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New CD/DVD Spotlights Blues Heroes

January 23, 2007

By Gary Graff

Kenny Wayne Shepherd designed his latest project to introduce the world to some of his favorite U.S. blues heroes.

"Ten Days Out (Blues From the Backroads)" chronicles -- on CD and DVD -- the 29-year-old blues-rock guitarist's 10-day trip through the south, during which he played with legends such as B.B. King and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown as well as lesser-known artists like Neal Pattman, Bryan Lee, Etta Baker and members of Muddy Waters' and Howlin' Wolf's bands.

"My vision was, 'Hey, man, we can really get these cats an opportunity to have a bigger audience'," Shepherd explains. "For a lot of these people it may be the last recording they ever did, and definitely the last footage of them."

Six of Shepherd's collaborators, in fact, have died since "Ten Days Out" was recorded.