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**THE 2011 SOLOS & DUOS SERIES PRESENTS:**

**James “Blood” Ulmer**

The Solos & Duos Series, produced by the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, continues its 10th season with a concert by **James “Blood” Ulmer** on **Thursday, September 29**, in **Bezanson Recital Hall at 8:00pm**.

Guitarist and vocalist James “Blood” Ulmer has spent the last 40 years forging a singular sound that unites blues and creative music in new ways. "Avant-gutbucket," is how Bill Milkowski describes it, "conjuring images of Skip James and Albert Ayler jamming on the Mississippi Delta."

Born in St. Matthews, South Carolina in 1942, Ulmer was performing in a popular youth gospel band, the *Southern Sons*, by the time he was six. He moved to Pittsburg, playing with various soul jazz ensembles, and first recorded with organist Big John Patton in 1969. After moving to New York in 1971, Ulmer played with Art Blakey's *Jazz Messengers*, Joe Henderson, Paul Bley, Rashied Ali and Larry Young. In the early 1970s, Ulmer joined Ornette Coleman, and became the first electric guitarist to record and tour extensively with him, forming the first incarnation of Coleman’s electric band, *Prime Time*.

Ulmer has since formed a number of outstanding jazz groups of his own, including the *Music Revelation Ensemble* with David Murray and Ronald Shannon Jackson, with whom he recorded throughout the 1980s and 1990s. At various times the group also featured Julius Hemphill, Arthur Blythe, Sam Rivers, and Hamiet Bluiett on saxophones and flutes. In the 1980s he co-led, with saxophonist George Adams, the ensemble *Phalanx*. Ulmer’s *Odyssey* band, with drummer Warren Benbow and violinist Charles Burnham, has been recording since the mid-1980s, and performed at the University’s Magic Triangle Jazz Series in 2006.

“Blood” Ulmer’s 2005 solo release, *Birthright*, (Hyena Records) was selected as the Blues Album of the Year in *Down Beat* Readers' Poll. In his 4-star review, Thom Jurek stated, "*Birthright* is the album Ulmer should have made years ago. All that matters is that listeners have it now. It's a shining star in his catalog and a chillingly intimate portrait of his expansive vision and singular talent."

His three other blues-oriented recordings for Hyena were produced by fellow-guitarist Vernon Reid, and were recorded at Sun Studios (Memphis), Electric Lady Studios (New York) and Piety Street Studios (New Orleans).

Tickets are still only \$10 and \$5 (students), and are available through the FAC box office, 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS. Join us Oct. 26 to see Joshua Abrams’ New Information Society and Dec. 2 to see Wadada Leo Smith/Günther “Baby” Sommer Duo, live on the UMass campus.

*The Solos & Duos Series is produced by the UMass Fine Arts Center. Thanks to the UMass Hotel at the Campus Center. Amherst College and WMUA, 91.1FM*



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