

STREET BEATS

Blues live on 'Blues'

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

What Eric Clapton raved about and Jimi Hendrix once skipped a gig for is finally here — a Buddy Guy studio album capturing all the surges and wonderment of his live performances.

"Damn Right, I've Got the Blues" is the Baton Rouge-born and Chicago-based guitarist's first studio album in 10 years. Buoyant, brimming with both soul and energy, the 10-song effort on Silverstone springs out like a cobra from behind a dandelion patch on its title track opening cut. This LP is something of a celebration, if not a long overdue one for those who consider Guy one of the best blues guitarists around. The festive nature of this effort, though, is tempered by an emotionally aching Guy instrumental called "Rememberin' Stevie."

See, Stevie Ray Vaughan always wanted to be on any album Guy recorded and kept reminding him about it. Vaughan died on Aug. 27, 1990, after performing with Guy at a Wisconsin blues jam session. The helicopter carrying Vaughan crashed.

"I had lyrics that I could have put that," said Guy in a telephone interview, "but I did that because Stevie was such a great musician and I wanted people to know how good he was."

"We had four choppers up there that night. They had pledged to help me and get me into the studio. He (Vaughan) said he would be there."

MARK KNOPFLER, Jeff Beck and Clapton appear on "Damn Right, I've Got the Blues," which might be classified as something of an all-star blues session along with being Guy's guitar manifesto.

Along with his own material, Guy does a raved-up version of Wilson Pickett's "Mustang Sally" and his rendition of John Hiatt's "Where Is the Next One Coming In?" is a solid offering. More importantly, the album does justice to Guy's work as a live performer.

Guy credits the help in the studio from "his friends" but also the location of the recording — London, England.

"I started thinking of Hendrix," Guy said. "He played as well here as he did there, but he could never get that thing out here. Then he went to England and, 'boom bam,' there it was."

"Damn Right, I've Got the Blues" is Guy's first LP since "Stone Crazy," released in 1981. But those are



On his first studio album in 10 years, guitarist Buddy Guy has come up with a 10-song effort, brimming over with soul and energy.

only two entries in a recording and performing career that spans four decades.

The son of sharecroppers, Guy left his Louisiana home in 1957 and went north in search of work. Unsuccessful in finding a job, he was only in Chicago for a couple of months when he ran out of money.

GUY WALKED the streets and hadn't eaten in three days when a stranger asked him if he could play the blues. After an informal audition, he was promptly escorted to the 708 Club and was put on stage with Otis Rush.

One person in the audience was so impressed, he invited the young guitarist to his Cadillac to talk about the blues. Muddy Waters also offered Guy the best salami sandwich he's probably ever tasted.

After working as a sideman with Waters, Guy released a pair of albums on Vanguard in 1968 — "Man and the Blues" and a live LP "This Is Buddy Guy." Both earned four-star ratings in "The New Rolling Stone Record Guide."

Some of his later recordings have been termed uneven, mainly due to a lack of technical resources in the studio that afforded many commercially successful artists.

Whereas this is a source of bitterness with many old-time blues performers, Guy has faced his trials

with stoicism and humbleness. While the likes of the Rolling Stones and Clapton reaped the financial success playing music Robert Johnson, Lightnin' Hopkins, Howlin' Wolf and Guy himself helped define, grudges don't fuel his passion to play music.

"I think those guys did it the same way we did," he said. "I think the British people got more exposure than we got. I think it's just a part of life. I think those things just happen. Those people had respect for the music. If they didn't maybe, I'd feel different."

"CLAPTON AND the Stones along with Ike and Tina Turner helped America find who Howlin' Wolf and Muddy Waters were."

Major labels have taken heed. Silverstone, which is distributed by R.C.A., has signed Guy and Virgin has started a blues' label Point Blank.

A passing fad? Or, an attempt by the industry to recognize the rich blues talent in this country? Guy said he's not good at predicting the future. He's just glad to have an album out.

