

Mark 'N the Blues

Let Mark's passion for the blues take you on a journey to the deep south where the Delta blues was born, through the ages and styles from past to present. In his show Mark incorporates instruments such as the Resonator guitar with slide, Cigar Box guitar and a stomp box to keep the beat.

Mark has always had a deep seated passion and love for the acoustic blues. This passion was cultivated when he met John Morris (Brother John) from the Blues Preachers, who developed in him a love for songs from Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, Manse Lipscombe and many others from the era.

Mark has now put together his new act, 'Mark 'N the Blues', where he uses the acoustic guitar and resonator to punch out classic delta and country blues in a unique picking style he learnt from Brother John.

Recently Mark has been joined by Eric K. Betts on blues harp and vocals to create a versatile and dynamic duo and David Rowlands on washboard creates the trio.

Mal Gillies has been an avid blues harmonica player based in Sydney for over 30 years and has immersed himself in all aspects of the 'blues harp' and it's immense history.

Having started out in a rough and ready backyard outfit calling themselves 'The Brungle Train Cats' made up of a bunch of surfing friends in the 1980's and securing a live gig at an inner city venue for a short time, Mal's gone onto play many other gigs lending harp in supporting roles including at the old iconic Basement Restaurant near Sydney's Circular Quay.

More recently Mal was the resident harp player for the well respected local Northern Beaches pub rock band The Chickenstones from 2015 to 2019 and added harp in a studio recording for the band's latest album Mystery Train recorded in 2019.

Mal's love of the harmonica has allowed him to explore and play many styles of blues music including the Chicago style of amplified blues, through to acoustic style Delta Blues, Folk and Country.

David Rowlands has played drums for many decades. He has played with the likes of Phil Jones and The Unknown Blues, Wiley Reed Band, Ugly Graham and The Pretty Boys, Skinner, Doug Ford's Blue Fords, Hollow Tree and Bonnie Kay Trio, as well as Alchemy. He has now joined Mark 'N the Blues on washboard.

The Mark 'N The Blues show has appeared at venues around Sydney including Mr Falcon's, The Little Guy and Well Co. at Glebe; Macquarie Arms Windsor; Rozelle Markets; Cat & Fiddle Balmain; The Bridge Hotel Rozelle; Collector Hotel Parramatta and the iconic Brass Monkey in Cronulla to name a few. As a trio they have played at festivals such as the Tav's Blues Party and Northern Beaches Music Festival and recently The St Albans Folk Festival.

Musical Influences: Eric Clapton; Arlo Guthrie; Muddy Waters; Robert Johnson; Cat Stevens; James Taylor; Jim Conway; Backsliders.

Mission Statement: To revive, nurture and showcase the era and story of the Delta Blues and educate audiences on the origins of the genre.

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