



Alex **Schultz**
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Alex Schultz

BIOGRAPHY

ALEX WAS BORN IN NEW YORK CITY IN 1954, AND AT A YOUNG AGE BECAME IMMERSSED in the city's legacy of jazz. Studied with guitarist George Barnes and at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Early exposure to BB King, James Cotton and the Butterfield Blues Band planted seeds of a lifelong love of blues music.

Schultz moved to Los Angeles in 1979 and established himself as both a bass player and guitarist on the roots music scene, working for two and a half years with rock and roll/rhythm and blues pioneer Hank Ballard. This provided some early road experience, including playing Antone's in Austin, Texas in 1986 and sharing stages with Jerry Lee Lewis, Albert Collins and many other greats.

Beginning 1986 worked with L.A. harmonica master William Clarke: recorded the W.C. Handy award winning album "Blowing Like Hell", played and recorded with Smokey Wilson, and made appearances on all 4 of Clarke's releases on Chicago's Alligator label.

This period saw gigs with a who's-who of the Los Angeles roots music scene, including Coco Montoya, Debbie Davies, Finis Tasby, Steve Samuels, Rob Rio, and countless others.

In 1988 began a seven year, five record association with Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers, touring Australia, Japan, Europe and Scandinavia. Recordings included two albums on the Black Top label and "Live at BB King's" recorded in Memphis. During this time the Flyers backed Jimmy Rogers, Lowell Fulson, Louis Myers, Pine Top Perkins, James Cotton, Robert Ward, Earl King, Snooks Eaglin, Albert Collins, Larry Davis, etc. and supported the likes of Albert King, BB King, Al Green, Robert Cray, Dr. John, The Neville Bros., The Allman Bros. and more. Schultz left the group in '95 to pursue other projects as a free agent.

The first of these was a three year collaboration with blues rebel Lester Butler (ex- 'Red Devils' harmonica and vocals) which resulted in the HighTone album "13 Featuring Lester Butler" and 4 European tours.

At the same time, Schultz appeared on two Delmark releases with old New York friend Tad Robinson, a collaboration that continues to the present day: co-producing and playing on Tad's 2005 Handy nominated "Did You Ever Wonder" on the Severn label, numerous festival appearances in the U.S. and Europe, and playing on Tad's upcoming (2007) release "A New Point Of View".

A wide variety of freelance work has resulted in many recordings and tours, with artists including Italian harmonica player Egidio 'Juke' Ingala, Washington DC jump blues masters Big Joe & the Dynafloes, nu-swing band Royal Crown Revue, 'Sax' Gordon, Sugar Ray Norcia, Jimmy Morello, keyboardist Benjie Porecki, Kirk 'Eli' Fletcher, Mickey Champion, Frank 'Paris Slim' Goldwasser, Germany's BB & the Blues Shacks, Italian guitarist Enrico Crivellaro and Austria's Raphael Wressnig.

Finally, in October 2004, after playing on over 40 discs, Schultz's first solo CD, "Think About It", was released on the Severn label, bringing it all back home.

