

Blind Dog Blues

by Lilith

Blind Dog Blues headlined the tent on Friday night. Formerly known as Disorder at the Border, this outfit is comprised of a bunch of buddies from the Woodstock - Holton area. While the show was high energy, the band's sound was polished and the crowd reacted favorably to their set. Blind Dog Blues is oriented a little far on the rock and roll end of things to be called strictly blues band. While the Tragically Hip undeniably has their roots in the blues tradition, their material is not exactly what you'd expect to hear covered at a Jazz and Blues Festival. Of course, the Harvest Festival has never restricted itself to booking strictly conventional acts (i.e. Ujamma). Blind Dog Blues once again garnered an unbelievably enthusiastic reception, which is why they were a repeat act from past years.



AKA

by Lilith

After every other venue in town is closed each night...at the end of the weekend when the rest of the festival has packed up, swept up and left not a trace...the River Room is still hopping. For the greater part of the year, the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel's lounge is a typical low key hotel bar. During the Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival, however, the River Room is briefly transformed into a mecca for musicians and in-the-know festival fans. Everybody involved in the festival turns up there before the night is over.

On the final night of the festival Messo Blues, Poor Charlie, Theresa Malenfant and Roger Howse all took turns with AKA on stage for the Festival capper. This sleepy little hollow jams when the best that the festival has to offer gets together for last call.

Theresa Malenfant

by Lilith

Theresa Malenfant is a sure good time anytime she plays in Fredericton, and her appearance at the Dock during the JazzFest was no exception. The Dieppe native released an album recorded at The Dock last year, and judging by its long lingering near the top of Sam the Record Man's regional indy charts, Malenfant has built a healthy following.

The lineup for Malenfant's gigs at The Dock was one of the largest at the festival and the management at the pub must have been pushing the fire marshal's regulations to let in as many fans as they did. In addition to filling every chair in the house (including every folder they could get their hands on), the walls were lined three deep and the dance floor was packed.

Malenfant has a tight backup band, but the true attraction of her gigs is the chance to see one of the most powerful female vocalists in the blues biz. She belts out every song with a level of energy that is near superhuman. Her gravelly voice wraps around a familiar tune and turns it into a different beast altogether. Her sets featured material ranging from Joplin covers to classics of the delta. Malenfant is a talent deserving of national attention. At a time when blues is enjoying a period of peak popularity, there's hope that justice will be done.

