



Est. 1993

SEPT. 11
CBS Blues Bash

**B
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Change of Plans!

**The Solo/Duo Competition will not be held this Sunday...
Instead, we'll be having a
Big Ol' Jam!**

Bring your instruments! Bring your Voice!

*Let's make some cool music
this Sunday!*



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DOORS OPEN 7:00
Open Mic Blues Jam
8:00 until...

Charlotte's Home of the Blues



HOSPITALITY TABLE
Bring some goodies
to add to the table!

SEPT. 2016
Vol. 23.09

Charlotte Blues Society

www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org

PO Box 32752
Charlotte, NC 28232-2752



CBS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors, and is an affiliated member of **The Blues Foundation**

Autographed "Memphis Guitar"**Tickets Still on Sale ...****\$1 each
or 6 for \$5****Drawing will be in December.****That gives us several more months to accumulate
more great autographs!**

Current signatures: Tommy Castro, Anni Piper, Bob Margolin,
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Eddie Turnerr, Kenny Passarelli,
Bill Szymczyk, Jarekus Singleton, Tab Benoit,
Jimmy Thackery, Tinsley Ellis, Rusty Barkley

**MERCHANDISE**

Support the Charlotte Blues Society in style in your Charlotte Blues Society attire. We offer a variety of styles and colors, including short and long sleeved T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, and hats.

Please email CharlotteBluesSociety@aol.com
for more information.

Men's Short Sleeve T	\$20
in black, gray, blue	
Men's Long Sleeve T	\$25
in black, gray, blue, light blue	
Men's Polo Shirts	\$40
limited quantities in black,navy	
Women's Short Sleeve T	\$20
(sizes run small!)	
in black, taupe, navy, blue	
Sweatshirts (black)	
zipper down front with Hood	\$40
pullover	\$40
pullover w/out Hood	\$40
zipper down front without Hood	\$50
Hats (adjustable)	\$20



Saturday ...



MUSICIANS YARD SALE
TO BENEFIT DOUBLE DOOR DOCUMENTARY
Sat., Sept. 10
9AM – Noon at DDI

Local music CDs / Merchandise / Artwork to benefit
*"Live from The Double Door Inn - A rocking documentary
celebrating 43 years of Charlotte's best music".*

Meet & Greet with some of Charlotte's finest musicians,
autographed CDs, and memorabilia.



Sunday ...



OPEN BLUES JAM
September 11

**Join CBS for an Open Blues Jam
led by Rob Dayton of the Instigators.**

Doors open at 7pm Jam begins at 8pm

**IF YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY
THE DOUBLE DOOR, COME JAM WITH US.**

**FREE EVENT to all CBS Members,
only \$5 for non-members.**

SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC IN CHARLOTTE!



Offering authentic Jazz, authentic Blues, and authentic New Orleans Food.

www.blunotes.com

3435 David Cox Road, Charlotte, NC

704-910-1996

Check website for performance updates, menus, and drink specials!

NEW WEEKLY SCHEDULE BELOW

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS	SUNDAYS
Closed	Karaoke 6:00pm	Open Mic & Auditions 7:00PM	Soulful Thursday (Various Artists) 7:00pm	Straight-ahead Jazz (Various Artists) 7:00pm	Live Music on the Patio <u>1:00-4:00</u> Blues & Grooves 7:00pm	3rd Sunday Latin Jazz 6:00-9:00pm

Thursday, Sept. 22 ...



A Charlotte Blues Society

Open Jam @ The Rabbit Hole,

a high-quality live music experience in Plaza Midwood.

1801 Commonwealth Ave.

Doors at 7:00 ♦ Jam at 8:00

Sunday, Oct. 9 ...

Note: 2nd Sunday

CBS Annual Blues Talent Competition ~ Bands

The Double Door Inn

Competition will begin in the afternoon.

(More details in next month's newsletter)

Watch for more Jams and Parties coming this Fall!

