

# Blues Power to the People

Guy Davis tours to support *Legacy*.



If good things come in threes, then it must be darn good to be named Guy Davis. Bluesman Guy Davis released his seventh album *Legacy* last summer, which showcases his commitment to acoustic blues and his lifelong influences of Blind Willie McTell, Skip James, Mississippi John Hurt, Elizabeth Cotton, Buddy Guy and others. Davis teamed up with two other men named Guy Davis throughout 2004 and now he's bringing his bluesy, groovy thing to Eugene.

One Guy Davis illustrated a comic for

*Legacy's* CD booklet about the musician Davis meeting the Devil at the crossroads. Another Guy Davis, a vintner from California, supplied his wines at select Davis concerts. I spoke to the bluesman Guy Davis to find out more.

**How did you find the other Guy Davises?**

It was actually my manager who spends a lot of time on the Internet. He Googled my name, found these other fellows, got in contact with a few of them and he burst this Guy Davis project on me!

**Will you continue the collaboration with the other Guy Davises in 2005?**

Well, not necessarily, I was happy to do that but that's not what I do. So I will not close my mind to it but if that happens that's fine and if that doesn't happen that's fine too. This is my seventh album that's out now and as I go, we'll just have to see what adventure comes next. The only thing I stick with that I've been with for 37 years is the guitar. That's the only thing that's been consistent in my life. In other ways I've been kind of flaky. So I'll continue to stick with the guitar.

**How do you feel the blues has influenced the cultures of rap and hip hop or how do you feel they can relate to one another?**

Blues is an ancestor, an ancestor to what you hear now. The blues and rap seem to talk about the same things.

They talk about men, women, they talk about hard times, they talk about trouble with the law. The blues is no longer cutting edge music but you find that the conditions that the blues came out of, some of them are still here now. It might not be direct Jim Crow kind of stuff but you still have situations where there are, say, disproportionate numbers of black kids running into bullets fired by cops. And I'm not making some con-

demnation of police, but I am saying some of these things still are here.

**Do you have any plans past *Legacy* at this point?**

Just like all my CDs I support them and I continue to work on new music, that's my M.O. *Legacy* is what's current but when I do a concert, I play all my music, not just what's on the last one. I play everything. The idea is when people come to see the show the music is highlighted and the stories and the feelings are highlighted. *Legacy* is my latest offering and I'm happy with it.

**Tell me about the other Guys.**

One is a vino maker who lives in California. What a pleasant guy. I've tasted his wares. I'm a red wine kind of guy and I like the taste of what he's doing. And the Guy who is the illustrator, well, this is something that's kind if close to me because I won't call myself an illustrator as much as I am a picture-drawer. I love to draw. My son also loves to draw. So seeing what the other Guy Davis can do makes me a teeny bit envious, but I admire his work. I think there's something about us Guy Davises, we find something we like to do and we stick with it!

**Guy Davis**  
Cafe Paradiso, 8 pm  
1/15, \$13.50 advance  
484-9933

**Do you have a favorite song you never tire of playing?**

Whoa, that's a hard one. Well, right now that song is "Loneliest Road I Know" which was derived from Fred McDowell's "61 Highway." **EW**

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