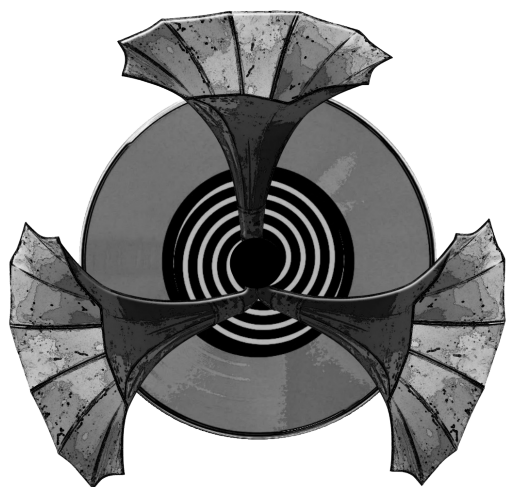


# Dr Bloodworth's Notorious Medicine Show



Lyric and Storybook



Roll Up! Roll Up!  
The Superlative Spiel  
The Miraculous Fluxir  
All Part Of The Show  
Poor Sweet Eliza  
The Pertinent Prediction  
The Diabolical Doctor  
Something Sinister  
Behold! The Mesmereyes  
What's Your Poison?  
The Old Switcheroony  
Death Comes Calling  
A Twist In The Tale  
The Nefarious Show





## **1. Roll Up! Roll Up!**

Trundling down that old dirt road, a battered wagon jolts and sways  
There's excitement all around, cos the show is on its way

Roll Up! Roll Up! Come and see the show (x2)

Decked out in skulls and bones, with a sign in worn out paint  
Dr Bloodwort's wagon rolls, ready to fix up your complaints

Roll Up! Roll Up! Come and see the show (x2)

He's gonna sell you what you need, even if you don't know it yet  
Huckster, charlatan and thief, more crooked guy you've never met

Roll Up! Roll Up! Come and see the show (x4)

## **2. The Superlative Spiel**

Folksies, my dear folksies, let me introduce my humble personage  
My name is Dr Zedicus Bloodwort, and I, yes, I come to you  
with the spectacular, miraculous medicinal breakthrough

You'll be tantalised, stupefied you won't believe your eyes(es)  
I'll open up your mind to the most magical surprises

Now folksies listen good would I lie to you?  
This is straight from my heart conversing honest and true  
I've travelled all around the world and I've sailed the seven seas  
Visited far off distant shores seen things you wouldn't believe

So, let me regale you a tale, so fantastical to your ears  
Let me introduce my magical elixir, let me belay all your fears

### 3. The Miraculous Elixir

Listen here I'm not a complicated man  
I got a potion that will cure your ills  
Trust me this ain't no scam  
Step right up, won't take a minute of your valuable time  
This elixir will fix yer up, just take a gulp and you'll be feelin' fine

You got a bad back? I can help yer  
A splitting headache? I can fix that too  
Are you tired of this crazy world?  
Well that's what I came here for

Miraculous, you just won't believe your eyes  
Its effects are remarkable  
With a kick that's quite a surprise  
Don't take my word, just try it for yourself  
With many fine ingredients  
Beneficial to your health

Romantic problems? I can help yer  
A cheating lover? I can fix that too  
Are you dying of a broken heart?  
Well that's what I brewed it for

It's buy one get one free, but I guess that you're gonna need three  
So give all your money to me, and I'll take care of you, naturally

Ease your pains with my concentrated brew  
Made in such large quantities to pass the savings on to you  
Don't be shy, don't you know it's not a game  
If you try it once you'll be back for more  
and you'll never be quite the same

You in the doldrums? I can help yer  
A bout of lurgy? I can fix that too

I can even get the lame to walk  
I can do all that and more

Here what I gotta say, I'm gonna take all your troubles away  
But only for today, you'll be back tomorrow if I have my way

*Ladies and Gentlemen stop deliberatin', procrastinatin', hesitatin'  
Come get your ailment fixer elixir, ain't no time for lollygagging*

