

JAMES “SUPER CHIKAN” JOHNSON

For Bookings, Please Contact
The Musicians Mutual Agency
Bookings@MusiciansMutual.com
Phone: 888-581-7763

SuperChikan@MusiciansMutual.com
Full EPK at www.SuperChikan.com



James Louis Johnson was born in Darling, Mississippi on February 16, 1951. He spent his childhood moving from town to town in the Mississippi Delta and working on his family's farms. He was very fond of the chickens on the farm, and before he was old enough to work in the fields, he would walk around talking to them. This led his friends to give him the nickname "Chikan Boy". At an early age, Johnson got his first rudimentary musical instrument, a "diddley bow", which was simply a piece of wood with a piece of baling wire stretched from end to end. As he grew up, he came up with new ways to improve and vary the sounds he could make with it, and finally, in 1964, at the age of thirteen, he bought his first guitar, an acoustic model that had only two strings, from a Salvation Army store in Clarksdale.

As an adult, "Super Chikan" began driving a truck for a living. During the long stretches on the road, he began composing his own songs. When he showed some of the songs to his friends, they convinced him to go a studio and record them. He then started playing with some renowned local musicians, but he decided he would rather perform on his own than try to conform his style to that of his band-mates. He did so, and in 1997 "Super Chikan" released his debut album, ***Blues Come Home to Roost***, influenced by such musicians as Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, and Chuck Berry. He went on to release ***What You See*** in 2000, ***Shoot That Thang*** in 2001, and ***Chikan Supe*** in 2005, and ***Sum Mo Chikan*** in 2008.

Super Chikan's newest CD is ***Chikadelic***, recorded with the legendary Spoonful of Blues Bland in Notodden, Norway. In his liner notes, Art Tipaldi (Senior Editor for Blues Revue and BluesWax) said "Chikan has internalized the deepest music that hangs in the air every day. As ambassador for the Delta blues, there is a happiness and joy that comes through in everything he plays. This record perfectly captures that joie de vivre that is 'Super Chikan'."

In the Clarksdale area, he is probably best-known for performing regularly at Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero blues club, and for being Freeman's favorite blues performer. "Super Chikan" has toured and performed at festivals in Africa, Japan, UK, Denmark, Canada, Mexico, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Russia and Switzerland, and has performed for the President of the United States. He was nominated for the *Best New Artist* Blues Music Award in 1998, and has received five Living Blues Critics Awards. In 2004, "Super Chikan" received the Mississippi Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

JAMES “SUPER CHIKAN” JOHNSON- SOME FESTIVALS

Beale Street Music Festival- Memphis, Tennessee

BlissFest- Harbor Springs, Michigan

Bouki Blues Festival- Dakar and Senegal

Chicago Blues Festival- Chicago, Illinois

Cognac Blues Passions Festival- Cognac, France

Copenhagen Blues Festival- Copenhagen, Denmark

Dark Season Blues- Svalbard, Norway

Festival Del Mar- Del Mar, California

Great Canadian Blues & BBQ Festival- Toronto, Canada

Juke Joint Festival- Clarksdale, Mississippi

King Biscuit Festival/Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival- Helena, Arkansas

Memphis Music & Heritage Festival- Memphis, Tennessee

North Atlantic Blues Festival- Rockland, Maine

Notodden Blues Festival- Notodden, Norway

Pocono Blues Festival- Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania

Port Gibson Heritage Festival- Port Gibson, Mississippi

Quincy Area Blues festival- Quincy, Illinois

Sacramento Heritage Festival- Sacramento, California

San Francisco Blues Festival- San Francisco, California

South Florida International Blues Festival- Davie, Florida

Sunflower Blues & Gospel Festival- Clarksdale, Mississippi

Telluride Blues & Brews Festival- Telluride, Colorado

Thirsty Ear Festival- Santa Fe, New Mexico

World Catfish Festival- Belzoni, Mississippi

And many, many more!



JAMES "SUPER CHIKAN"

JOHNSON- SOME REVIEWS

"Sum 'Mo' Chikan is fun, frisky, sexy, danceable, and as loopy as you'd expect from a guy who plays instruments fashioned from discarded metal and who grew up chatting to poultry."

Hal Horowitz, *Blues Revue*

"James 'Super Chikan' Johnson is at his best delivering no-nonsense Delta shuffles punctuated by his distinctively crisp, angular leads and piercing tone... Searing lava-flow intensity one minute, back-road sparse eloquence the next."

David Whiteis, *Living Blues*

From the dirt-poor Mississippi delta, comes the cool and gritty blues of James "Super Chikan" Johnson, the legendary self-taught, country roots musician, performing real life and personal hard truths."

Phil Reser, *Blueswax*

"Clarksdale, Mississippi's reigning bluesman is a better storyteller than songwriter, but he's got plenty of entertainingly twisted spirit. And when he bites into a lick on one of his homemade guitars, like the weighty contraption he crafted from an industrial ceiling fan motor, he wails like Godzilla nipping on a high-tension wire. 40,000 volts of fun!"

The 10 Best New Roots Guitar CDs. Ted Drozdowski, *Gibson.com*

"As original as the Southern folk art he creates, "Super Chikan" today is the most authentic performer of real deal Delta blues. Growin' up near Clarksdale juke joints such as Red's or Margaret's Blue Diamond Lounge, Chikan has internalized the deepest music that hangs in the air every day."

Art Tipladi, *Boston Blues*

"He is one of the most original and inventive of artists playing today. ...He can play the feathers off of guitars. He makes good use of the 'wah-wah' pedal and he is one of the most entertaining acts you will ever see, and one hell of a guitar player to boot. A definite must to see if he is anywhere near your yard, both for his originality of playing and his fun filled show."

Bob Gottlieb, *Acoustic Music*

"Johnson is a wicked guitarist, a fine gritty vocalist, a clever blues word smith, and this all shines through on his latest album "Sum' Mo' Chikan." On this CD, he runs through a set of blues that swing with easy toughness, a touch of funky guitar, some cool slide and always, always a sense of joy and enthusiasm that -- even though it contradicts the idea of "blues" -- keeps you scratchin' and peckin' for the real thing."

Jim White, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

"All is right with the world once again. Super Chikan has blessed us with another wonderful recording of his unique vision of Mississippi Delta blues. His blues are done with a wink and a grin, and a good time is always guaranteed. He's known worldwide as one of the most entertaining Blues performers."

Graham Clarke, *Blues Bytes*

"Of the many blues concerts we had the pleasure of witnessing this year, this was without doubt one of the best, and certainly the most energetic!"

Freddy Celis, *Rootstime, Belgium*

"One for all blues purists -- as said previously, a simple blues album, nicely played by all concerned which I would imagine will ensure for a great night out or festival set if you were catching him and the band live!"

Grahame Rhoades, *bluesinthenorthwest.com, United Kingdom*

"From the beginning instrumental, an up-tempo shuffle called, "Freddy's Thang," Chikan delivers a disc of rollicking good blues full of his unique personality. And, I think that may be the one thing that separates this music from all the rest. Ain't nobody else on the blues scene who could pull off "pluckin' and cluckin'" so well."

Pat Jennings, *Wichita Blues*

"Chikan is a chronic blues party. Though his stylings are very rooted in the raw and traditional (think R.L. Burnside), he wows the crowd with the guitar antics (Jimi Hendrix) and the long-laced grooves will please any college kid jam bander looking for some deep blues (Grateful Dead)."

Ben Cox, *Juke Joint Soul*