WE HAVE A FEW MONTHS TO SAVE THE MEMORY OF THE DOUBLE DOOR INN



Jay Ahuja pulls up a stool to the Double Door Inn bar, and per usual, orders a Maker’s Mark on the rocks from Mike, a bartender he’s grown to know well since he moved to Charlotte in the mid-1980’s. He looks around the old building, the photos of past performers adorning its walls, and smiles.

Ahuja estimates he’s been to the Double Door Inn over 200 times. He’s seen Koko Taylor, the Avett Brothers and even a 14-year-old Derek Trucks perform at the legendary music venue on the corner of Charlottetowne and Elizabeth avenues. He and his wife even had their first date here.

For Ahuja, the next few months are bittersweet. He’ll spend time enjoying live music in his usual spot, in front of a post close to the stage, close to the bar, and out of anyone’s way. He’ll see some new faces on the stage, some old ones too, and he’ll do his best to save a part of the Double Door Inn, set to close for good January 2.

“We have a few months to save the memory of the Double Door Inn,” says Ahuja.

Ahuja, an author and media veteran, is working with Kim Brattain, longtime WSOC anchorwoman, Rick Fitts, a former producer at WTVI, and Chuck Bludsworth, president and creative director of Civilized Films, on Live From The Double Door Inn: A Documentary. The four launched a Kickstarter campaign August 10, and need to raise \$50,000 by September 13 to produce the documentary, which will highlight the many people, fans, artists and staff, that made the place special in its 43 years in business.



[Agenda story: This Kickstarter campaign wants to help keep the Double Door Inn’s legacy alive]

Their plan is to finish shooting in October and then write the script and begin post-production. Cutting down 50 hours of footage to about 40 minutes for the final product is a tall task, but Ahuja and company, who have seen over 500 shows combined at the Double Door Inn, want to make sure they’re giving the project as much as the venue has given them.

“We all just have such a passion for this place,” says Ahuja. “It’s really about doing it, doing it well, and telling this story the best way we can.”

One way of accomplishing that has been reaching out to the many influential musicians that have graced the stage of the intimate venue over the years. Ahuja mentions Buddy Guy and Eric Clapton as just two of the many artists they have asked to interview for the documentary.

It may seem like a crazy thought that these legends would even entertain the thought, but musicians love the place. Trucks gave a nod to the venue a few weeks back at a performance at Charlotte Metro Credit Union Amphitheatre. Local favorite Randy Franklin even wrote and recorded “I’m Gonna Miss It,” an original song about The Double Door Inn.

(Cont’d ...)

Outside of the artists, it will be people like Mike the bartender who will share some of their favorite moments and memories in the film. Mike, who has been bartending at the Double Door Inn since 1977, filled in for a bartender who was going on vacation one night nearly 40 years ago. The bartender never came back, and Mike never left. He's just one of the many locals who stepped foot into the venue and stayed put.

Ahuja mentions a few things that make the Double Door Inn what he calls "one of the best rooms in the country." It's the constant flow of talented musicians, the bar, of course, and the happy, respectful concert-goers that make him feel comfortable there.

As for the **Kickstarter** campaign, anything helps, but a pledge of \$50 gets you a DVD, and a pledge of \$250 will get you in the door to a preview party on December 7th. While a DVD or an invitation are nice keepsakes and memories, Ahuja knows that being able to produce the documentary will be a lot bigger than that.

"Don't donate to get a DVD or a sticker. Donate so you can help preserve the history of this place."

-- Danny Gassaway, CharlotteAgenda.com, September 6, 2016

All photos courtesy of Daniel Coston



You can see a short video trailer and the official Kickstarter page here:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/172392859/live-from-the-double-door-inn-a-documentary>

Rick Fitts (former producer of WTVI) was on the air with WNCW's Mike Dew during The Saturday Night House Party talking up the DDI kickstarter documentary effort.



Recently, Chuck, Rick & Jay spent an afternoon at Knothole Recording Studio.

