy Guy, among others. It was through Taj Mahal that he found his way to the old time blues.

Guy was a nominee in the 2003 and 2004 USA W C Handy Blues Awards for Acoustic Blues Artist and Album of the Year, alongside artists such as Eric Bibb.

Support for the evening is provided by **Jay Stapeley**, a guitarist who has worked with artists as diverse as Roger Waters, Mike Oldfield, Suede and Scott Walker. His guitar work features on the soundtrack of the classic movie, Withnail and I.



Tickets £12.50 Concessions £11 Box Office 01342 302000 or email info@chequermead.org.uk.
More information can be found on the Acoustic Sussex website (www.acousticsussex.org.uk).

Extended biography overleaf...

Quotes - what others say:.

*" A singer and guitarist in the rural mould of Robert Johnson and Mississippi John Hurt,
...a voice like Howlin' Wolf dipped in honey. He is fabulous "*

The Scotsman

*"Davis reminds you that the blues started as dance music. This is blues made for humming along, stomping your foot,
feeling righteous in the face of oppression and expressing gratitude to your baby for greasing your skillet"*

Charles M Young, Playboy

*"Davis never loses sight of the blues as good time music, the original forum for dancing on top of one's sorrows.
Joy made more exquisite, of course, by the sorrow from which it springs."*

Dave Marsh

*"Over the last half a dozen years or so the albums of Guy Davis have been a constant source of inspiration and
wonderment. This is his fifth set. Lining up alongside other modern bluesmen such as Eric Bibb and Keb Mo,
Davis is the complete performer... 'Give In Kind' is a superb album which should find its way into as many
homes as possible, and if you get the chance, go and see him as well"*

Hugh Gregory, Maverick magazine

What is Acoustic Sussex?

Acoustic Sussex is a non-profit making organisation that promotes quality singer/ songwriters and other acoustic musicians in the mid-Sussex area, using different venues. We encourage new and local talent by providing support slots for the main act and other opportunities such as 'open mic' evenings. Any profit we make from events is used for charitable purposes.

Guy Davis – biography:



Whether Guy Davis is appearing in front of 15,000 people on the main stage of a major festival or teaching an intimate gathering of students he feels the instinctive desire to give each listener his 'all'. His 'all' is the Blues. Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to reviving the traditions of acoustic blues and bringing them to as many ears as possible through the material of the great blues masters, African American stories, and his own original songs, stories and performance pieces.

The routes, and roots, of his blues are as diverse as the music form itself. Guy tells stories of his great-grandparents and his grandparents, their days as track linemen, and of their interactions with the infamous Klu Klux Klan. He can also tell you that as a child raised in middle-class New York suburbs, the only cotton he's picked is his underwear up off the floor. Though raised in the New York City area, he grew up hearing accounts of life in the rural south from his parents and especially his grandparents, including the late Laura Davis (his 105 year-old grandmother).

Davis taught himself the guitar (never having the patience to take formal lessons) and learned by listening to and watching other musicians. One night on a train from Boston to New York he picked up finger picking from a nine-fingered guitar player.

His influences are as varied as the days. Musically, he enjoyed such great blues musicians as Blind Willie McTell (and his way of story telling), Skip James, Manse Lipscomb, Mississippi John Hurt, Elizabeth Cotton, and Buddy Guy, among others. It was through Taj Mahal that he found his way to the old time blues. He also loved such diverse musicians as Fats Waller and Harry Belafonte.

Throughout his life, Davis has had overlapping interests in music and acting. Early acting roles included a lead role in the film *Beat Street* and on television as Dr. Josh Hall on *One Life to Live*. He made his Broadway musical debut in 1991 in *Mulebone*, which featured the music of Taj Mahal. In 1993 he performed Off-Broadway as legendary blues player Robert Johnson in *Trick the Devil*. He received rave reviews and became the 1993 winner of the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive Award, presented to him by Robert Cray at the W.C. Handy Awards ceremony.

Looking for more ways to combine his love of blues, music, and acting, Davis created material for himself. He wrote *In Bed with the Blues: The Adventures of Fishy Waters* -- an engaging and moving one-man show. The Off-Broadway debut in 1994 received critical praise from the *New York Times* and the *Village Voice*. Davis also arranged, performed and co-wrote the music for an Emmy award winning film, *To Be a Man*.

For the past decade, Davis has concentrated much of his efforts on writing, recording, and performing music. His album, *Call Down the Thunder* was named a top ten album of the year and *Acoustic Guitar* magazine called it "one of the 30 essential CDs from a new generation of performers". *You Don't Know My Mind* was chosen as Blues Album of the Year by the Association For Independent Music.

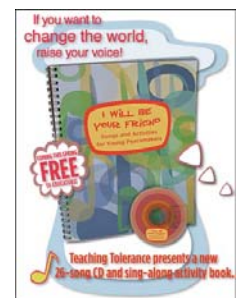


The album *Give in Kind*, caught the ear of Ian Anderson, founder and lead singer of one of Rock & Roll's greatest bands, Jethro Tull, who invited Guy to open for them during the summer of 2003.

Guy's album, *Chocolate to the Bone* received a W.C. Handy award nomination for Best Acoustic Blues Album (one of 9 such awards he has received over the over the years, including 2 nominations for Best Acoustic Blues Artist.

His latest album, *Legacy* was picked as one of the Best CDs of the Year by America's National Public Radio and the lead track on it, "Uncle Tom's Dead" was chosen as one of the Best Songs of the Year. The only other artist on both lists was the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson.

Guy says he is most proud of the US I Will Be Your Friend project and album, in which he contributes the title track. It's a collection of enriching songs combined together with a teacher's aide kit to help teach diversity and understanding. It is all part of the US Teaching Tolerance campaign (www.tolerance.org) and is provided to every school to help combat hatred.



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