



Blues Heaven's official Juke Joint

Blues Heaven sprinkles stardust over Freddy's Bar

It's good to keep up traditions, so we believe at [Blues Heaven](#) in Frederikshavn. But traditions can also be expanded, and so the festival has expanded its collaboration with [Freddy's Bar](#). This year, there will be no fewer than four concerts in the festival's most atmospheric venue.

In fact, Freddy's Bar is presenting our launch event on Thursday, November 2, featuring the [Sugaray Rayford Band](#) from the USA, for the local folks and for those blues fans who meet ahead of the festival itself, starting Friday.

Sugar went solo at the age of 40 and subsequently became part of award-winning group, The Mannish Boys who were awarded Best Traditional Blues Album (Double Dynamite) at the BMAs in 2013. Today he is 48, has his own band and has three albums behind him; in addition he has appeared in a Tony award nominated musical but remains steeped in gospel and soul. Sugar was nominated for three blues awards in 2016 and in 2017 he has been nominated for two more: namely, Contemporary Blues Male Artist and B.B. King's Entertainer Award, which says everything about his qualities as a blues artist.

On Friday, November 3rd, in the early afternoon before Blues Heaven opens, [Dona Oxford](#), "The Goddess Of Soul" hits the stage at Freddy's Bar. Dona is a versatile artiste who fronts her own band in the dual roles of lead vocalist and keyboard virtuoso, but in addition her formidable talent has seen her working with artists of the calibre of **Van Morrison, Roger Daltrey, Albert Lee, Buddy Guy, Levon Helm and Keith Richard**. There's a hint of rock 'n' roll in her blues, and Dona Oxford brings an acknowledged mastery of boogie-woogie to her soul and blues performance.

After the Blues Heaven fires light for the opening day in Arena Nord, the festivities continue at Freddy's Bar, where there is free access to the after party. And as is traditional here, anything and everything can happen. The down-home rootsy sound of [Kilborn Alley](#) provides the anchor for the event from 6pm, then from 1.15am the jam is in session. No doubt several of the big acts from the festival will show up to demonstrate their ability in the more free and easy relaxed setting, rather than when they stand as soloists on the big stages. The Blues Jam usually develops to unprecedented heights with one surprise after another, and it is certainly possible that Freddy's Bar will rock through to Saturday.

For those who can make it after the fun of the night before, it will be time again to waken up ready for another round of blues goodness at Saturday lunchtime, where once again it is Kilborn Alley with among other things, their guest vocalist, the exhilarating Mike Ledbetter, who will be creating an intimate atmosphere for a couple of hours. A "Special Guest" is invited too, in the shape of the 12-year-old English lad [Toby Lee](#), whom connoisseurs agree is the world's youngest guitar phenomenon and with 61 million views on Social Media, has taken the world by storm.

"It is wonderful that we can help create so much positive blues activity outside the festival itself," says Peter Astrup, who meets more and more guests every year whose eyes and ears have been opened to the glory of blues and soul music, and who year after year, book their return ticket to the whole festival. "Yes, our guests from abroad are again this year from 9 different countries and are also really pleased that they can experience the music of all shades in our city," says Astrup, continuing his philosophy of involving Frederikshavn as a host city. "The artists and the welcoming, music loving audience love it so everyone is happy" continues Peter, who after 6 years in "Det Musiske Hus" has moved the Blues Heaven festival a mere 700 meters up the street to accommodate even more people in the mighty Arena Nord.

FREDDY'S BAR • Havnegade 9b • Frederikshavn
Dkr 200,- pr. day (€27) (\$32) • 3 days for 500,- (€80) (\$72) Thurs. evening, Fri. and Saturday afternoon.
Bestilling: 2043 7740 • www.facebook.com/wbcfreddy • Band info: www.bluesheaven.dk