Thu, Aug 13 at 8pm
Royce Hall

RUNNING TIME:
Approximately two-and-a-half hours including one intermission

PROGRAM
The Record Company
Christopher Vos   Lead vocals, Guitar
Marc Cazorla   Drums
Alex Stiff   Drums/Percussion

INTERMISSION
Buddy Guy               The Real Deal
Tim Austin   Drums
Ric Hall   Guitar
Marty Sammon   Keyboards
Orlando Wright   Bass Guitar

ABOUT THE ARTISTS
At age 79, Buddy Guy is a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, a major influence on rock titans like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, a pioneer of Chicago’s fabled West Side sound, and a living link to the city’s halcyon days of electric blues. He has received 6 GRAMMY Awards, along with a 2015 Lifetime Achievement GRAMMY Award, 34 Blues Music Awards (the most any artist has received), the Billboard Magazine Century Award for distinguished artistic achievement, and the Presidential National Medal of Arts. Rolling Stone Magazine ranked him No.23 in its “100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time.”

Though Buddy Guy will forever be associated with Chicago, his story actually begins in Louisiana. One of five children, he was born in 1936 to a sharecropper’s family and raised on a plantation near the small town of Lettsworth, located some 140 miles northwest of New Orleans. Buddy was just seven years old when he fashioned his first makeshift “guitar”—a two-string contraption attached to a piece of wood and secured with his mother’s hairpins.
MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER:

Welcome to the first performance of the CAP UCLA 2015-2016 season! We’re getting together a bit early this year in the heat of summer to welcome a legendary force in the history and tapestry of blues music and a perennial Los Angeles performing favorite—Buddy Guy.

Buddy Guy often talks about his fears and hopes for the blues, his urgent desire to keep this art form alive, thriving and part of our modern playlists. He’s a tireless advocate for the greats who came before him, who inspired him, all of whom still have the ability to lift us up when we hear their timeless music.

Blues is music that comes straight from the soul and cuts to the heart of things—good things, joyful things expressed as often and as earnestly as laments, melancholy and longing. We each encounter such things in our daily lives, though hopefully experiencing more joy than sorrow. Either way, it is artists like Buddy Guy who can give us a shared moment of connection, a chance to update the soundtrack of our lives in a meaningful and long-lasting way.

The blues and songs of greats gone by may in fact be missing from a lot of playlists in our current listening climate. But we, like Buddy, think it’s important to listen to the masters, to take inspiration from what they wrought, to celebrate and build upon it. And we think the blues can still thrive.

Part of our optimism is the fact that you are here, reading these words, sitting in this hall that has seen so many greats in so many musical forms over the course of a near-century. You are updating your life’s playlist by joining us tonight, by supporting local blues trio The Record Company in their Royce Hall debut, a group hand-picked by Buddy Guy start tonight’s show.

We’re glad you’re here to share it with us. Let’s keep the blues alive.

In 1957, he took his guitar to Chicago, where he would permanently alter the direction of the instrument, first on numerous sessions for Chess Records playing alongside Howlin’ Wolf, Muddy Waters, and the rest of the label’s legendary roster, and then on recordings of his own. His incendiary style left its mark on guitarists from Jimmy Page to John Mayer. “He was for me what Elvis was probably like for other people,” said Eric Clapton at Guy’s Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction in 2005. “My course was set, and he was my pilot.”

These many years later, Buddy Guy is a genuine American treasure, and one of the final surviving connections to an historic era in the country’s musical evolution. He keeps looking to the future of the blues through his ongoing work with his 15-year-old protégé, Quinn Sullivan. “I worry a lot about the legacy of Muddy, Wolf, and all the guys who created this stuff,” he says. “I want people to remember them. It’s like the Ford car—Henry Ford invented the Ford car, and regardless how much technology they got on them now, you still have that little sign that says ‘Ford’ on the front. One of the last things Muddy Waters told me—when I found out how ill he was, I gave him a call and said, ‘I’m on my way to your house.’ And he said, ‘Don’t come out here, I’m doing all right. Just keep the damn blues alive.’ They all told me that if they left here before I did, then everything was going to be on my shoulders. So as long as I’m here, I’m going to do whatever I can to keep it alive.”

Guy’s most recent album, Born To Play Guitar—the follow-up to his spectacular 2013 No. 1 Billboard Blues album Rhythm and Blues—has brought him back to the top of the charts while receiving critical praise from media and fans alike. Rolling Stone cites “he sings and solos with reliable ferocity” while Glide Magazine gave the album 9 out of 10 stars and states “Guy’s seasoned voice and tasty licks on his ’57 Stratocaster would satisfy any and all fans of his music.
and the genre itself.” The Journal Star proclaims that Guy "delivered a fresh, fully alive album that keeps the blues alive and shows he remains the best at it,” while Rambles.net declares “At 79, he generates more heat and energy than players half his age and, instead of being content to rest on his well-earned reputation, continues to lead the way toward the future of the blues, even as he keeps the past fresh and vibrant.”

Guy was recently chosen for three 2015 Living Blues Awards Readers’ Poll – Blues Artist of the Year (Male), Most Outstanding Musician (Guitar) and Most Outstanding Blues Singer.

Produced by Grammy Award winning producer/songwriter Tom Hambridge, Born To Play Guitar captures Guy keeping the blues alive and features collaborations with Van Morrison, Joss Stone, Kim Wilson and Billy Gibbons. Guy is joined by Morrison on the heartfelt Flesh and Bone, a tribute to B.B. King. On Come Back Muddy, Guy looks back on the good ole days with his close friend Muddy Waters.

THE RECORD COMPANY

In the short span of two years, THE RECORD COMPANY (Los Angeles, CA) has gone from recording their junkiest instruments in the bass player’s living room to playing with a diverse range of music’s top acts including B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Charles Bradley, The Wood Brothers, Social Distortion, and Robert Randolph. This rock/roots/blues trio has been described by Time Out L.A. as if “John Lee Hooker and The Stooges had a love-child.”

Their music has been featured in more than 25 commercial, film, and television placements including ads for Coors Light, Subaru, ABC’s Nashville, CBS’s CSI: Crime Scene Investigation and the theatrical trailer for Last Vegas starring Robert DeNiro, Michael Douglas, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline. The band’s live show has quickly become acclaimed throughout North America and has drawn capacity audiences from Los Angeles to Montreal. Their most recent EP, Feels So Good (11/13), was featured on NPR station KPCC’s show Take Two and last summer included performances at the Montreal Jazz Festival, Summerfest (Milwaukee), Quebec City International Summer Festival, Ottawa Bluesfest, Ottawa Folkfest, and Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival amongst others.

The band has also gained a new fanbase by way of their cover of the Grateful Dead’s New Speedway Boogie, which was chosen by The Dead as one of the top covers of their Dead Covers Project. The band was featured by The Dead on their website (dead.net) for the month of July 2013.

While never trying to simply emulate the great masters, the band has found their own fresh take on the music and can best be described as a group giving a 21st century nod to a timeless art form.
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