

# Hugh Budden



## Biography

The versatility and sheer brilliance of Hugh Budden's harp playing has given him a reputation as one of the South's best harmonica players. His career has spanned across the spectrums of both music and continents and he has developed a highly individual style of playing which lends itself to Blues, Funk, Rock and Indie.

He was born in the same year as Princess Diana and always loved listening to music, especially the great rock bands and singer songwriters of 70's. Music lessons at school did nothing but dampen the enthusiasm for learning to play however Hugh continued his musical education watching local bands and listening to Led Zeppelin, Rush, Bad Company, Steely Dan, Jethro Tull, Black Sabbath, Yes and AC/DC.

He was inspired to take up the harmonica by seeing Nine Below Zero play at a couple of early 80's Reading Rock Festivals but lacking any tuition/instruction he gave it up until he went to see the Rolling Drunks, a local R&B band and realised that if somebody local could play blues harmonica in a band, then he could too.

After finding a book and tape, sitting down and practising, he was eventually offered the opportunity to join the newly formed blues band The Producers in 1991.

The Producers material has been played on most major radio stations throughout Europe, the USA and the Antipodes. A decade later, after winning "Blues Band of the Year" three times, the group folded.

Hugh has gigged throughout the UK at major festivals and smaller venues in France, Belgium, Holland, Eire, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Gibraltar, Mallorca, Tenerife and New Zealand.

Often asked who his main harp playing influences are he cites Kim Wilson, Norton Buffalo and Howard Levy as the leaders in their genres.

Hugh is currently playing with The Ju Ju men (rock and roll/blues), Blues Etc, (traditional Chicago blues band), Pete Harris (acoustic blues and full electric band) as well as depping with some well known local bands as needed.

He also performs at venues around the country as Elwood Blues with Terry (Meatloaf) Nash as Jake Blues in a rendition of the Blues Brothers Review.

Past acts have included Jookin', The Speed Twins, Arecibo Blueshouse, The Graham Mack Blues Band (2CR), Solstis, Jinks, The Mr Smiths House Band, The Bob Pearce Blues Band as well as teaching and doing Harmonica workshops at festivals

For information on Hugh's live gig dates please check the Live Gig Listings page at:

[www.dolfinmusic.com](http://www.dolfinmusic.com)