



PIT. I.

[REVIEW | LIVE]



Guy, Mayer, James Cotton, Little Milton (from left)

Blues Express

Lincoln Center, New York January 28th, 2005 ★★★★★

Blues legends Buddy Guy and Little Milton jam with new jacks Warren Haynes and John Mayer

The great R&B singer-guitarist Little Milton was three songs into his set - in the middle of a heated minor-key blues with his surprise guest, guitarist Warren Haynes of the Allman Brothers Band and Gov't Mule - when Buddy Guy, Milton's co-headliner, strolled out unannounced and

from Muddy Waters' and Howlin' Wolf's legendary

Little Milton (standing) and Robert Lockwood Jr.

Buddy Talk

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cheerfully hijacked the number and the rest of the night. First, Guy challenged Milton to a duel of quiet, wiry licks. Guy then unleashed a torrent of metallic Telecaster screams and, after kicking into Junior Wells' "Everything's Going to Be Alright," brought out his own guest guitarist, John Mayer, to jam.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is the first chance I've ever had to play with Little Milton," Guy explained. "They said, 'Wait until you're called to come out,' but..." Guy smiled, shaking his head with comic impatience. It was hard to believe the two Chess Records alumni had never performed together before. For the first two hours, this had been a lively, respectful revue, with opening sets by original sidemen



bands as well as the Delta-bluesmen David "Honeyboy" Edwards and Robert Lockwood Jr. - both turning ninety this year and among the few surviving associates of Robert Johnson. However, when Guy hit the stage, the concert became a free-for-all - and fun for all.

Little Milton, 70, already had raised the temperature with his robust country-soul voice and tart stabs of guitar before Guy walked on. But Guy, 68, is not only a lethal guitarist and singer, he is an irrepressible ham. Cueing the other guitarists' solos like an impish traffic cop, Guy then stole the limelight with bravura displays of shivering sting and spliced treble. Yet even Guy stood in awe when powerhouse harp player James Cotton joined the melee, adding his fireball blowing to Haynes' shrieking slide work and the sound of Guy hammering his guitar strings with a drumstick as he soloed - the perfect climax for a feast of nonstop tomfoolery and explosive musicianship.

DAVID FRICKE

FANS' NOTES



John Redden, 24, Warwick, NY
"Energetic, great passion. A once-in-a-lifetime event that may never happen again."



Natasha Scully, 11, Yorktown Heights, NY
"This was my first real concert. I was so excited and loved it a lot."



Mike Hassell, 50, Brooklyn
"My favorite part of the show? Every damn thing! Best concert I've ever seen."

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