Alex Schultz

DISCOGRAPHY

DATE	ARTIST	TITLE	INFO
2004	Tad Robinson	Did You Ever Wonder?	Severn
2004	Alex Schultz	Think About It	Severn
2004	Down Home Super Trio	Down Home Super Trio	Crosscut
2003	Frank Goldwasser	Bluju	Crosscut
2003	BB & The Blues Shacks	Blue Avenue	Crosscut
2003	Enrico Crivellaro	Key To My Kingdom	Electro-Fi
2002	Mickey Champion	What You Want	Tondef
2002	Egidio 'Juke' Ingala Band	Drivin' & Jivin'	Kayman
2001	V.A.	Bluestown- Notodden Blues Fest Vol. 2	BTR
1999	Doug Jay	Get It While It's Hot	Out Of Space
1999	Kirk 'Eli' Fletcher	I'm Here, I'm Gone	JSP
1999	Egidio 'Juke' Ingala Band	Nite Life Boogie	Stumble
1998	Tad Robinson	Last Go Round	Delmark
1998	Big Joe & The Dynafloes	I'm Still Swinging	Severn
1998	Jimmy Morello	The Road I Travel	JSP
1998	Benjie Porecki	Servin' It Up	Severn
1997	13	13 Featuring Lester Butler	Hightone
1997	Robert Lucas	Completely Blue	Audioquest
1997	V.A.	The Songs Of Janis Joplin	Ruf
1997	Sweet Betty	They Call Me Sweet Betty	JSP
1996	William Clarke	The Hard Way	Alligator
1995	V.A.	Blues Costume Party	Black Top
1995	V.A.	Blues Mistletoe & Santa's Little Helper	Black Top
1994	Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers	Live At B.B. King's	Big Mo
1994	William Clarke	Groove Time	Alligator
1994	Tad Robinson	One To Infinity	Delmark
1993	Lynn August	Sauce Piquante	Black Top
1992	V.A.	Blues Guitar Spotlight	Black Top
1992	V.A.	Blues Pajama Party	Black Top
1992	Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers	Alphabet Blues	Black Top
1992	William Clarke	Serious Intentions	Alligator
1991	V.A.	L.A. Blues Anthology- Hard Times	Black Magic
1991	V.A.	Blues Cocktail Party	Black Top
1991	Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers	Blues In The Dark	Black Top
1990	William Clarke	Blowin' Like Hell	Alligator
1990	Bill Stuve	Big Noise	Tramp
1988	Rod Piazza	So Glad To Have The Blues	Murray Bros.
1988	The Mighty Flyers	Undercover	Special Delivery
1988	Steve Samuels	Saturday Night Blues	Blue Sting
1986	Smokey Wilson & The William Clarke Band	S/T	Black Magic
1984	Jimmy Rogers	Feeling Good	Murray Bros. & Blind Pig

Think About It Album Review

All Music Guide • by Hal Horowitz

If the sepia-toned photos of the guitarist aren't enough indication that this album is a throwback to his jump blues roots, the "no Stratocasters were used in the making of this recording," liner note should settle it. An experienced musician with an impressive résumé supporting blues acts such as William Clarke, Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers, and Tad Robinson (who contributes vocals to three tracks here), Alex Schultz doesn't use his first solo album as a showcase for his impressive guitar skills. In fact, after recording the bulk of the tracks in 2001, he returned to the studio in 2003 to add three more instrumentals -- the only originals on the album -- that feature his clean yet tough guitar solos. The result is a well-rounded, horn-dominated project that recalls the great jump blues of the '40s and '50s, but retains enough contemporary sheen not to seem dated. Schultz's snappy lead lines and sure sense of style guide these 13 tracks. Veterans Finis Tasby, Lynwood Slim, and Robinson provide vocals on ten tunes, and all are in stunning form. The various singers mesh with the instrumentals to provide a diverse but focused album that never lags. Schultz digs into his influences to cover songs from Charlie Rich, Jimmy McCracklin, and Eddie "Guitar Slim" Jones, among others, all of which are delivered with style, sophistication, and a genuine respect for the genre. The closing Finis Tasby tune shifts into swampy territory with just standup bass and brushed drums as accompaniment. There isn't a false note on the disc as it swings with finger-popping, toe-tapping energy that will impress even the most dedicated lover of classic jump blues.

Rating: 9 out of 10

Think About It Album Review by Beardo

BluesWax • March 10, 2005

Supreme Sideman Going it Alone

After paying dues with the likes of William Clarke and Rod Piazza, time with Lester Butler in the ill-fated progressive Blues band 13, and countless guest appearances as a guitarist/producer, the supreme sideman himself, Alex Schultz, has finally released a solo album. Even this CD was conceived from two different recording sessions that were years apart.

