

DELTA CHILDREN: FUTURE OF THE BLUES | TREATMENT Final

Goal - To create an informative and light-hearted project that effectively passes the baton from accomplished blues musicians to young people who wish to continue the legacy of blues music. We will capture the intimacy of music mentorship – the developing trust and the bond that musicians share across all ages and backgrounds

Format/Style - A clean 360 degree view of a live music session shot with multi-cameras in video and digital formats on a warmly-lit stage or recording studio.

Images of blues musicians will be projected in the background. The digital still camera will shoot tight shots (lips, hands, face, instruments, etc) in continual rapid motion while the video cameras will cover the action/performance from all angles.

Concept – The video cast opens with an audiovisual montage of images, rehearsal footage, and music from a live Blues Session featuring Elder and Child Musicians. A purple-themed titling sequence introduces the project, featured artists and production crew. The intro progresses with sound-bites from our featured artists, defining the blues in their own terms, and ending with one Child Musician shrugging his/her shoulders saying: "I don't know, what is the blues?" Compelling and poetic answers to this question are presented throughout the piece during the interchange between Elder and Child Musicians at the Blues Session.

We open on Elder and Child Musicians introducing themselves and the instruments they play to camera. Our artists range from bubbly, outgoing, laugh-out-loud types to shy, intense musical savants. We see each child meet his/her Elder mentor and as they prep their instruments, an Elder speaks on the origin of the blues – how it started, why it started in the Delta, and the music's connection to gospel, rock, jazz, hip hop, and traditional African music. Finally, we hear why this music is important to future generations, and are led into the Blues Session where we see Child Musicians paired with mentors who are teaching them a traditional 12-bar blues song.

Within their pairings, each Elder musician models the song on their respective instruments and then the Child Musician follows. This is a nurturing space where the Child Musicians freely ask questions and express themselves. The Elders pass on important tips on how to get the best sound and timing. We witness the intimacy of mentorship – the developing trust and the bond that musicians share across all ages and backgrounds. The lesson ends with an Elder Musician saying, "I think they're ready."

The freestyle session begins. One Child Vocal Blues/Gospel protégé leads the song and the other Child Musicians fall in. The Elder Musicians listen intently, smile proudly, and continue to instruct as their students play. Periodically, they chime in to round out the sound or to show the Child Musicians another technique. The session is interlaced with narration from pre- and post-interviews with Child Musicians about what they got out of the Blues Session experience.

We see the session close out, instruments go into cases and the Elders hug, shake hands with the Child Musicians. Close on everyone posing for a photo with their instruments. The action freezes and color transitions to sepia-tone, creating a traditional blues photo. We hear a Child Musician voicing his commitment to keeping the blues alive. Fade to black.

DELTA CHILDREN: FUTURE OF THE BLUES | TREATMENT Final

Images of blues musicians:

Below are a sample of cleared photo references to be used on our backdrop screen that will be looped while the jam session is in progress.



Online Platform | TO BE FURTHER EXPLORED - Write your own blues song: Within the classroom setting, Young Musicians lead students in composing impromptu blues songs about going to school/family/politics/ etc. Students are encouraged to use household instruments/their bodies as instruments.

Shoot Dates – Nov. 13 & 14

Cast – Will be determined by Monday, November 5, 2007. 2 Elder Musicians. 4 Gifted Child Musicians.

Location – Seven Studios, Jackson, MI.

Equipment – Equipment is broken up into expendables/rental/personal equipment

Shot List/Visual Strategy-

DELTA CHILDREN: FUTURE OF THE BLUES | TREATMENT Final

Pre-Interviews – waist/head and shoulder shots of Elder & Youth Musicians describing the blues

The History of the Blues – waist shot, Elder Musician describes the blues

Blues Session – 4 camera coverage (2 locked down/2 floor cams) of Elder Musicians teaching Child Musicians a song. To be covered with masters, 2 shots, close ups and extreme close ups.

Closing – intercut of head and shoulder interview footage seen at beginning with continued coverage from Blues Session as participants pack up their belongings.

Post-Interviews - waist/head and shoulder shots of Elder & Youth Musicians describing the blues session

B-Roll of Jackson/surrounding areas – master shots of houses, historic landmarks, blues photos, Jackson citizens, churches and landscape

Rentals

- 1 Monitor
- 1 Quad Screen Splitter & cables
- 1 Production slate – dry erase
- 1 Muslin Background
- 1 set of flags to include blacks & silks
- 2 full apple boxes
- 2 ½ apple box
- 2 ¼ apple box
- 12 c-stands
- 2 junior combo c-stands
- 10 gator grips
- 2 base plates for lights
- 1 DAT recorder
- 2 mics w/ stands
- 1 Boom Pole 10 feet wired
- 1 XLR cable 25 feet
- 1 Audio Technica Shockmount
- 1 K6 Power Supply for ME66
- 1 ME66 Shotgun Mic for K6
- 1 Mini Screen (slide on zeppelin)
- 1 EW112PG2 Wireless - UHF Beltpack system
- 1 DV Pro Mix3
- 2 HD-280 Headphone
- 1 6' ladder

Expendables

- 1 of each: 2" gaffer tape (wht, blk, red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, pink)
- 1 Full CTB Gel (roll)
- 1 Half CTB Gel (roll)
- 1 Quarter CTB Gel (roll)
- 1 Eighth CTB Gel (roll)
- 1 Full CTO Gel (roll)
- 1 Half CTO Gel (roll)
- 1 Quarter CTO Gel (roll)

DELTA CHILDREN: FUTURE OF THE BLUES | TREATMENT Final

- 1 Eighth CTO Gel (roll)
- 1 ND 3 (roll)
- 1 ND 6 (roll)
- 1 ND 9 (roll)
- 1 Diffusion Heavy Frost (roll)
- 1 Diffusion Full White (roll)
- 1 Diffusion Half White (roll)
- 1 Diffusion Quarter White (roll)
- 1 Diffusion Full Grid Cloth (roll)
- 1 Half Grid Cloth (roll)
- 1 Duvetyne (8 yds.)
- 2 Black Wrap 36" X 25'
- 4 Clothespin (bag)
- 2 Pen: Marks-a-lot, Black
- 2 Marks-a-lot, Red
- 2 Pen: Sharpie, Black
- 2 Pen: Sharpie, Red
- 2 Pen: Sharpie, Silver
- 1 Zip Ties 8" & Mounts (bag of 50)
- 1 Rope/Sash Cord #10 X 100'
- 4 Foam Core Black/White 4' X 8' X 1/4"
- 2 Show Card B/W 24" X 36"
- 2 Show Card Gold 24" X 36"
- 2 Show Card Silver 24" X 36"
- 1 Box Push Pins 100
- 1 Box Safety Pins #3 100
- 1 Streaks & Tips Black
- 1 #77 Spray Mount Adhesive
- 1 Baby Powder
- 1 Dulling Spray
- 1 WD-40
- 1 Windex
- 3 White Bounce Boards
- 1 6'x6' mirror
- 1 6'x6' plexiglass
- 2 pr of scissors
- 1 Xacto knife

Personal/NBPC Equipment

- 2 Panasonic DVX100A Camcorders (Katina/Lorena)
- 2 Sony MiniDV Decks w/ various firewire cables (Katina)
- 1 Sony Handycam (Tania)
- 1 Sony PD150 (from NBPC)
- 1 Sony PD100 (from NBPC)
- 3 Tripods (from NBPC)
- 3 external hard drives, min. specs: 120gig/7200RPM/800 firewire (from NBPC)