Randy Franklin wrote, "I'm Gonna Miss It," an original song about TDDI.

Lenny Federal played guitar and did some backing vocals.

Randy has generously allowed us to use the song as part of our documentary soundtrack and Lenny was kind enough to stick around for an interview.



Knothole Recording Studio

www.knotholerecordingstudio.com

Q&A ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY

By Jay Ahuja

What inspired and motivated this documentary?

It's now or never really. Nick told me he was selling the place and I suggested we should preserve and document TDDI's history and the upcoming performances. He encouraged and endorsed the idea after meeting with Kim, Rick and I. He's opened up his Rolodex, sent e-mails on our behalf to friends and family, and allowed us extraordinary access to rooms at TDDI that most people never see.

As you may know, Kim Brattain was anchorwoman for WSOC News for years and has won 3 Emmy Awards. She knows how to conduct interviews and get the best out of people. Chuck Bludworth, our director of photography, is incredible. He's worked on several feature films, including *Cape Fear* and *Dances With Wolves*. It's been a treat to watch him set up shots and record performances. And, if you watch the trailer video, you get a sense for how talented Rick Fitts is as an editor. He and I worked together at PBS Charlotte, so I know that nobody outworks him. I encourage people to visit the Kickstarter page to learn more about our background, our vision, our budget and timeline, not to mention the cool swag we are offering as a token of our appreciation for helping make this documentary happen.



What are some of our fondest memories at The Double Door Inn?

First and foremost, the people who work there, play there, and go to see shows there. The staff has been there for decades. I like seeing Todd and Robin as I walk in. Mike and Reed know I want a Maker's Mark on the rocks and they have a pretty good idea what my wife wants to drink. The bands will all tell you that the room has a warm, sonic quality that is unique. They'll also tell you that the sound board operators are terrific to work with.

And, the crowd is different than most nightclubs. It's diverse; old and young, black and white, male and female. More importantly, they respect the music. They are there to see a band play. They don't hold up their phones all night, trying to take photos or video. Although, I've noticed a little more of that now that the place is closing in January. They don't talk so loud that it distracts from the music. And, while the place may have had a rough reputation in the 70s, I find it to be a very friendly and accepting crowd. People who were put off by the gruff exterior truly missed out on something special happening inside almost any given evening.

As far as my favorite shows over the years, off the top of my head I'd include Koko Taylor, Joe Ely, The Holmes Brothers, Derek Trucks, The Iguanas, Bob Margolin, Tinsley Ellis, Blue Dogs, Jimmy Thackery, The Nighthawks, and Buckwheat Zydeco in my top twelve ... not necessarily in that order. I missed out on Eric Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Steve Earle, Junior Walker and some of the other legendary performances.

And, I met my wife at a continuing education photography class at CCCC. After that class, we walked up to TDDI for "our first date" so I will always have a warm spot in heart for the place.

The Double Door Inn is one of the oldest music venues in the Southeast; why is it important to the city and state?

TDDI has been so important for several reasons. For years, it was the only place that offered live music seven days a week. It allowed acts like The Rank Outsiders, Belmont Playboys, Federal Bureau of Rock & Roll, Lou Ford, and countless others to develop a following. It was the Wednesday night home to The Avett Brothers before they hit it bigtime. But, perhaps most importantly, it helped keep the Blues alive, providing a place for touring musicians to play on the all-important eastern seaboard. It was a reliable stop between DC and Atlanta where Dixie Dregs, JJ Cale, John Hammond Jr., Gatmouth Brown, Junior Walker and others knew that were going to be treated like superstars. In 1994 it was named Club of the Year [for "Keeping the Blues Alive"] by The Blues Foundation.

What do we want to capture the most in this documentary?

More than anything else, we want to preserve and document the place's unique qualities that can never be recreated. Beyond that, we'll show all the great music, the wonderful people, the fun times had with friends there and the friends we made while we were there because we all shared that love of live music.