Enlisting people from the previously mentioned recording projects, Alex assembled a formidable band(s). The vocal duties are shared by his childhood pal Tad Robinson, Finis Tasby, and Lynwood Slim. Shultz provides a showcase for these remarkable singers at the apex of their game and singing songs that fit each like a tailored suit. Robinson's take on the classic, "Who Will Your Next Fool Be" and Tasby's work on his own composition, "Walkin' and Talkin,'" are but the shiniest gems in this highly polished setting. Add veteran Larry Taylor on bass, The Royal Crown Horns, plus factoring in the first session was just days after 9/11, you realize just how special this recording is.

Alex figured out, and rightly so, that a guitar player's CD should have some six-string-laden instrumentals. Session two was added with three Schultz-penned tunes that again included the horns and this time old band mate Bill Stuve on upright bass. Included are a big band arrangement, "Big Time," a West Coast Swing tune, "Lexington Express," and the self explanatory "Rhumba & Orange."

Think About It was what Alex Schultz did for a couple years and it was worth the wait.

Think About It Album Review by Jeff Harris Bad Dog Blues • February 2005

There's a number of great blues session players out there, those hired guns who who can step add add a some extra sizzle when called upon. Guitarist Alex Schultz has been one of those guys for nearly two decades and finally gets a chance to step out front on his classy debut, "Think About It."

Blues fans will know Schultz from his lengthy stint as the axe man in Rod Piazza's band, appearing on "Blues in the Dark", "Alphabet Blues", "California Blues", and "Live at B.B. King's Blues Club." He also freelanced with Tad Robinson, Big Joe and the Dynafloes, Benjie Porecki and William Clarke. Schultz played on Clarke's great "Blowin' Like Hell" album, which won a W.C. Handy.

"Think About It" is a long overdue debut and while Schultz's name is on the cover this is an ensemble project all the way. He sums up the project this way: "I believe my own strengths lie as an ensemble player, so for me a solo project needed to be about an exceptional band - a classic "uptown" ensemble playing swinging tunes and highlighting some remarkable singers." That's exactly what we get here as Schultz and the band swing and jump through a vintage set of tunes all with a distinctive West Coast sound punctuated by Schultz's tasty, understated guitar work. Alternating on the vocals are three terrific singers: Tad Robinson, Lynwood Slim and Finis Tasby. Tasby is a veteran singer who can flat out sing the blues and has guested on a number of fine records recently including those by Kirk Fletcher, Enrico Crivellaro and his most recent effort, "The Mannish Boys", with a stellar roster of West Coast all-stars. Tasby shines on a slinky cover of Guitar Slim's classic "Done Got Over", a smoldering version of Freddie King's "I Love The Woman" and the rock solid groove of Jimmy McCracklin's "Think" featuring background vocals from Tad and Lynwood and some big toned stinging fret work from Schultz. Robinson's soulful vocals are a highlight on the swinging "Act Right" featuring some marvelous B-3 from Alberto Marsico, a stripped down and stately version of Charlie Rich's timeless "Who Will The Next Fool Be" while Lynwood sparkles on the hand clapping, 50's New Orleans feel of "No Use Knocking." Schultz steps out on three instrumentals backed by the excellent Royal Crown Horns and ace piano man Carl Sonny Leyland. "Big Time" has a lazy, retro vibe as Schultz really stretches out, "Lexington Express" jumps and swings and "Rhumba & Orange" is a fine rhumba styled number that really cooks.

As Schultz states this is "not a typical "guitar-slinger" record by any means." "Think About It" is a first class ensemble record featuring great singers, songs and plenty of wonderful guitar work. Hands down one of the year's best.

Blues Bytes Album Review by Bill Mitchell, December 2004

One of the more vastly underrated guitarists on the blues scene today is Alex Schultz. He's known to many as the former guitarist with The Mighty Flyers, and more recently has done some outstanding session work for Maryland-based Severn Records.

Schultz's work on recent Severn releases has been frequently applauded in Blues Bytes, most notably for his incredible playing on Tad Robinson's latest album, *Did You Ever Wonder?* Severn gives Schultz the opportunity to spread his wings and show off his prodigious talents on *Think About It*, his first solo release. The result is a superb album of blues guitar, with side trips into other styles.

