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#### Guest Book



Guest Book

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Email Us

This week's poll  
We're playing with a new website possibility. Please visit [alternatives.sc](http://alternatives.sc) (the proposed new site) and tell us which you prefer. What's your choice?

- Stay with what you have.
- Switch to new format.

vote

## Beach Newz: BluzNdaBlood Podcast

By Darie'l Bendin

Twice a month **Dave Harrison** records a one-hour segment of his increasingly popular blues podcast, **BluzNdaBlood**. Recording from his studio in Roanoke, Virginia, Dave still considers this his hobby. "By day," he says, "I'm a 30-year veteran in information technology at a nearby community college."

Even so, he's attracting a growing number of fans, artists and industry folks who recognize the value of what he has to offer. For one thing, the guy loves the blues and he's committed to promoting blues musicians – both household names and unknowns.

BluzNdaBlood is available for listening and free download through iTunes at [www.bluzndablood.com](http://www.bluzndablood.com). If iTunes isn't your thing, visit [bluzndablood.libsyn.com](http://bluzndablood.libsyn.com) where you can pick and choose which podcast you want. You can also subscribe to his YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/bluzndablood](http://www.youtube.com/user/bluzndablood). You'll find performances by Coco Montoya, Watermelon Slim, Big Bill Morganfield, Janiva Magness, E.G. Kight and more.

Dave figures there are typically 2,000 downloads each month from blues lovers in about 70 different countries. His loyal fanbase emails him with kudos and suggestions on a regular basis.

"Sometimes, if I take longer than usual to produce a show, I'll start to get emails from people checking on me. They want to make sure I'm okay," he told me.

Producing the podcast since 2006, Dave is currently working on his 62nd show.

The commercial-free production has four basic formats. Most often, BluzNdaBlood is presented in a standard radio format. Often, a show is themed, such as the upcoming Blues Yule Love holiday show. One of his highest ranking shows has been the Funny Bone Blues Show, featuring a mix of sometimes raunchy, always irreverent tunes such as "Sleeping With Michael Jackson" by Papa Joe Grappa. Dave goes so far as to find equally outrageous "commercials" to run in between tunes. "This show is really a lot of work," Dave laughs, "People love it though; I get lots of email on the Funny Bone show. In fact, I've done two of them now." Another recent theme show was last month's podcast, The Devil's Music, especially for Halloween.

Other recording formats include interview shows, featured artist shows and festivals.

Earlier this month, Dave had the opportunity to interview Braille Blues Daddy, Bryan Lee and he devoted a whole show to him. Bryan Lee, if you aren't familiar with him, heads up his own band and plays on the Kenny Wayne Shepard DVD, "Ten Days Out." Before listening to this show, I'd never heard of Bryan Lee, which is exactly why Dave's podcast is so important. It's helping to expose more listeners to the rich heritage that is the blues.

Another engaging interview, and one of Dave's favorites, was with Watermelon Slim. "He was such a great guy, so down to earth. The interview was in a hotel room, though, so the quality wasn't the greatest." The interview was especially meaningful for Dave because it took place right after the Virginia Tech tragedy. "It helped me move past that," said Dave. "You know, it was right here. Anyway, I gave him a Tech hat and he wore it that night."

Featured artist shows have included blues guitarist Debbie Davies (who, you may remember, put on a great show at Ducks during last year's DJ Throwdown) and Janiva Magness.

The fourth category is festival format. Dave often helps promote various blues festivals by producing a podcast that features the festival's artists. For the past two years he has featured the National Women In Blues Festival, held in Wilmington, North Carolina.

"You asked how I got involved with Women In Blues," he said. "I had found this book ... with a bright pink cover. It was called "A Bad Woman Feeling Good: Blues and the Women Who Sing Them" by Buzzy Jackson. I did some research on the Internet and a link showed up to the National Women In Blues Festival. I contacted Michele Seidman [festival organizer and lead singer for Michele and the Midnight Blues band]. Michele is just someone who has music in her soul. I did two preview podcasts and videotaped the 2007 festival. Through that I interviewed [headliners] Deanna Bogart and E.G. Kight, although I haven't released those interviews yet."

Other BluzNdaBlood festival podcasts include the Blue Ridge Blues & Barbecue Festival in Virginia and the Big Lick Blues Festival, both held in Roanoke.

When I asked Dave during our telephone interview which were his favorite shows, his voice took on a pained quality. I think it was tantamount to choosing a favorite child. "I hand pick every song, so I love every show. I used to worry that I'd run out of music, but it hasn't happened."

BluzNdaBlood has recently cut a deal with KCOR, Kansas City Online, a weekly Internet radio show airing on Saturdays at 2 p.m. Central time. In between Dave's current podcasts, KCOR will run Blues Blast From The Past (from Dave's archives of podcasts). Airing this coming Saturday, Dec. 6 is the original Funny Bone Blues Show.

If you're on MySpace, Dave invites you to visit his page ([www.myspace.com/bluzndablood](http://www.myspace.com/bluzndablood)) and add him to your friends list, and I definitely recommend adding Dave Harrison's BluzNdaBlood podcasts to your iPod.

Contact Darie'l Bendin at [darie'l@atmc.net](mailto:darie'l@atmc.net) or visit her MySpace page at [www.myspace.com/culturejunkie](http://www.myspace.com/culturejunkie).  
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Dave Harrison of BluzNdaBlood with blues mama Janiva Magness.

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Celebrity Extra

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