

Whiteboy James And The Blues Express - Extreme Makeover (2011)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Big Butted Women* 2 *Excuse Me For Scribbl'n* 3 *Stay Out Late At Night* 4 *Mean Mistreat'n Woman* 5 *Zerg, Shotgun, And You* 6 *The Big Man* 7 *Gold Brick Bar* 8 *Night Train Wine* 9 *Slowdown & Let Me Love You* 10 *I'm Ready* 11 *Trouble* 12 *Big Blue Train*
Bass – Blake Watson Drums – Max Bangwell Guitar – Scott Abeyta Vocals, Harp – Whiteboy James

It's difficult for blues dudes to create a distinctive sound that sets them apart from the crowd. But Whiteboy James does stand out on this album, mostly because he's got a keen sense of humor. On songs like "Big Butted Women" and "Night Train Wine", he can have you dancing and chuckling at the same time. But he's no novelty act. He's a vocalist with his own sound, and he's got a crackin' band behind him. Playing all the songs that made this band an L.A. blues legend makes this release an instant Classic. Each song's storytelling is paired with the high energy west coast style blues that Whiteboy James and The Blues Express helped define.
---Editorial Reviews, dwmmusic.com

Having just completed their second album, Whiteboy James and the Blues Express is a detonative force not to be reckoned with. Since reforming in 2006 after a five year absence, the band has re-established themselves as the legendary band that they once were during the Southern California blues explosion of the 80's and 90's. Whiteboy James has a mesmerizing, driving and sonic stage presence. Combine that with three gifted, well-seasoned musicians and

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chances are chairs at one of their shows just won't be necessary. James Page was born in Compton, California and spent most of his formative years bouncing around sunny Southern California. As a youngster, he listened to whatever he could grasp. But his musical influences changed radically when he began listening to his uncle's Deep South Rhythm and Blues and Country vinyl. Although "Whiteboy" found it difficult to fit into the Southern California "Beach Boy" culture in which he was surrounded by, his heart, soul and ears were dialed into the likes of Cab Calloway, Louis Jordan, Sam "Lightning" Hopkins, Big Joe Turner besides the usual suspects such as Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bob Wills and even Spike Jones. By the mid 1980's, also known as the peak of the Southern Californian blues explosion, blues bands were forming everywhere — from garages and backyard parties to all night blues jams in various beer-soaked nightclubs. During this time, "Whiteboy" James had several tunes in his repertoire and was willing and ready to sit in, sing, jam, crush and blow some harmonic sounds with whoever would have the "cajones" to invite him up on stage. And good thing, because his tenacity paid off in spades. A few of the takers included The Mighty Flyers, William Clarke, James Harman, The Blasters (Phil and Dave Alvin), Johnny Dyre, Joe Houston, Little Charlie and the Night Cats, Top Jimmy and Juke Logan, just to name a few. And history be told, it was at one of the jams that the original Blues Express was formed. Soon thereafter, this raucous foursome was jamming, gigging and grinding all over the Southern California blues circuit. "Whiteboy" James became quite the buzz across blues stages and dance floors across the southland. People were talking about this entertaining "jump and jive" madman who, not unlike his boyhood hero Cab Calloway, strutted the stage leading a top blues band and dressed in a trench coat (As opposed to Cab Calloway's tux and tails. (Talk about a dichotomy) "Whiteboy" James and the Blues Express continued to play throughout the 1990s and after a well-deserved break, they're back and as unruly as ever. Simply put, you don't listen to Whiteboy" James. You experience it. You feel it. You dance on a lot of broken glass. ---longbeach.harvelles.com

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