

Slide into the Bayfront Blues Festival this year just in time to hear Daniel “Slick” Ballinger on the Korbel Brandy Stage as the opening number for the weekend. With this powerful punter kickin’ off the weekend we’re bound to go places with music we never dreamed of. This young twenty-somethin’ Carolina boy has all the social graces of a southern gentleman with none of the inhibitions. Ballinger won “Most Promising Guitarist” at the International Blues Challenge, and he makes good on the “promise” part of that and delivers an unforgettable performance. *CityLink Magazine* says country-blues stomper Ballinger accompanies himself on acoustic or national steel guitars, furiously snapping strings and buzzing them with a slide. He is what *Living Blues Magazine* calls “A natural.” Not only has he played with the likes of Pinetop Perkins, Hubert Sumlin, and B.B. King, he also spent the better portion of the summer of 2002 in Gravel Springs, Mississippi, on a spiritual journey with late fife-legend Othar Turner that proved to be more of an education in blues than you can get from any formal institution. After seeing “Slick” kick off Blues Fest weekend, you’ll know why everyone from “Steady Rollin” Bob Margolin to Big Bill Morganfield have professed, “He’s got it.” If



*Daniel “Slick” Ballinger*

his Thursday performance leaves you thirstin’ for more, head over to Powerhouse Bar (Proctor) on Thursday, Bev’s Juke Joint (Superior) on Friday, or Pizza Lucé on Sunday evening for more down-home finger pickin’ and mournful string ringing.