

HistoryMakers honoree B. B. King and Bobby 'Blue' Bland to climax 'Year of the Blues'

by Earl Calloway

Pervis Spann, known as the Blues Man, will culminate "The Year of the Blues" with two significant artists B.B. King, Friday, Dec. 19 and Bobby "Blue" Bland Friday, Dec. 26 at the Sabre Room, 8900 W. 95th St. with two shows each evening at 5 and 10 p.m. Tickets are \$50, \$75 and \$100. For more information call 1-

773-247-6514.

Special guests on each of the concerts will be Floyd Taylor, Stand Mosley, JoJo Murray, Howard Scott and the Scott Bros. Band and Carl Wright who will serve as Master of Ceremony.

Radio personality and legendary concert promoter Pervis Spann said, "In as much as the entire year has been nationally dedicated as "Year of the

Blues," it is fitting to stage a concert with two internationally famous blues artists. He further said that B.B. King has been critically acclaimed as 'King of the Blues' for more than four decades. Bobby 'Blue' Bland is credited for bringing the big band sophisticated element to the blues. He returns to Chicago by popular demand."

Blues Man Spann also comments, "Chicago has been long

considered the area where blues developed into its modern elements and ultimately emerged as the home of the blues." It was here in Chicago that hundreds of musicians made Chicago their home. It was the Chess Brothers who provided recording opportunities for the many aspiring musicians to showcase their talents.

A highlight of "The Year of the Blues" was The

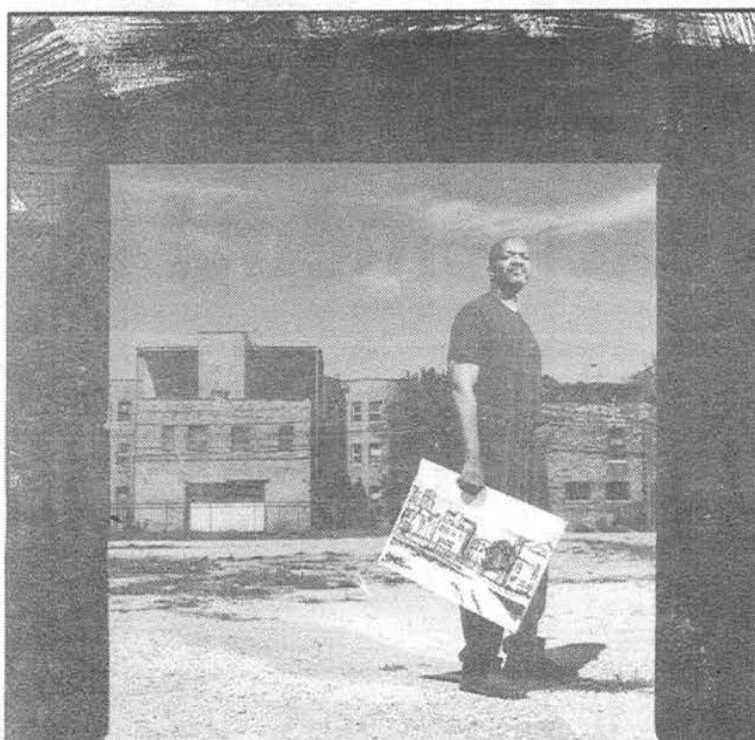
HistoryMakers 4th annual celebrity interview event, "An Evening with B.B. King" that followed the Public Broadcast Systems telecast of the historic elements that circulated in Chicago. With Isaac Hayes interviewing the famous blues star about experiences together the occasion was historically and culturally significant. "Two very influential musicians of our time were brought together to represent blues and R & B at this event. I was just so thrilled to be a part of this event and support history in the making," commented Sue Carey.

Producer Spann was the first to present B.B. King in a significant concert after he has appeared in many of the juke-joints, drive-ins and night clubs in the Windy City. He traveled from Memphis to Chicago often. It was on Cermak Road between Michigan and Wabash Avenues that he visited Mr. John's Barber Shop. One of B.B. King's first boss concerts was at the Regal Theatre on South Parkway (King Drive). As he became popular he performed at the Arie Crown Theatre, the International Amphitheater, Mill Run, the Auditorium Theatre, the Blue Max, the Chicago and Rosemont Theatres as well as the Star Plaza in Merrillville, Ind.

At 78 years mature, Riley "B.B." King has spent more than half a century on the road. Since he started recording in the 1940s, he has released more than 50 albums, and averaged more than 250 performances a year. His tour of Russia was one of the greatest in the country and his performances through Europe were phenomenal.

King has earned numerous awards and honors including induction into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1984, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, and the NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame in 1999. He has also won 11 Grammy Awards and was awarded the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences' Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award in 1987.

The celebrated artist has also been awarded honorary degrees from colleges and universities across the country including Yale University. In 1995, he received the prestigious Kennedy Honors from President Clinton at the White House.



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