

out of slavery and freedom found

LIVEART  
PRESENTS

# John Doe

a story of the blues

remember well those vanities bought with another's misery



[www.king-rollo.co.uk](http://www.king-rollo.co.uk) tel: 07780 815516

# JOHN DOE • A STORY OF THE BLUES

A music stage-show tracing the influence of slavery and African rhythms through a century of music in song, poem and dance.

An early version of this show sparked from a special commission for Humber Mouth Literature Festival in 2001 and was a huge sell-out success for the festival and ended in a ten minute standing ovation for the cast.

This updated version highlights the significance of the Wilberforce 2007 bicentenary abolition of the slave trade as well as the continuing battle against modern forms of slavery. The production uses a blend of music, poetry, song and dance to powerful effect and is brought to you by a cast of notable blues musicians with the addition of an African drum section and exotic dancing.

The textual content is drawn primarily from African-American literature including first-hand accounts from the African slaves Elaudah Equiano (1789), William Wells Brown (1847) and Harriet Jacobs (1861) together with some outstanding poetry by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1895) and the Harlem renaissance writers Gwendoline Brookes, Robert Hayden and Langston Hughes. Additional material by King Rollo. The show's writer, director and front-man **King Rollo** (vocals, guitar and djembe) is a performer with four decades of stage

experience under his belt, both as performer and producer, and he considers this show to be the crucible of his life's work. BBC Radio 2's Paul Jones considers him as "one of Britain's finest acoustic blues performers."

Musically, the show traces the African rhythms of early blues music of the post-slavery period from the late 1800s through the swing era of the 1920s and 30s, via Rhythm & Blues of the 1960s into Bleaggea and African grooves of the 21st century. Some of the songs are written especially for the show by Rollo who has considerable songwriting talent. Tribute is also paid to the many songwriters of old with deftly produced medleys flashing from one memory to another, and always with a down-town, bluesy interpretation for which the man has become renowned in his live performances on tour.

**King Rollo & The Band of Brothers** includes **Godfrey Pambalipe** and **Limsa Nyoni**

(djembes); **Laurent Mouflier** (harmonica) awarded Best Blues Harp in 2005 by Blues Matters Magazine; **Nick Evans** (bass) toured with Country Joe McDonald and recorded with Ian Drury's Blockheads band; **Ian Croft** (drums) editor of Drummer Magazine; **Dr A** (keyboards) "some of the best blues piano I've ever heard" says Tony Nightingale of Blues Matters Magazine; and featuring **Caz & Sophia** who provide additional visual atmosphere with dance and poi displays.



For further info contact Rollo  
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