

# The Fried Okra Band - Live Review

## Down Home Kivi Club

by Jussi Niemi in the major newspaper Aahmulehti (14.09.2013)

### The Jutes Blues is Deep and Hypnotic

***Fried Okra Band*** (Denmark) at Restaurant Kivi's Down Home -night on Thursday. Probably none of Restaurant Kivi's audience knew the *Fried Okra Band* beforehand, but after this their name is printed in their heads. I have to say that for me this was the best blues gig in a long time.

The singer and songwriter Morten Lunn and Thomas Foldberg, who's blowing the harp just beautifully, band started as a two guitars duo eight years ago and is celebrating now their third album "*There's A World Outside My Door*".

The trio stands out from most of their competitors with their unique personality. The Fried Okra band's greatest enthusiasm comes from the part of North Mississippi, the unique and hypnotic African tradition style mixed with funky, rather than the usual old school Chicago blues, as so many white Blues bands are formulating awkwardly year after year like some kind of bright heads.

The band played mostly their own exceptionally high standard songs as well as a few stylistically modified covers of R.L. *Burnside* and *Fred MacDowell*.

The long uninterrupted set included maybe four songs of conventional manner but even they were played with exceptional fresh view.

Masterful work with the metal slide, showed Foldberg's Muddy Waters styling in one of the songs which was the best of its kind since Jo Buddy's . The whole presentation was full of color when Foldberg considered tender harmonies on his Fender and Lunn his tighter rustling Gibson. Their great swinging drummer Thomas Crawford's mandolin parts were a bonus.

Lunn's boyish voice is not shaken when deliciously imitating Sahara Desert Lutes style on a one strings Diddley Bo, but touched us in its lack of pretention. Even the lyrics deal with young people's daily life in Copenhagen without resorting to the old phrases.

The Jutes really understand what's the deepest in the Blues.

• Jussi Niemi