

Finis Tasby dead at 74--From The Blues Magazine



Mannish Boys frontman Finis Tasby has died at the age of 74, it's been confirmed.

The Texan bassist and vocalist had been ill since suffering a stroke in 2012, which left him paralysed on his left side.

Tasby formed his band the Thunderbirds in 1962 and became their frontman after first ZZ Hill then Joe Simon secured their own record deals. They acted as backing band for Freddie King, Clarence Carter, Lowell Fulson and others during tours of Texas.

Tasby worked with John Lee Hooker, B.B. King, Big Mama Thornton and others after moving to Los Angeles in the 1970s. He later appeared in the movie *Sharkey's Machine* with Burt Reynolds before joining the Mannish Boys, an all-star outfit who won a Blues Music Award for 2013 album *Double Dynamite*.

In a [recent interview](#) Tasby said: "John Lee was like a dad to me, man. He was a really, really nice person, you know, and I stayed up at his house. He and B.B. King were the two nicest guys I ever met."

And he lamented the state of blues in America, saying: "It seems like people in Europe care more than the American people do. I work over there, like, five nights a week. It ain't too good here. Nobody wants to have blues. I don't know what the reason is."