#### **4. All Part of The Show**

May I introduce to you the death-defying skills  
The most incredible acrobats, this side of the western hills  
Dextrous displays of agility, right before your eyes  
You've never seen anything like it before  
Ain't telling you no lies

Gather round my friends,  
the sights and sounds will shock your very senses  
It's all part of the show

Next I want you all to see, the hillbilly banjo king  
Watch him pluck and watch him frail, Lord that man can sing  
That high lonesome sound we know so well, played at lightning speed  
You've never heard anything like it before  
And that is guaranteed

Gather round my friends  
the sights and sounds will shock your very senses  
It's all part of the show

We've a Gypsy woman who'll tell you your fate  
with advice you just can't ignore  
Her cards will turn and then you'll learn  
Just what your life has in store

Predictions of such certainty will leave you in a daze  
You've never seen anything like it before  
You'll truly be amazed  
Gather round my friends  
the sights and sounds will shock your very senses  
It's all part of the show

### **5. Poor Sweet Eliza**

A long way from home, lost and alone, but she had to leave  
She was only 19 but the things she had seen, you just wouldn't believe

Oh Poor, poor sweet Eliza she upped and run away  
Oh Poor, poor sweet Eliza looking for her brighter day

She travelled around from town to town looking for a place to call home  
Her life had been cruel, but she was nobody's fool and she loved to roam

Around, around looking tomorrows, for her brighter day  
Around, around looking for tomorrows, looking for her brighter day

She didn't expect the streets to be paved with gold  
She just wanted a place to feel safe and grow old

In time she settled down in a quiet old town, life was finally good  
But if she'd have known what fate had in store, she'd have run if she could

Oh run, run sweet Eliza, run away  
Oh run, run sweet Eliza, run towards a brighter day



## 6. The Pertinent Prediction

Gaze into the crystal ball, see what the future holds  
You can't escape destiny, just watch your fate unfold  
It's written in the stars Oh Lord, written in the stars

Now listen, the path it forks unexpectedly in most peculiar ways  
I see matters of life and death within the coming days  
It's written in the stars Oh Lord, written in the stars

*And now the story takes a turn towards the severe  
And folksies of a nervous disposition best get the hell outta here  
You have been warned, you have been warned  
Turn the music off my friends, oh you have been warned*

## 7. The Diabolical Doctor

I make use of the shadows that's were I'm most at home  
By day you won't expect a thing, by night I live in darker tones  
Yeah me and the Devil, we're walking hand in hand  
And we got so much in common, spreading darkness all across this land

Oh how I dream of murder, preying on these fragile minds  
I choose my victims carefully and I leave no trace behind

I peddle my wares all the live long day, quack remedies for hapless fools  
But night's when I come alive and I play by nefarious rules  
Unmerciful killer, hiding under secrecies veil  
Women vanish without a trace, murder planned with exquisite detail

It's more than just a compulsion, it's engrained within my soul  
A master of untraceable poisons, taking life's my only goal

Beware the Doctor!

## **8. Something Sinister**

Intangible you can feel it in the air, hairs standing up on end  
You know there's something's there, in the shadows, hiding outta sight  
Got a feeling in your gut, something's waiting in the night

Lurking in the darkness, this way something sinister comes  
Hiding in the darkness, this way something sinister comes

Unnerving sensation like something's close by  
Think you see a figure out the corner of your eye  
At that moment your pulse it starts to race  
Something's hiding out there in the shadow's cold embrace

Lurking in the darkness, this way something sinister comes  
Hiding in the darkness, this way something sinister comes

Something sinister is out there

## **9. Behold! The Mesmereyes**

He'll stop you dead in your tracks, with the smallest of glances  
You try your best to resist, but I don't fancy your chances  
He'll pierce deep inside your soul, bend to you to his will  
Take you over with a word, and then he'll kill

Swirling vortex, behind cruel eyes  
Beware the stare, Behold! The Mesmereyes

Hypnotic theurgist, master of the spectre  
Lord of the phantom, keeper of the secrets for sure

He'll hold you deep within his thrall, render you catatonic  
Mould you oh so pliable, you're powerless to stop it

He knows you don't stand a chance against his hypno-gaze  
Feel him crawl inside your brain, leave you in a dumbfounded daze

Swirling vortex, behind cruel eyes  
Beware the stare, Behold! The Mesmereyes

Don't look, don't look into his eyes!