"At least more kids will know who I am," he said.

Buddy Guy will perform Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Majestic Theatre, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance. For information, call 99-MUSIC.

STREET SENSE

Dic advice strike a chord?

Dear Ms. Schiff,

Your advice to Broken-Up was WAY off base. "Stick to your guns" is like saying "stick to your neuroses." I thought you were supposed to help people overcome emotional traps and insecurity?

The question in this case is: Does Broken-Up love her fiancé and is he willing to accept the fact that he engages in activities that millions of other American males engage in? Masturbation in our society is a "private" act, a lot like going to the bathroom. We all go to the bathroom, but it isn't something we need to make public or dwell on.

Broken-up's fiancé wasn't "forcing" pornography on her, or masturbating in public. A sign of growth on her part would be to accept the fact that her fiancé is a human being — with shortcomings and preferences.

Have you seen "The Doctor" with William Hurt? Doctors don't have to fall in love with their patients, but they should show respect for them as human beings and respect for their feelings and emotions regarding their illnesses, in spite of how petty they may seem.

Your definition of respect is inaccurate and inappropriate. Respect is more a product of acceptance and flexibility than it is of "compatibility." Broken-Up, based on your advice, will continue to jump from relationship to relationship because she doesn't approve of "this" or "that" in her partner.

I would guess that almost every man she will marry has masturbated and has probably seen a pornographic movie? These men will have a choice: Tell her the truth and end the relationship, or lie about it and end up living a false relationship. My wife knows I masturbate occasionally. She accepts it and I don't flaunt it. It doesn't mean I don't love her and that she isn't satisfying my needs.

The fact is Broken-Up's never



Barbara Schiff

going to find the "perfect" mate based on your advice about "respect yourself." As Joanne Woodward once pointed out, everyone has an idealized vision of Paul Newman, but they've never seen him crashed out on the sofa in his underwear.

Your observation that a recent TV program emphasized the fact that "compatibility" makes a marriage work seems incredibly naive. Was that on Oprah or Sally Jesse? A real relationship is built on respect and acceptance. Sometimes the different strengths that people bring to a relationship create a more powerful "whole."

Once again, I emphasize that the solution for Broken-Up isn't to "respect herself" and stick to her guns. The solution is that she must decide whether or not she loves the man and is willing to show the emotional maturity to work at making her relationship a success? Flexibility and a spirit of give-and-take is the key to a successful relationship, not compatibility!

Mike from Birmingham

P.S. Your advice was equally wrong to "Bunny." You're suggesting that she is demonstrating "high self-esteem" by giving her fiancé a TWO-WEEK ULTIMATUM? Utterly ridiculous! On the contrary, I would suggest that giving an ultimatum is a sign of desperation, insecurity and, ultimately, LOW SELF-ESTEEM. Even the most inexperienced negotiators understand that an ultimatum is the least effective way to get what you want out of a relationship. But that's another letter!

Dear Mike

I'm sure you enjoyed writing your letter and look forward to sending your next. Please feel free to write again.

Perhaps you would be willing to consider that my advice to Broken-Up struck a chord in you that it caused you to respond so vehemently. If you could recognize this over-reaction, you might learn something important about yourself that would be beneficial.

It may be difficult for a man to understand how a woman feels under either of these circumstances. The self-love these men exhibit makes these particular women feel unloved. Both show emotional maturity and strength by being able to trust their instincts and by knowing what they can live with and what they can't live with.

Marriages in which the partners feel as if they settled for less or compromised deep values have little chance for true success.

Barbara

If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense at 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

IN CONCERT

MONKEY MEAT

Monday, Sept. 30 — Monkey Meat will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.

PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM

Monday, Sept. 30 — Paradise Valley Jazz Jam will perform at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 932-2355.

MEAT PUPPETS

Monday, Sept. 30 — Meat Puppets will perform two shows 7 and 10:30 p.m. at the Nectarine Ballroom, 518 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10.50. For information, call 99-MUSIC.

