

Young Rell – You Don't Have To Go

Reviewed by Drew Jarvie (The Delerium Trees)

Brecon Indie Review Team

Blues has been 'on the go' since the 1860s and has most of its roots in some of the southern states of America. This statement is not entirely true as it would be much fairer to say it was born in the country of origin and transported across the ocean.

It has come a long way from its original home and has come even further in its relatively new home America, although parts of Europe, Australia etc. have their own form of the blues which is much more rooted in folk music.

Every genre needs a kick up the backside by someone new, someone bringing a different version or simply someone to breath fresh life into something that is maybe a little tired. Given a fair chance the superb Harrell Davenport aka Young Rell is all of these things.

Clearly Young Rell has been hugely influenced by the blues guitars/singers of previous times Muddy Waters, BB King, T-Bone Walker, Leroy Carr (pianist) along with hints of Robert Johnson and Woody Guthrie. Even better Young Rell can go on to match, maybe even better these inspirational musicians.

'You Don't Have To Go' has the traditional blues guitar and vocal complete with Rell intervening his own vocal with 'that's all right' and the occasional 'he-he-he,' almost like an old-master patting him on the shoulder encouraging him to keep going. It is good old-fashioned blues, the plaintive almost pleading vocal, so necessary in these songs, accompanied by the constant rhythm of the guitar. Some beautiful, well-crafted solos sit on top of these rhythms, Young Rell has clearly mastered the blues form on guitar.

Jimmy Reed (1925-76), to whom the song is dedicated, would love this tribute, he'd love the guitar solos, he'd love the little quips and vocals. Young Rell would have a fan there.

Young Rell also has a fan here.

The biggest compliment I can give is that I wished Harrell Davenport lived here, in my case Aberdeenshire, and I'd invite him to play at one of my lectures that features top-class musicians to play/sing and explain the background to his or her music and some of their inspirations.

We can all learn something from each other and clearly Young Rell has a lot to say and a lot more music to come – I look forward to being educated.

He sings :

'Down The Road I Go'

Well, it could be down the road we all go as it will be fascinating to see where it leads.

One thing guaranteed Young Rell has a road to travel on, I believe it will lead to success!