



# James 'Blood' Ulmer Live at the Bayerische Hof Blues Experience

IOR D-LP 'Limited Audiophile Edition' 77018-1  
IOR CD 77018-2

**James 'Blood' Ulmer Blues Experience**  
**» LIVE at the Bayerische Hof«**

I consider this record to be a turning point in my recording career. It's the first live album I've made in ten years and luckily, on this particular night at the Bayerischer Hof in Munich, the trio was in great form. I am very happy the way the music came out.

I have recorded all the pieces before - but this is the best attempt I've made yet at putting all the different strains of my music together on one album. These are all new interpretations and I believe them to be the best versions I've made to date of these eight compositions. A fan of mine who was in the audience that night, and who has been following my work for years, told me afterwards that it was the best he'd ever heard the music played.

I am also extremely happy about the quality of the recording - it is much better than I expected. When you are up on stage in that room, playing so close to the people, you can't really hear how the music sounds as a whole while you're performing. But Winnie Leyh is not just an engineer - he's an artist and a musician and he did a great job of capturing the true sound of the trio. I also want to thank Frank Kleinschmidt and Jürgen Schwab for making it happen.

Another big plus for me is having Amin Ali back on the bass. It is impossible for me to play the full range of my repertoire without Amin, because he's worked with me for so many years, is on most of my albums and knows all of my music. For this kind of programme he is just indispensable.

Amin's return was also a bonus for Aubrey Dayle who has been with me for about two and a half years. Aubrey said to me that playing with Amin told him so much more about the music than he'd been aware of before. It was a revelation. So I knew they were going to play the music right. What I like about Aubrey is that he has sort of combined the styles of my previous drummers - Cornell Rochester and Grant Calvin Weston. So now I have what I consider to be the definitive James 'Blood' Ulmer Trio. I want to keep this band together because Amin and Aubrey can follow whatever musical direction I choose to take.

As far as I can recall, this is my 21st album and, to tell you the truth, I think it's the best damn' record I ever did because we were really making music that night. I was especially happy with the way I played. The vibes were right, the inspiration was there and it was just one of those rare nights when you can feel the electricity in the air, you are hot to play and you just sense that everything you go for you are going to achieve. We were burning up!

I hope you dig the music as much as we dug making it.

*James 'Blood' Ulmer*

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## Quotes about James 'Blood' Ulmer

"One of the best guitarists I've ever heard"  
*Ry Cooder*

"The most original guitarist since Jimi Hendrix"  
*Robert Palmer, New York Times*

"Probably the most innovative, creative guitarist / composer of the scene today"  
*International Musician*

"His music hits you like a Knock-Out from Jake La Motta"  
*San Francisco Chronicle*

"His mercurial guitar style, with its savage rhythm Riffs, bursts of thickly dissonant chording and tumbling lead lines, is already being widely imitated"  
*Robert Palmer, Rolling Stone*

"The most preveeseive guitarist since Wes Montgomery"  
*Stanley Crouch, Village Voice*

"The most prominent virtue of Ulmer's playing is that he doesn't sound like anyone else"  
*Gary Giddins, Village Voice*

"one of those rare works that at first seemed to have sprung from the head of Zeus"  
*Gary Giddins, Village Voice*

"The net effect suggests a cross between Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan and Mike Bloomfield"  
*Larry Birnbaum, Down Beat*

"it's great, headlong early Ulmer, with direction, attack and rhythmic dislocation"  
*Ben Ratliff, Coda*

"I think his stuff is funny in a positive sense. The same way that when you listen

to Thelonious Monk, sometimes its funny. It's a joke, but it's serious. And for anybody to come up with a new wrinkle on how to play Jazz on the guitar. ....but he seemes to be the only person who has some awareness of the roots of music, where it came from, the antecedents - the blues players. And it comes through in his playing.

*Bern Nix, guitarist*

"Blood is really a guitar player, he sounds to me like Wes Montgomery, and Jimi Hendrix and Muddy Waters, and all those really guitar based sounds."

*Joe Morris, guitarist.*

***Wether Ulmer sounds more like Hendrix or Montgomery, or, better yet, like anyone else has been hotly debated on the music scene more than a decade ago. His latest album on IN + OUT RECORDS is certain to refuel this debate.***

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## JAMES 'BLOOD' ULMER - Biographie

\*02.02.1942 St Matthews, South Carolina.

In his youth, James 'Blood' Ulmer was very much attracted by local gospel, country and blues groups. By 17, he was working in Pittsburgh with rock and roll bands. He spent 10 years playing in jazz-funk line-ups and worked with organist **Hank Marr**. By 1968, James 'Blood' Ulmer was in Detroit and already experimenting with the innovative, if abrasive, style for which he would become noted in the 80s.

Moving to New York in 1971, his work with ex-Coltrane drummer Rashied Ali in „**Rashied Ali Quintet**“, caught **Ornette Coleman's** ear, and he became student by this legendary musician. Ornette Coleman called Ulmer a „*natural harmolodic player*“ and thus began their decade-long association. There James 'Blood' Ulmer learned to realize his own possibilities and to widen his musical range.

During the 70s, his work diversified. He performed in the Cal Massey/Archie Shepp musical „**Lady Day**“ at Brooklyn Academy of Music, worked with **Paul Bley**, played at **Carnegie Hall** with Coleman and recorded with **Joe Henderson**, **Larry Young** and **Arthur Blythe**.

In 80s, James 'Blood' Ulmer's heavy funk-based style collided with **David Murray**, **Oliver Lake**, **Ronald Shannon Jackson** and other great musicians, and this brought him, with his gritty vocals and the even grittier guitar riffing the *sensational breakthrough*.

Often James 'Blood' Ulmer is compared with **Jimmi Hendrix**, whose similarities consist in the completely new languages developed on the guitar. Especially the new wave and punk movement made musicians like James 'Blood' Ulmer known to a great wider public.