

## **James Blood Ulmer – Solos**

MVD Visual/Wienerworld MVD5012D

James Blood Ulmer has forged a formidable reputation as a jazz and occasionally blues guitarist – although it has to be said that even when playing jazz, blues sensibilities are evident just below the surface.

This DVD – a part of MVD’s “The Jazz Sessions” series – finds Ulmer in startling and mesmerising form playing finger style on electric guitar, playing flute and also laying down some of the most soulful blues vocals you are ever likely to hear – Ulmer living up to his statement that “you have to be the way you want to play”. The camera work throughout is top-notch, filmed in shades of blues, browns and greys that complement the music to perfection.

Ulmer opens with his classic “Are You Glad To Be In America?”, it’s haunting melody delivered by deeply blues inflected vocals and guitar. “Black Sheep” is an almost transcendental instrumental with Ulmer’s guitar in deep conversation with the melody – “Satisfy (Story Of My Life)” maintaining the mood and feel but accentuating it with deep blues vocals. The deeply emotive “In The Name” has a strong spiritual feel – “Street Bride” is a masterclass in blues inflected jazz that has an almost ethereal beauty – “Where Did All The girls Come From?” is almost “Dylanesque in it’s approach – whilst “Secret” is a hushed exercise in experimental jazz flute.

If you would like to see and hear one of the greats of modern jazz and blues guitar at the peak of his form then this is for you. ([www.wienerworld.com](http://www.wienerworld.com))

Rating 9

Mick Rainsford