We also want to interview people who were at those legendary shows. We've already identified a few folks who were at Dixie Dregs, Eric Clapton, etc. Those oral histories need to be told and preserved. Two of the early sound board operators, Wendell Elliott and Marshall Bain, have found us and contributed to our Kickstarter. We look forward to interviewing them, because they were witness to some incredible performances. One of them, I think Wendell, got married at TDDI. We'd love to include photos or video of that.

What are most of the funds going towards and when can people expect a finished product?

It's important to note that Kickstarter/credit card processing keeps about 10% right off the top. Assuming we reach our Kickstarter goal, because it's an all-or-nothing proposition, we expect to spend that same amount on printing rewards for donors—posters, guitar picks, stickers, DVDs, etc. Then, we'll have to package and mail those to the donors.

Beyond that, we'll have to pay for a narrator, music rights, digitizing audio files, photos and video, accounting and legal fees, audio/video equipment for the private preview party for our \$250 donors (we already have at least 23 of those, out of a possible 50, as of yesterday), and most of all, post-production and editing. We also hope to submit the documentary to regional film festivals, which often have an entry fee. Just to give you an idea of how much time it takes to do things right, the 3-minute trailer video on our Kickstarter page, was at least 40 hours of work between planning, shooting, and editing.

The industry standard for producing a documentary is roughly \$2,000 per finished-minute. We hope to produce a 40-minute film, but public TV and film festivals may determine the final length. We believe we can do it for less than \$80K, however, we are also applying for grants to cover potential cost over-runs. Our goal is to have a finished DVD before December 6th.

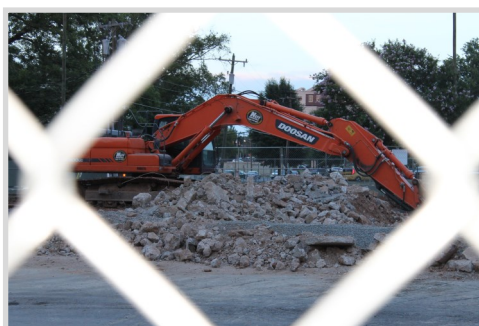
Do we plan to reach out to many big name artists to interview in this documentary?

Of course, we'll aim high and ask Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy, Joe Ely, Steve Earle, The Avett Brothers, and all the other living legends who played or visited the club. We'll also try to interview others, like Bob Margolin, Tinsley Ellis, Tab Benoit, Buckwheat Zydeco, Jimmy Thackery and Tony Joe White. Some will say yes and others will be impossible to reach, but it won't be from a lack of trying.

We've done some interviews already, but can't do too many more until we know we are fully financed. We love the place, but we aren't charity workers. If there's a market for this documentary, we will certainly make a first-rate film. My partners, Kim, Rick and Chuck have all been going to The Double Door Inn even longer than me. Between us, we know nearly all the players; local promoters like Gregg McCraw and Rick Booth have been reaching out to musicians and fans on our behalf; Nick, Mike, Reed, Craig, Robin & Todd are all handing out business cards and putting up flyers for us. This is a labor of love and I hope we get to make it.

What will we miss the most about The Double Door Inn?

The music, the intimacy, the regulars, and being able to take out-of-town visitors to one of the nation's very best music rooms right here in Charlotte, NC.



One of the most frequent questions we get is “Why do you need to raise \$50K?”

It’s important to note that Kickstarter/credit card processing keeps about 10% right off the top. Assuming we reach our Kickstarter goal, because it’s an all-or-nothing proposition, we expect to spend that same amount on printing rewards for donors—posters, guitar picks, stickers, DVDs, etc. Then, we’ll have to package and mail those to the donors.

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It was even suggested that we should have used Inigogo, GoFundMe, or another crowdfunding site that would let us keep the money if we came up short. First of all, that is not ethical. Secondly, it’s not about keeping the money, it’s about producing a first-rate documentary DVD that Nick and the rest of the staff, all the musicians and promoters, and the countless fans can be proud to own, knowing they helped make it happen.

