

Never shy to break away from the formulaic or cliché, BlueTouch are less about a Texas shuffle or waking up this morning and more about getting out, having a good time and enjoying what you do

They have been in existence in a number of guises since 2001 but this line up the one that brings together all the elements needed to ensure they maintain their reputation as one of the top live acts on the blues circuit playing at many festivals and clubs over the years.

The diverse background of Blue Touch starts with the captivating Andrea Maria on vocal duties, described in a Blues Matters magazine review as “making Madonna look like a virgin”. – Indeed!

The rock powerhouse that is Hugh Lawrenson on drums drives the band to firmly mark Blue Touch out as a powerful blues/rock outfit. Supporting Hugh in the rhythm section is Merv Griffin on bass who seems to have the wrong number of strings on one guitar and lost the body of another but yet still seems to make the right sort of noise!

Neil Sadler and Alan Cleaves on guitars and vocals have been playing for longer than they care to remember but their fingers still fly across the fret board to produce some breath-taking moments in the band’s output. Neil also brings his wealth of recording experience to the album; working at the majority of London studios with many well-known artists, such as Jethro Tull, before setting up his own No Machine studios. Since then a vast number of artists have passed through the studio including :-Laura Marling (Recorded demos before being signed), Justin Hayward, Don Black, Les Reed, Barry Mason, Surfing Lungs, Larry Miller and Warblefly.

Blue Touch released “Grind” (2003) and “Bump (2005) and their 3rd CD, “Outstanding” (2009) expanded directions set on previous albums, and included a number of acoustic songs, resulting from the very positive reaction from audiences, and two new Blue Touch originals.

The 4<sup>th</sup> cd, imaginatively titled “IV” was released in late in 2012 and includes more original material plus some intriguing guest appearances The album was recorded over the previous year and draws on BlueTouch’s own Neil Sadler’s recording and producing expertise at his studios and the fortifying power of tea and chocolate HobNobs. The album was reviewed in the May/June ’13 issue of Bluesmatters

All albums are on iTunes, Amazon and ‘IV’ is also available on Spotify.

Blue Touch reflect their musical heritage built up over the years wrapping it all up in blues rock – with a twist.

*“To anyone who is thinking about booking these guys - don't hesitate - do it NOW. I am one of the idiot organisers of FigJamFest and BlueTouch played at our gig last weekend and brought the house down. You could not fail to have a great time with them playing. If you couldn't get up and dance then you were either incapacitated or a halibut. Can't wait to see you all again in Swanage. Beautiful and Brilliant.”*

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## **Blue Touch : 1V**

*Blue Touch 2012* BTCD4

 [www.bluetouch.co.uk](http://www.bluetouch.co.uk)

**The handprint on the steamy, rain-soaked car windscreen on the cover had me intrigued.**

Here comes a raunchy Blues sister – Andrea Maria, emulating Blues Mamas, like Bessie Smith and Dinah Washington. The titles of Blue Touch's first two CDs – *Grind* (2003) and *Bump* (2005) certainly proclaimed this raunchiness.

Blue Touch are seasoned, skilful musicians, favourites at Festivals and Boogaloo weekends for their energy and fun.

There is an eclectic mix of tracks, including self-penned originals, such as the outstanding 'Company Man', who gives his all and breaks his back while the boss gets rich, written by Neil Sadler and Siggery, which showcases the consummate guitar combo of Neil, Alan Cleaves and Merv Griffin (bass) and driving rhythm from ace drummer Hugh Lawrenson.

I love Andrea Maria's captivating rendition of Imelda May's 'Big Bad Handsome Man' with its Latin rhythm and fine guitar work, a real dance-floor filler.

This entertaining band has a long musical heritage, built up over the years, wrapping it all up in Blues Rock with a twist.

They are Heavy Duty, not Lite. Blue Touch - Prepare for fireworks!

**Bernadette Middleton**