CLASSICAL MUSHROOMS

Tuesday, Oct. 1 — Classical Mushrooms will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

CHISEL DROP

Tuesday, Oct. 1 — Chisel Drop will perform at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 932-2355.

DAVID CASSIDY

Tuesday, Oct. 1 — David Cassidy will perform with guests Dar Bonnardure, at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. For information, call 331-1999.

MIGHTY LEMON DROPS

Tuesday, Oct. 1 — Mighty Lemon Drops will perform with guests, Sister Double Happiness, at St. Andrew's Hall, 411 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.

MORBID ANGEL

Tuesday, Oct. 1 — Morbid Angel will perform at Todd's, 8139 Seven Mile, east of Van Dyke, Detroit. For information, call 366-TODD.

808 STATE

Wednesday, Oct. 2 — 808 State will perform at St. Andrew's Hall, 411 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.

BAHNUDU BOYS

Wednesday, Oct. 2 — Bahndu Boys will perform at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

BEAD BAND

Wednesday, Oct. 2 — The Bead Band will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

PERE UBU

Wednesday, Oct. 2 — Pere Ubu will perform with guests, Broken Yoyo, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 932-2355.

GRANFALLOON

Thursday, Oct. 3 — Granfalloon will perform with The Happy Tom Show at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from Wayne State University, Detroit. For information, call 932-2355.

ANTHRAX AND PUBLIC ENEMY

Thursday, Oct. 3 — Anthrax, Public Enemy, Primus and Young Black Teenagers will perform at Clubland at State Theatre in Detroit. All ages show. For information, call 961-MELT.

FUNHOUSE

Thursday, Oct. 3 — Funhouse will perform with guests, Bushmasters, at 3-D Club, 1815 N. Main, near 12 Mile Road, Royal Oak. For information, call 359-3344.

DIFFERENCE

Thursday, Oct. 3 — The Difference will perform at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

HARAMBE

Thursday, Oct. 3 — Harambe will perform at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.

HAPPY ACCIDENTS

Friday, Oct. 4 — Happy Accidents will perform with guests, Confuse A Cat, at Finney's Pub in Detroit.

POLTERMOMS

Thursday, Oct. 3 — The Poltermoms will perform with Digger Than Mass and Vudu Chill at Psyche's Lounge, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck. For information, call 874-0254.

NEW BARBITURATES

Friday, Oct. 4 — New Barbiturates

will perform at Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-4555.

MIND FUNK

Friday, Oct. 4 — Mind Funk will perform at Todd's, 8139 Seven Mile, east of Van Dyke, Detroit. For information, call 366-TODD.

CHARLES EARLAND QUARTET

Friday through Sunday, Oct. 4-6 — Charles Earland Quartet will perform at Baker's Keyboard, Livernois and Eight Mile Road, Detroit. For information, call 861-1200 or 864-1201.

LONNIE BROOKS

Friday, Oct. 4 — Lonnie Brooks will perform at Sully's, 4158 Greenfield, Dearborn. For information, call 816-1920.

PIT VIPERS

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 4-5 — Pit Vipers will perform at J.J.'s Pub, 32611 Ford Road, Garden City. For information, call 322-9450.

BIG AUDIO DYNAMITE II

Friday, Oct. 4 — Big Audio Dynamite II will perform at Clubland in the State Theatre in Detroit. All ages show. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For information, call 961-MELT.

THE CRABBY JACKS

Friday, Oct. 4 — The Crabby Jacks will perform with Trust Fund and Borax at Psyche's Lounge, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck. For information, call 874-0254.

JEANNIE AND THE DREAMS

Friday, Oct. 4 — Jeannie and the Dreams will perform at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.



Meat Puppets will bring their punk brand of music to the Nectarine Ballroom in Ann Arbor for two shows on Monday, Sept. 30.

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