About the Author, Jay Ahuja: I’m a published author of two sports travel guides and a freelance writer. I’ve also worked for the finest media outlets in Charlotte- Nearly 6 years at Charlotte Observer, 4+ years at Charlotte magazine, 8+ years at WFAE 90.7FM and, most recently, 3+ years at WTVI PBS Charlotte. As a result of those first jobs, I’ve known Nick Karres, owner of TDDI, for more than 25 years. Nick coined the phrase “entertainment seeker” when describing the difference between myself and most locals, who he was trying to encourage to support live music.

I moved to Charlotte right after college in January of 1986. I started going to shows at TDDI a week or two later. It was the second nightclub I ever went to in Charlotte. The Cellar was my first. I’ve seen something like 200 shows there. I started going to TDDI back when it was so smoky inside that, after a show, we stripped out of our clothes in the garage before going into the house.



LAST CALL FOR DOUBLE DOOR

Blues venue subject of documentary

By Ashley Mahoney

Is Charlotte paying a price for progress?

As Charlotte bids farewell to the Double Door Inn after 43 years, the Queen City's original house of blues echoes the sound of closing doors throughout the city.

"We have seen Charlotte change all around us," said Mike Martin, DDI's bartender for 38 years. "We have embraced as much change as we can."

The DDI's demise on Jan. 2, 2017 demonstrates a dying era of live music in an intimate setting featuring up and coming musicians as well as legends like Buddy Guy and Eric Clapton. "When you look at the bands that Nick [Karres, DDI's owner] brings in, it's unbelievable, the talent that comes through those doors," Martin said.

In a generation that trends toward DJs, texting instead of having a conversation with a stranger and avoiding cover charges like the plague, Charlotte's growth has led to institutions like the NC Music Factory. While the one-stop shop offers a chance to see more established names on a larger stage, it lacks the intimacy of former live music venues like Kidnapper's, The Pterodactyl Club and Tremont Music Hall.

"There was a lot of activity going back and forth to smaller venues—for lack of a better word, more eclectic, different venues," Martin said. "I don't know why they have to be in such a rush to be Atlanta, or be something they are not. Charlotte is not a big city. It's a small town. It's got aspirations that I think are grandiose at best. It just [bugs] me to no end to know that Charlotte is more in tune to tear down everything, not saving anything and I'm not really speaking about the Double Door per se, but I'm talking about a lot of Charlotte history."

To commemorate DDI's history, filmmakers Kim Brattain, Rick Fitts, Chuck Bludsworth and journalist Jay Ahuja have come together to create a documentary funded by a Kickstarter campaign. "There's nothing wrong with progress, but you have to gauge that progress by what you are taking away to get to where you're going," Martin said.

For information about the Kickstarter fund for the documentary: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/172392859/live-from-the-double-door-inn-a-documentary>

The Charlotte Post
Published September 8, 2016



*Local media has begun to help spread the word and our Kickstarter project to produce a documentary about The Double Door Inn is gaining traction. As of this morning [9/3/16], we had 136 backers and are at 41% of our goal with **10 days left** in the campaign*

-- Jay Ahuja

Charlotte's Home of the Blues



Check out The Double Door's Website for updates and future bookings, show times, admission, & more!

Sign up for weekly updates.

Purchase Advance Tickets for selected shows.

Read complete artist info at www.doubledoorinn.com

1218 Charlottetown Ave. 704-376-1446

Join the DDI Fan club at www.facebook.com

Every Monday – Monday Night All Stars

Every Tuesday – Bill Hanna's Jazz Jam

UPCOMING BLUES/ROOTS MUSIC

Showtime

Sat., 9/10 (10:00) Sean Chambers Band & Gina Sicilia (\$12 / \$14)

Chambers' brand of blues is a no-frills blend of Chicago, Texas, and Delta styles, played with an understated sense of ferocity. Sicilia is considered a true rising star in the blues world ever since her debut album, Allow Me to Confess.