### **10. What's Your Poison?**

*A little bit of poison in your liquor  
and you get to meet your maker a little bit quicker!*

Come inside, the lamp's burning low  
It's not like we have a better place to go  
Come on now don't be scared, problems are halved when shared  
Leave all your cares behind, drink with me c'mon lose your mind

Leave your troubles at the door,  
I know this is what you've been searching for  
There'll be no more heartache around here  
Tell me what's your poison my dear?

Drink til you're drunk, and then drink some more  
You'll forget all your troubles that's for sure  
It's not a permanent fix, need something lethal in the mix  
It's what I do for fun, drink it down quick and watch you come undone

Come into the shadows with me alone  
We'll drink wines that bubble and foam  
Together we'll drown your sorrows  
Let me take away your tomorrows

You're not the first, and you won't be the last  
You can't count the bodies I've amassed

So don't try to resist, it's not like you're gonna be missed  
It's what I do for fun, drink it down quick and watch you come undone

And then you'll sleep in a bed of bones  
No tributes carved on your gravestone  
No one gonna miss you round here  
Tell me what's your poison my dear?

### **11. The Old Switcheroony**

Oh Eliza you gotta be brave, else you gonna end up in your grave  
Oh Eliza you gotta be strong, you'll be another victim before too long  
Turn the tables on him don't be scared  
He's a bully and a coward don't believe his words  
Turn the tables on him make the switch  
Make him the victim lying in a ditch

C'mon pull the old switcheroony, c'mon pull the old switcheroony  
This is what he does for kicks, so choose your moment switch drinks  
He won't laughing no more, he won't be laughing no more

Oh Eliza now is your chance, beat him at his own game strike in advance  
Oh Eliza the stakes are so high, it's you or him now, one of you dies

Make him drink his potion he deserves his fate  
He's an evil hearted villain who thrives on hate  
Make him drink his potion it ain't no sin  
If it comes down to it, it's you or him

C'mon pull the old switcheroony, c'mon pull the old switcheroony  
This is what he does for kicks, so choose your moment switch drinks  
He won't laughing no more, he won't be laughing no more

## **12. Death Comes Calling**

It's poetic justice, a karmic debt paid  
Reap just what you sow at the end of the day  
It's no big secret death comes to us all  
When you've lived a wicked life in the end you're bound to fall

And death comes a calling in the end  
Greets you like he was your closest friend  
And death he takes you by the hand  
Leads you into the darkness now you're damned

A twist of fortunes cast the evil out  
You know it was bound to happen beyond a shadow of a doubt  
And now your life it ebbs away like the setting sun  
Your time round here has all but past, now the end has come

And death comes a calling in the end...

Now your time is over, and the devil has dragged you down  
Good folk will be safe from harm there's relief in every town  
Meeting your demise by a woman's hand, an ironic twist  
Good Doctor you were a wicked man and you will not be missed

And death comes a calling in the end...

## **13. A Twist in The Tale**

Did you really think the story would be over?  
I'm here to tell you there's a twist in the tale  
And though the Doctor he lived no longer  
His spirit lived on in a very sinister way

Just outside of town in forgotten woods  
If you look carefully through the mirk and gloom

You may see a sight unlikely to your eyes  
If you go to the woods you're in for a big surprise

Don't go to the woods there's spectres there  
Don't go to the woods – PHANTASMS!!

Spectres flit in the moonlight the Doctor is their master  
Diabolical medicine show to watch would be disaster  
He shouts he pleads come and see my show  
Roll Up! Roll Up! Come and see my Nefarious Medicine Show

Don't go to the woods there's spectres there  
Don't go to the woods – PHANTASMS!!

