

relix

BEN HARPER

Body of Art

**DEREK TRUCKS &
SUSAN TEDESCHI**
MEET THE PARENTS

**O·A·R· GRASSROOTS
REVOLUTION**

DEAN WEEN
GETS MOIST

NEW YORK, NY

**B.B. KING BLUES CLUB & GRILL
NOV. 15, DICKEY BETTS &
GREAT SOUTHERN**

Since his departure from the Allman Brothers Band in the summer of 2000, **Dickey Betts** has maintained a steady presence. He has released two albums, the most recent being the acoustic *Collectors #1*. He also recently began performing with **Dan Toler** once again and has dubbed his band Great Southern, resuscitating that name from his work in the mid-'70s.

This evening opened appropriately with an acoustic set that featured some of his newer tunes. "Beyond the Pale" (a "Celtic tune") and "Keep On Rollin' On" (an "Appalachian thing") that featured a duet with North Mississippi Alistars guitarist **Luther Dickinson** showed that Betts' time apart from the Allmans hadn't been misspent. The electric set, which kicked off with "High Falls," was a lesson in what Betts means to classic rock. Tearing into signature guitar solos during "Franklin's Tower/Blue Sky" and "No One to Run With," Betts and "Dangerous" **Dan Toler** put smiles on the faces of many audience members who hadn't heard

Betts' Allmans songs live in over two years. He also updated some old favorites, strutting out a rockabilly "Ramblin' Man" and an epic encore of "Jessica" that featured a foot stompin' piano solo and dizzying guitar work from a grinning, jumping Betts.

Still, the highlight of the show was the extended jam on "Elizabeth Reed" that featured Luther on guitar and his brother and bandmate **Cody** on drums. Backed by the three drummers, the trio of guitarists each belted out their own "Liz Reed" inspired solos. It culminated with an incendiary solo by Betts that was so impressive that the rest of the band stopped playing to exchange high-fives with their bandleader. Stealing a swig of his Bud, a drag off his butt and even taking a second to adjust his ever-present Stetson, Betts then put his guitar down and enjoyed the three-pronged drum solo just like he was a member of the audience. Nodding with the beat, he was the picture of a happy musician. It seems for now, Dickey Betts has found a new band of brothers to go into battle with and he's pretty happy about it.

Stephen V. Camelio