Schultz is a guitar player ... period. He doesn't sing on this disc, but he's lined up a solid array of guest vocalists: Finis Tasby, Lynwood Slim and the aforementioned Robinson. Each singer brings his own style to the sessions, resulting in a widely varied but consistently excellent collection of songs.

Kicking things off is a mid-tempo Louisiana swamp blues, "Done Got Over It," originally recorded by Guitar Slim. Finis Tasby brings a relaxed down-home quality to the vocals, with Jim Jedeikin contributing a blazing baritone sax solo just before Schultz launches the first of many memorable guitar breaks. He has an uncanny ability to lure the listener into thinking they are getting something good but not great, then turning up the intensity and delivering incendiary guitar licks.

Schultz is at his best when he's playing jump blues, and the Chuck Willis party stomper, "Be Good, Be Gone" showcases his abilities with this style. Lynwood Slim is an appropriate choice for vocals on this tune; in fact, he comes across so well on all three of the cuts on which he's featured that I went scurrying into my CD collection looking for past Lynwood Slim CDs. Mando Dorame (tenor sax) and Alberto Marsico (Hammond organ) are also both featured on their respective instruments.

Lynwood Slim is also heard on the late night, smoky blues of "I Don't Want Your Money, Honey," with Schultz playing extremely tasteful, jazzy guitar. Dorame chips in with another nice sax solo.

Continued

Blues Bytes Continued....

The always fine singer Tad Robinson takes lead vocals on three cuts: the soulful blues shuffle "Let's Start Again," the Wynona Carr song "Act Right," and the slow, mournful Charlie Rich number "Who Will The Next Fool Be," the latter undoubtedly being the high point of this disc. All three cuts are highlighted by great Hammond playing from Marsico, a native Italian who is one of the unsung heroes of this album.

In addition to the opening number, Tasby does an outstanding job on The Five Royales classic "Think." Robinson and Lynwood Slim provide backing vocals here. Schultz backs Tasby with nice B.B.-style guitar on the slow blues "I Love The Woman."

Tasby's final song, and the disc's closing number, "Walkin' and Talkin'," is an original that could easily be mistaken for a Slim Harpo song if a harp break was inserted somewhere in the tune. Schultz assembled a different group of backing musicians, with the exception of retaining the same Royal Crown horn section, for the recording of three instrumentals for this CD, including the slow blues shuffle "Big Time," the jumping "Lexington Express," with red hot T-Bone Walker-style guitar, and the self-descriptive "Rhumba & Orange."

Think About It will hopefully give Schultz more recognition in the blues world. He certainly deserves it.

Think About It Album Review by Billy Hutchinson

The name may not be too well known, but his guitar has served up licks on albums from William Clarke, Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers, Tad Robinson, Jimmy Rogers, Mickey Champion, Robert Lucas, Enrico Crivellaro and a host more besides. Mr. Schultz doesn't even slip in a single vocal track as fellow West Coast guitarist Kid Ramos does; he has left the singing duties to Finis Tasby, Tad Robinson and Lynwood Slim. Amongst the assembled musicians are bassist's Larry Taylor & Bill Stuve, with piano man Carl Sonny Leyland. This album has been in the making awhile as 10 were recorded in Sept. 2001, with the remaining three tunes on May 19th 2003. As to be expected from West Coasters swing music is on here, but there are slow burners, soul/blues and R&B. The instrumental "Rhumba & Orange" manages to mix B.B. King & Freddie King's style all in one; "I Love the Woman" also shows his love of that big guitar tone. The sound is lush with lovely mix, and plenty of horns with saxophonist Mando Doramo deserving a mention. I told West Coast styled harp player Bryan Lynham about this release, and within days of Brian playing it, three other local musicians were into it too. Schultz comes from the very tasty league of guitarists, who favour crafted solos rather than flash-off-the-plank, but note this is definitely not for those who dislike retro. Sadly due to time constraints I have dashed off this review, but in the short time I have played this disc I realise that I will be coming back to it several times soon...