#### **14. The Nefarious Show**

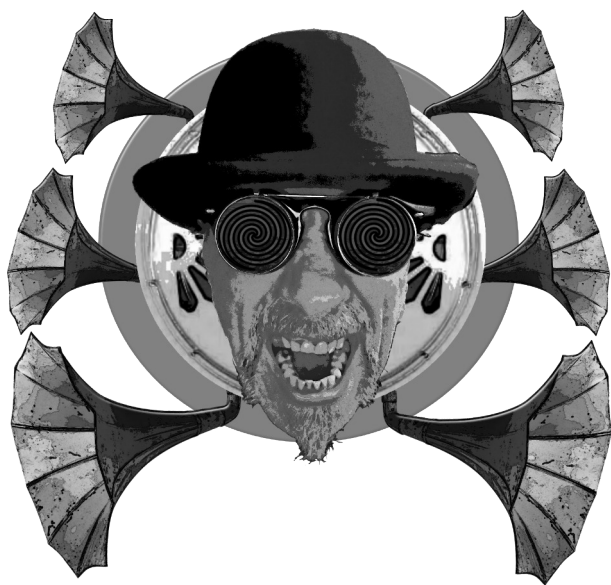
The darkness it's surrounding, wrapped around nights lonesome veil  
Trapped in a world of shadows, the dead of night becomes a jail  
Never to see a daybreak, just waiting for someone to come  
Pleading Roll Up! Roll Up! Come and see my show  
Pleading Roll Up! Roll Up! My Nefarious Medicine Show

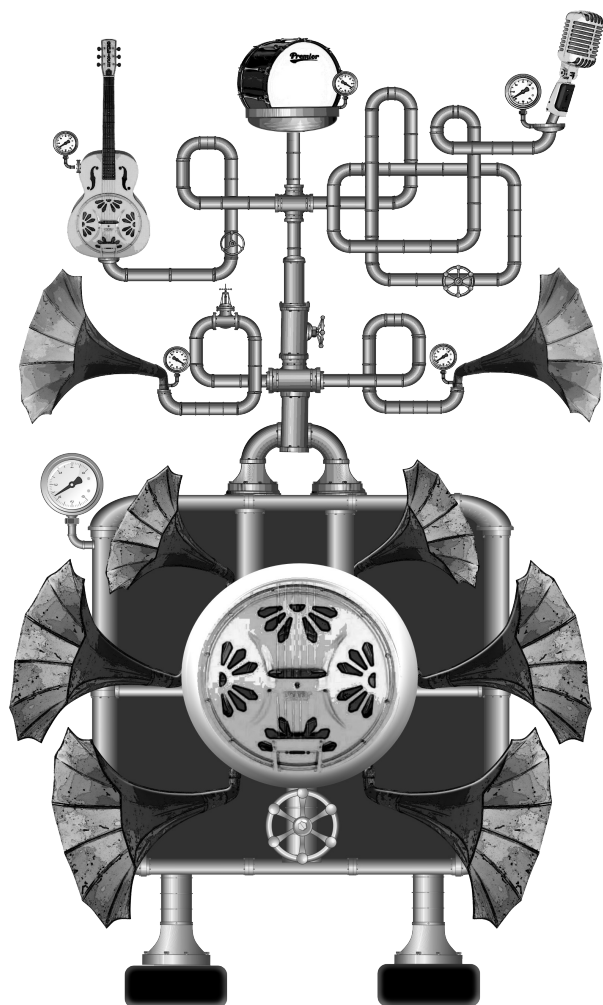
Spectres fly around him hoping to draw spectators in  
Unearthly phantasmagoria haunting the woods on his whim  
No thinking about tomorrows, just waiting for someone to come  
Pleading Roll Up! Roll Up! Come and see my show  
Pleading Roll Up! Roll Up! My Nefarious Medicine Show

Such a lonely pitiful existence, a ghost without a clientele  
No one to buy his elixir, this is his penance, this is his Hell  
Never to see a sunrise, just waiting for someone to come  
Pleading Roll Up! Roll Up! Come and see my show  
Pleading Roll Up! Roll Up! My Nefarious Medicine Show

Come on and see my show!