Sun., 9/11 (8:00) Big Ol' Blues Jam with Jam Master Rob Dayton (\$5 Non-Mbrs) *CBS Blues Bash*

Thu., 9/22 (9:00) Anni Piper (\$8)

The sultry vocals of Australian blues performer Anni Piper attracted significant overseas interest. She beguiles listeners with butter-wouldn't-melt-in-your-mouth harmonies and heart-rending ballads of love gone sour. But as well as showing their sweet side, there's a little spice with diverse originals and covers from Janis Joplin to Ronnie Earl

Wed., 9/28 (9:00) Holy Smokes & The Godforsaken Rollers (\$5 / \$7)

A multi-instrumentalist duo, their roots & hearts are with country & delta blues and playing old time porch music with a modern spin.

COMING IN OCTOBER: The Nighthawks Tinsley Ellis Tommy Castro & The Painkillers Patrick Sweany

COMING IN NOVEMBER: Tab Benoit Webb Wilder Donna Duncan & Skatfish The Young Ages

The Monday Night All-Stars

Every Monday Show: 10:00 \$5 at the Door

The All-Stars have been one of the most consistent surprises on the Double Door Inn music calendar.

Les Moore came to us and said "How 'bout me getting a few of my buddies (also some of the best Charlotte musicians) together to form a band to play off-night Monday night?" We said go for it. Never in the history of the Charlotte music scene has a group come on so strong to draw a crowd and develop a fan base on a Monday night. Most people thought it could never happen on Mondays in Charlotte!

Every Monday, band members offer up their take on a variety of cover songs. (The set list runs the gamut from Bob Marley to Earth, Wind & Fire.) A diverse, and often large, crowd will dance and sing along, sometimes dropping their jaws at the talent that's present on stage. They don't call them "All-Stars" for nothing.

★Shana Blake ★Ziad Rabie ★Rick Blackwell ★Jim Brock ★Dustin Hofsess ★Chris Allen

Bill Hanna Jazz Jam

Every Tuesday Show: 9:00 \$7 at the Door

Bill Hanna has been hosting this jam session @ the Double Door for years. If you are an up and coming jazz musician, or someone shaking the dust off the old instrument.....either way, this is the place where you can come out and jam with one of the best.

Charlotte Blues Jam
is moving to the
4th Wednesday (7:00pm)
starting Sept. 28

Still at *Moochies* Tavern.
15060 Idlewild Rd.
Matthews, NC

Join Charlotte-Blues-Jam@meetup.com



Tosco Music Party
Saturday, Sept. 10
7:30 PM
Knight Theater
at Levine Center
for the Arts

www.toscomusic.org

"One Stop Shopping" at www.maxxmusic.com
Concert Listings and Links for:

The Double Door Inn Neighborhood Theater
Visulite Theater The Evening Muse The Rabbit Hole
NC Blumenthal Performing Arts Center



20th annual
CAROLINA DOWNHOME BLUES FESTIVAL

Thursday-Saturday, October 6-8, Camden, SC

This small-town, Southern culture blues club crawl is shaping up to be another memorable weekend for blues fans in the Southeast. Camden, only a few miles outside of the capital of Columbia, SC, is South Carolina's oldest inland city.

"Bad to the bone" doesn't even start to say it.

An amazing ride through a cavalcade of real-deal blues at authentic intimate venues, cheap prices, and exquisite times with like-minded folks. The real blues lovers come to this one and you will want to, too!

An affordable all-access wristband per day or all-weekend pass is all you will need.

Paul Oscher Joe Louis Walker Bill Wharton, The Sauce Boss
Kara Grainger Lightnin' Wells Drink Small
and many more!

Info being updated constantly at www.fineartscenter.org

Keep checking for the full line-up and schedule!

Only 1½ hours from Charlotte — I-77 South, then SC-97 South