

\* Why did you record your first live-album just in Hamburg?

We always have a great time playing in Hamburg. Our record label is based there and we love the vibe and the sound at the Downtown Blues Club. It was an obvious choice for us.

\* Having three studio-albums under your belt, what's been the criteria for choosing the songs for the set?

We wanted to keep the energy high, so we played the songs that tend to get the biggest response from the audience. The set featured songs from the "Raw Blues" and "Unleashed" albums, plus a few new tunes.

\* Was the setlist the same as for the other shows, or was there anything you did especially for the live-album?

We road tested the set leading up to the live recording, making improvements after each show so the band was tight and well-rehearsed. There were a couple of things we did just for the live album like the guitar dual between me and Dan on "The Girl I Love".

\* - Did you "repair" anything in the studio afterwards?

Not much. It was important to me to keep this record as live as possible. A lot of bands nowadays redo almost everything in the studio afterwards and to me that defeats the point of it being a live album. I did two small vocal fixes on the whole record, just two lines. Everything else you hear is exactly as it was on the night.

\* Is there any pressure knowing that the show is recorded for an album?

There is always some pressure involved when it is being recorded but we weren't nervous. We had a lot of support from our fans in Germany. Some people had come from as far Weiden, ten hours away, just to support us. We were very excited about the show.

\* Did you record only one show or more just for safety, if something goes wrong?

We only recorded the one show. I knew nothing would go wrong, I have a very tight band.

\* I guess it was a conscious decision to play only with your band, not having your sister on stage too?

It wasn't really a conscious decision. My sister and I rarely play together any more.

\* You have a new drummer, Alan Taylor instead of Richard Newman – why that?

Alan was actually my original drummer when I first formed the band and he played on my first record. We have known each other for a long time. Richard Newman played the drums on my last studio album "Raw Blues" but he has never been a permanent member of the band. He was Rory Gallagher's drummer in the early 90's and he's worked with a lot of big names in blues rock, so it was an

honour to work with him. It's great to have Alan back in the band now. I love the energy that he brings to the live show; it really comes across on the record too.

\* You've been playing guitar once on "Jealous Woman" – just as a special thing?

I've played guitar for years but only recently started to incorporate it in to the live set. I find some of the songs I write are more suited to guitar than harp. I played guitar on "Jealous Woman" and "The Girl I Love".

\* What's been the criteria for choosing the cover-songs? And how did you approach them to make them your own?

We did a cover of Canned Heat's "On the Road Again". I have always liked that song and Alan Wilson's harmonica playing, but the original recording of it is quite light weight with a falsetto vocal. We made it much heavier to put our own stamp on it. I think it is one of the highlights of the live set. It's been our encore song for a while now. We also did a cover of Rory Gallagher's "Philby". We first played it as a one off at a Gallagher tribute festival in Joldelund in the North of Germany. The crowd loved it so much that we decided to keep it in the set for the live album.

\* You've been touring with Dani as acoustic-duo after your own tour – how was it, what kind of experience?

The tour was originally intended to be Dani Wilde and Todd Sharpville, but Todd pulled out so I took his place. It was good to tour with Dani again; as I said we don't often play together any more as we are busy with our own bands. We split the show 50/50 playing some of my songs and some of her songs. It was fun to play acoustic; it's very different from the blues rock material that I play with my band, and a lot less stuff to carry!

\* In October you're coming back to Germany – there seems to be a special connection between you and Germany?

We tour Germany at least once a year. Our record label is based in Hamburg, so there is a connection but we have always had a strong fan base in Germany. I guess they just love our music!

\* How is it going in the UK?

Things are going well in the UK. We played a lot of blues festivals here this summer and will be touring again next year to promote the new live album.

\* Are there already plans for a new studio-album?

I don't know when the next studio album will be but I am writing all the time and I've been experimenting with some new sounds and effects on the harmonica. You can expect a much heavier sound from the next record.