# The Story







# The Nefarious Medicine Show

ONCE UPON A RHYME...

These kinds of stories usually begin with Once Upon a Time  
As openings go, that's ok for some, but for this tale it feels benign  
So, let me begin in a different way, and then we'll be good to go  
Read on at your peril, the twisted tale of a nefarious medicine show

It was an average day in a sleepy town, when his wagon rolled into view  
Confusion ensued and the townsfolk they wondered what in the world they  
should do  
It didn't feel normal, it didn't feel right, something was definitely wrong  
Excitement was in the air that day, but that wouldn't last very long

The wagon pulled up, folks held their breath as a figure stepped off the  
running board  
Dressed in fine clothes from head to toe, the best that money could afford  
The Doctor smiled and announced to the crowd that he could cure their ills  
With a tap of his cane on the side of the wagon, he began to explain his skills

A hatch then unfolded mechanically, in a ballet of fluid motion  
Revealing a sign emblazoned with details of his miraculous potion  
With an eloquence so remarkable, he began his superlative spiel  
Dazzling with wordplay poetical, listing ailments of which he could heal

He held them in the palm of his hand, the crowd they were enthralled  
But if they'd have known his true motive, I'm sure they'd have been  
appalled  
For Bloodwort had a secret so foul, it would have made your blood run cold  
We'll get to the details later, but for now other truths need to be told

He professed that his Elixir was a universal cure all tonic  
But really it was just alcohol, how deliciously ironic  
The magic was in the lies he told, in his deceitful salesman's patter  
The fact he was a spurious fraud, didn't really seem to matter

He sold his elixir by the crateful and the crowd they lapped it up  
They would drink it out of the bottle or pour it in a cup  
Everyone seemed rather happy, if suspiciously a little tipsy  
He then revealed the Ballyhoo, the first act a fortune telling Gypsy

Next up were the acrobats, what a sight they were to behold  
Finally, a banjo virtuoso, playing songs from days of old  
The crowd they were ecstatic and thoroughly entertained  
Meanwhile Bloodwort surveyed the scene to see what more could be gained

That's when he spied Eliza, the heroine of this tale  
At once he knew what he wanted, and he knew he could not fail  
It was infatuation at first sight, Eliza certainly was a beauty  
To woo her, to entice her, to have her - would be his solemn duty

As I said before dear reader, Bloodwort had a terrible secret scheme  
And his intentions towards his new-found love were really quite extreme  
He had a dark soul beneath the façade, an alter ego if you will  
He liked to befriend pretty woman, then with poison he would kill

Bloodwort was a serial killer, of that there was no doubt  
He kept it very well hidden, and rarely let the demon out  
It was when he spied a special girl, and the blood lust reared its head  
After meeting with the malodorous fiend, girls would always end up dead

Eliza was a loving girl, who'd had her share of strife  
She'd run away some years ago, in search of a better life  
After travelling for many a year, she'd settled in this town  
For once in her life she could honestly say her roots were firmly down

She sold fruit at the market and was liked by everyone around  
She always wore a comforting smile, and very rarely frowned  
Intelligent and resourceful, she was certainly nobody's fool  
In the most difficult of situations, she always kept her cool

So, there she stood on that day, framed in Bloodwort's gaze  
Innocently stood watching the show, oblivious to his cruel ways  
It was at that moment the fortune teller caught Eliza's attention  
Cautiously she walked on over, with a feeling of slight apprehension

What transpired was a brief exchange that ended with a prediction  
A situation of life or death, fate decided through hypnotic conviction  
A prophecy so ambiguous, she left pondering those words bemusing  
Surely, she could decide her own fate, it was totally of her own choosing

That was when Bloodwort made his move and swooped down on his prey  
Obsequious and charming at first, as usually was his way  
To worm his way in through flattery, then extend an invitation  
If the mark refused he had other means of more unconventional persuasion

