

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Living Legend James “Blood” Ulmer Returns to Arts Commons Presents PCL Blues series for a Night of Funky Blues for the Soul

March 3, 2022 - CALGARY – Hailed as a guitar god and legendary bluesman, James “Blood” Ulmer returns to Calgary to remind us of what this free funk, jazz, and blues improviser can really do. He was last in town in 2016 for a sold-out evening at the Calgary Folk Festival, and Arts Commons Presents is thrilled to feature him for two nights in the intimate venue of the **Engineered Air Theatre** on **Friday, March 18 & Saturday, March 19, 2022**.

With an impressive 60 albums to his name, blues wizard James “Blood” Ulmer has a reputation for being an avant-garde innovator, moving fluidly through the genres of jazz, soul, funk, rock, and blues. Since launching his career in New York City in 1971, Ulmer has evolved and adapted his approach to the music, keeping only one thing constant – his stunning guitar chops. Last featured as part of the PCL Blues series in 2006, James “Blood” Ulmer continues a 24-year tradition of showcasing influential and compelling blues musicians at Arts Commons. A secret gem at Arts Commons, the 185-seat Engineered Air Theatre provides the perfect atmosphere to sit back and experience the best of blues – up close and personal.



James Blood Ulmer

“It’s not often that you have the opportunity to be in the same room as a man like James “Blood” Ulmer. He has influenced so many artists and continued to innovate on his own sound throughout his career. This is a man who helped write the playbook for blues and funk,” says Jennifer Johnson, vice-president of programming at Arts Commons.



Title Sponsor



Public Sector Support



MEDIA RELEASE



His signature back-country drawl mixed with his bluesy solo electric guitar fuses multiple influences from his eclectic vocabulary, creating an effect that is both surprising and comforting in its familiarity. Mix that up with his expertise as an improvisational performer and you have an evening that celebrates the core of funk and blues.

"You have to realize that jazz as a concept has been created already, you can't create some new jazz cocktail or rhythm and blues, they're already done," says James "Blood" Ulmer. "All I can do is change the words to the concept or add a new melody to it, and I don't call that creating. I call it discovery."

What: Arts Commons Presents: James "Blood" Ulmer
Where: Arts Commons (Engineered Air Theatre)
When: Friday, March 18 & Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 8 pm
Who: Arts Commons Presents
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/ulmer

The 2021-22 season of the PCL Blues series, produced by Arts Commons Presents features a powerhouse line-up of blues performers from both North and South of the border. Arts Commons is proud to showcase the best in blues in the unique and intimate Engineered Air Theatre of Arts Commons. Coming up this season, we are happy to welcome Canadian blues ice queen **Sue Foley** – April 22 & 23, 2022, and recent JUNO Award winning **Crystal Shawanda** – May 27 & 28, 2022.

To purchase tickets to James Blood Ulmer, or any performances in the PCL Blues series, please call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/blues.

For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:
Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager
403-870-2810 abonyun@artscommons.ca

Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the third largest performing arts centre in Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, PCL Blues, TD Amplify Cabarets, and TD Jazz, as well as the work that we do in the community. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on a multitude of levels.

-##-



Public Sector Support

