

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 30, 2009

Contact: Rick Asherson
Phone: (205) 752-6263

**Alabama Legend Eddie Kirkland to perform in Tuscaloosa;
Special Guest for Alabama Blues Project Camp Performance**

Tuscaloosa, Ala. – Known as the “Gypsy of the Blues,” blues virtuoso Eddie Kirkland was raised in Alabama and will return to his home state next week. Kirkland tours forty-two weeks of the year between the United States and Europe, and on Thursday and Friday, December 10th and 11th, 2009, he will be in Tuscaloosa for two performances.

On **Thursday, December 10th**, Kirkland will join the Alabama Blues Project’s advanced, intermediate and beginner bands at the **First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa on Greensboro Avenue**. This event marks the Alabama Blues Project’s Fall After-School Blues Camp end-of-semester Christmas party open house performance, where over 70 budding musicians between the ages of eight and 17 will put on a **free** show for family, friends and the greater community. **The music starts at 5 p.m.** featuring the next generation of blues camp students on their choice of guitar, harmonica, vocals or drums playing alongside blues veteran Eddie Kirkland.

On **Friday, December 11th**, Kirkland will perform at **Little Willie’s Blues and Jazz Club on 4th Street in Temerson Square**, downtown Tuscaloosa. The Blue Christmas party begins at **8:30 p.m.** and is \$10 general admission and \$5 for students. **Debbie Bond** and her Fabulous Blues Machine will open the concert and perform with Kirkland. Tuscaloosa based singer/guitar player Debbie Bond apprenticed in 2001 with Kirkland thanks to a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. She has worked with many blues greats including Johnny Shines, and toured extensively in the U.S. and Europe with the late great Willie King. Bond is featured as the cover story in this December’s issue of Italy’s premiere blues magazine, *Il Blues*.

Kirkland was born in Jamaica and raised in Alabama from the time he was two until he went off with the Sugar Girls Medicine show at twelve. He settled in Detroit where he first recorded his music and toured with **John Lee Hooker** for over seven years.

After moving to Macon, Georgia, Kirkland became the bandleader for **Otis Redding**. Continuous road tours had him working with **Ruth Brown, Little Richard, Ben King, Little Johnnie Taylor** and many more greats. In 1962, Kirkland recorded "It's the Blues Man" for Prestige, reissued by Fantasy as a Blues collector's item. Kirkland's hit "Hawg" recorded by Stax/Volt label earned him national celebrity. "Hawg" is now available on Atlantic records. Kirkland has a prolific recording output over the years with many companies throughout the world and continues to perform through the US and Europe.

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