Eliza declined politely to meet later in his wagon for drinks  
Bloodwort smiled and thought privately "Yes well, that's what she thinks"  
Luckily for Eliza, the Doctor's assistant then interrupted  
For they'd run out of Elixir, and the crowd had just erupted

Bidding farewell to Eliza, the Doctor left to calm the crowd  
But he thought "We'll meet again, my dear", this to himself he vowed  
So now you know the awful truth, we can continue with this story  
But be warned from this moment forth, the plot gets a little bit gory

Daylight turned to dusk quietly in that oblivious sleepy town  
The gloaming hid shadows of sinister things lurking all around  
Eliza walked down the cobbled streets not knowing she was being stalked  
Hiding just outside her view Bloodwort followed everywhere she walked

When he was sure she was all alone and no one else was around  
He sprang forth from a hidden nook in a single purposeful bound  
He startled Eliza for a moment, then she looked deep into his eyes  
Falling into a hypnotic trance, she was totally mesmerised

For the Doctor had a trick up his sleeve, one learned in a foreign land  
With just one look from his *mesmereyes* people's actions he could command  
Eliza didn't stand a chance, she was completely under his thrall  
He escorted her off to his wagon, she had no say in it at all

Bathed in the glow of the wagons lamp the Doctor offered Eliza a drink  
Knowing she had no will of her own, her own thoughts she could not think  
She sat there so obediently as the Doctor flitted around  
Pouring liquids from vials so diabolical, and Eliza she made no sound

"What's your poison my dear?" he exclaimed, and gave her a wry half smile  
But he wouldn't poison her immediately, he wanted to talk for a while  
He sat a glass on the table, not far from a glass of his own  
He said "that's yours, but not yet my dear, first tell me why you're alone"

They talked for hours under duress about Eliza's life  
A woeful tale of heartbreak and sorrow, and how she escaped all that strife  
Bloodwort was so caught up in his scheme, he didn't notice his thrall was  
waning  
Eliza slowly regained her clarity and now his hold she was cleverly feigning

She knew that if she wanted escape she'd have to think on her feet  
She bided her time patiently, waiting for her chance to retreat  
That's when she had a bold idea, their drinks she would secretly switch  
Waiting until his back was turned, she switched with nary a hitch

"Drink it cruel fiend" she thought to herself, as Bloodwort picked up his glass  
Time seemed to slow as the beverage was raised and between his lips it did  
pass  
With a terrible crash the glass hit the floor and he began to foam from his  
maw  
He clutched at his throat and fountains of blood ran in streams down his jaw

The Doctor collapsed in a quivering heap his life force was nearly spent  
Contorted in spasms of blistering pain, Eliza was now totally hell bent

She picked up a knife from the table and thrust it repeatedly into his head  
She wanted to make doubly sure that the monster would soon be dead

The body was now lifeless laying mangled on the blood-stained floor  
It was a grisly scene but had to be done, to make sure he couldn't kill anymore  
Eliza departed the wagon, shaking from the gruesome ordeal  
Her dress was covered in blood and brains, which was very hard to conceal

Quickly she ran back into town, to tell of what she had done  
The people agreed it was self-defence and were glad that she had won  
The Doctor had been defeated, he would trouble nobody no more  
Eliza breathed a sigh of relief, peace of mind she could now restore

Now, these kinds of stories normally end with a Happily Ever After  
And yes, the people were happy, the town was filled with laughter  
But this story isn't quite over yet, we've one tiny little detail  
Ladies and gentlemen let me reveal, that there's a twist in this mysterious tale

