

BIOGRAPHY

Rudy Rotta, a devil of a guitarist now famous throughout the blues world, served his musical apprenticeship in Lucerne (Switzerland) where his family moved in the early 60s.

Aged 18, already with an enormous blues culture and a technique to match, he returned to Italy, where he began the tough life "on the road" of the bluesman. After some compromises and doubts, he strung together an almost endless series of live performances as a promising frontman.

His aggressive but disciplined style, the sheer speed of his fingers over the six strings and his singing talent soon made him famous outside Italy, playing at the leading European festivals.

Guitarist, singer and excellent songwriter, he is now considered by the specialist European and US press one of the best bluesmen in the world.

Together with his phenomenal band, he was a great success (as US commentators have reported) on the ULTIMATE R&B CRUISE of the Mediterranean, in the company of artists of the caliber of Luther Allison, Buckwheat Zyde-co, Katie Webster, John Mooney e John Mayall (who was so impressed he played piano from start to finish at a concert given by Rudy and his band).

This led to the prestigious invitation to the Kansas City Blues Festival together with Al Green, Taj Mahal and Brian Setzer, in front of twenty thousand adoring US fans, who voted him Europe's top act. Rudy then went on to record live in Kansas City at the Grand Emporium, the top blues venue in the USA, releasing the CD "Live in Kansas City" (Acoustic Music Records).

In 1996 Rudy took part in the TENCO PRIZE - generally reserved to the best singer-songwriters and rarely to bluesmen - along with LOWELL FULSON.

In January '97 he was on the ULTIMATE R&B CRUISE in the Caribbean, with Etta James, Fabulous Thunderbirds, Taj Mahal and other legends, adding another prestige event to his lengthening resume.

Rudy has worked intensely with US artists including B. B. King, the Allman Brothers (in the House of Blues in New Orleans), Maria Muldaur, Luther Allison, John Mayall, Double Trouble, Valerie Wellington, Champion Jack Dupree, Clarence Brown, Joe Louis Walker, Roomful of Blues, Zora Young, Carey Bell, Sugar Blue, Lowell Fulson, Coco Montoya, Karen Carroll and Kim Wilson as well as on ambitious ongoing projects.

His many albums include the CD "So di Blues" (Rossodi-Sera - Sony Music, 1995), the first successful blues recording with Italian lyrics: a courageous decision, in line with the equally bold "Live in Kansas City" (Acoustic Music Records. 1998).

In June, 1998 Rudy Rotta was one of the artists invited to take part in the Eighth Ultimate Rhythm & Blues Cruise to the Greek islands, along with Taj Mahal, Fabulous Thunderbirds, Son Seals, Duke Robillard, John Hammond and Marcia Ball. He then played with John Mayall at the Delta Blues, Nave Blues and House of Blues in Boston in summer 1998.

In recent years, Rudy has worked intensively in Europe, playing for BBC radio and the famous London FM jazz channel, as well as at the Great British R&B Festival in Colne, Lancashire.

Starting from 2000, the mythical Hammond organist Brian Auger has accompanied Rudy on 5 tours and recorded a live album with him. In July 2001, the great B. B. King asked Rudy to appear with him at the Montreux Jazz Festival. In 2003, he played at the May Day Festival in Piazza San Giovanni, Rome, in front of 800,000 people.

After the tracks of "The Beatles In Blues" (2003), which sold well and was reviewed positively, in 2004 and 2005 Rudy released "Some of my favorite songs for..." and "Captured Live". The former was a project of social solidarity, including work by Brian Auger, John Mayall, Robben Ford and Peter Green, chosen by Rudy as the best pop, blues and rock recordings of the 70s. The latter was a Live album recorded in Verona in 2003 during the tour with Brian Auger and is a perfect example of dark, traditional blues, characterized by strong sensations, energy, style and feeling.

2006 saw the release of Winds of Louisiana, recorded entirely in New Orleans with the best American musicians. The international music press hailed the album as a masterpiece, placing Rudy alongside the greatest blues artists, the first time such an accolade has been awarded to a European bluesman outside the UK. Later that year, the album was promoted by a significant tour of England and Scotland and, for the fifth time, Rudy played the Montreux Festival followed by the MISSISSIPPI BOAT CELEBRATING B. B. KING cruise, with the blues legend himself.

Finally, Rudy joined the most elite guitarists in the world when Fender Europe made the first "Rudy Rotta Signature" Stratocaster, followed by a second, signed series, presented to him by Fender's Italian distributor during the DISMA Music Show in Rimini.

In December 2012, he once more had the honor of appearing as the official guest of John Mayall in the only two Italian gigs of his European tour.

In October 2013, he made guest appearances on a concert tour of Italy and Germany by the great Larry Carlton "Mr. 335", played to packed audiences.

In the same year, he appeared twice on Red Ronnie's TV program "ROXY BAR". The first traced the origins of the blues and featured him in an unexpected duet with the rapper Jovanotti; in the second he took Alex Britti back to his blues roots.

His long list of albums was further extended in 2014 with "Beatles vs Rolling Stones", a courageous work scheduled for worldwide release in April. This was a bold challenge to the various "tribute bands" in the music industry, with Rudy playing some of the best-known material of the two super-groups in his own inimitable style. Later, in the year he played the Circo Massimo in Rome and appeared in Russia at the Beatles Festival of Chelyabinsk, with his "Beatles in Blues"

On September 1 2015 he played the Roman Theater in Verona with one of the most famous rock drummers in the world, Ian Paice, of DEEP PURPLE. Two contemporary music legends coming together to create a live show of world stature.

This year Rudy will be on the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise in the Caribbean once again, playing with the likes of Taj Mahal, Buddy Guy, Keb Mo and John Hammond Jr.