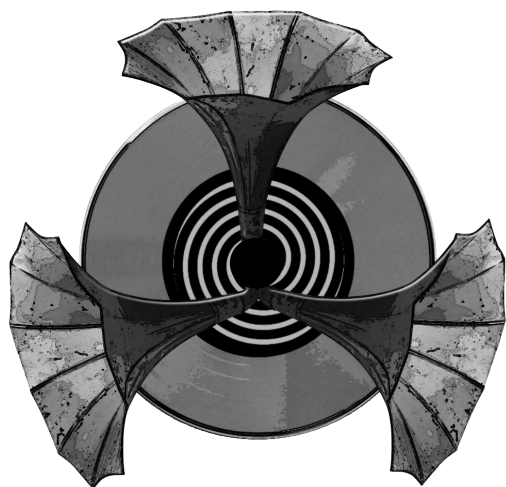
Years had passed since that fateful night when Bloodwort met his maker  
The town had all but forgotten about that malodorous no good faker  
Then rumours spread of strange happenings, in the woods nearby  
Voices and lights deep in its bowels, of ghostly ethereal cries

If anyone had ventured to the woods, deep in the dead dark night  
They'd have stumbled on something ungodly, they'd have gotten an awful fright  
On his demise the fiendish Doctor hadn't gone down to the depths of Hell  
He'd been doomed to haunt those woods, in this personal Hell he would dwell

A prisoner for all eternity, just waiting for someone to come  
Pleading Roll Up! Roll Up! - I'll sell my ghostly wares to anyone  
Now this is the end my dearest reader, and now you all do know  
The fantastical tale of Dr Bloodwort and his Nefarious Medicine Show!



Photo by Mal Whichelow



# BEHOLD! THE MEDICINE SHOW IS HERE

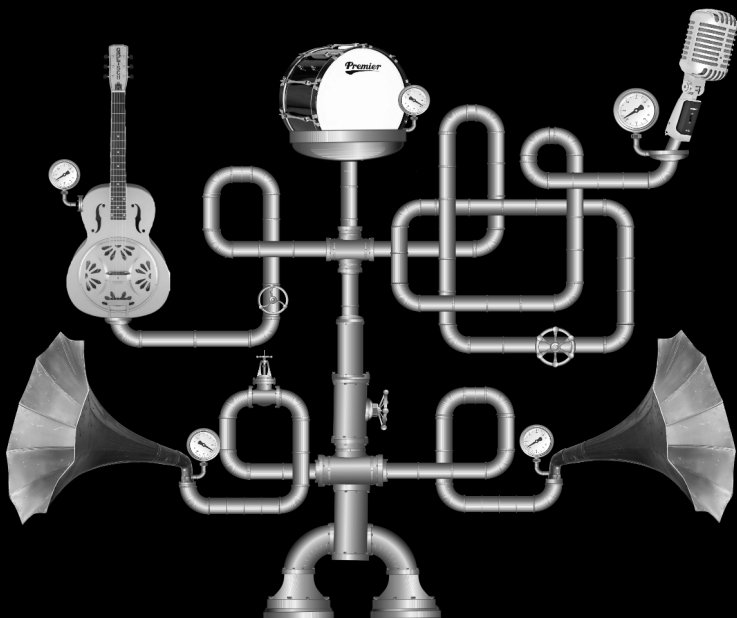
**GATHER ROUND FOLKS AND JOURNEY INTO THE FANTASTICAL WORLD OF DR BLOODWORT AND HIS NEFARIOUS MEDICINE SHOW.**

**PREPARE TO BE AMAZED AND ENTERTAINED AS BLUESMAN HALF DEAF CLATCH REGALES A MOST REMARKABLE TALE, DIRECT FROM THE DEEPEST DARKEST DEPTHS OF HIS DUBIOUS IMAGINATION. A STRANGE AND TRAGIC STORY, WHERE NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS.**

**YOU'LL BE TANTALISED, STUPIFIED, MESMERISED AND HORRIFIED!!**

**"CHARLEY PATTON MEETS STEPHEN KING, AS LAYER UPON LAYER OF BLUES, RAGTIME AND BALLADRY COMBINES WITH MACABRE LYRICAL IMAGERY, AND CLATCH'S TRADEMARK GROWL, TO HOLD THE LISTENER SPELLBOUND AS A GOTHIC HORROR STORY POURS FORTH FROM THE TENTH CIRCLE OF A DARK AND FERTILE IMAGINATION"**

**- RICHARD WALL, AUTHOR**



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