

GUY VERLINDE (B)

High Intensity Blues Slide Guitar & Harmonica

Voted "Best Live Act"

4th Place European Blues Challenge

Winner Belgian Blues Award

Quotes

- "Great songwriter, singer, slide guitar & harmonica player and an exceptional entertainer." *Block Magazine (NL)*
- "Simply impressive how much energy time after time this band gives to their audience" *Back To the Roots Magazine (B)*
- "He sure knows how to blend all the best of the blues tradition into his contemporary songwriting." *Blues&CO Magazine(FR)*
- "Definitely the future of Belgian Blues" *Blues Matters magazine (UK)*
- "What a warm musician! As if the spirit of Rory Gallagher reincarnated in this Belgian blues man" *Bluesnews magazine (D)*
- "Rooted in the history of the blues, with branches that'll be important for the future of the blues" *Concerto Magazine (AT)*

Guy Verlinde

After years of hard work, Guy is now the pride of the Belgian blues scene. Although it may sound like a dusty cliché, he is by far "the hardest working performer". Today, also the European blues scene has discovered and embraced his warm, genuine and energetic performances with his Mighty Gators, Houserockers, One Man band or Blues in Schools project. His authentic and soulful slide guitar and blues harp styles bring high energy to every show he plays. He is a real crowd pleaser who always totally surrenders to his audience.

Guy Verlinde & the Mighty Gators

is Belgium's most popular blues band, consistently delivering high-energy shows with genuine foot stompin' blues music. This band carries on the traditions of American blues masters from the Mississippi Delta to Chicago's Southside. Guy Verlinde & the Mighty Gators always succeed in bringing the crowd to the dance floor with their tight, groovy, honest riffs and licks. He says: „In a world of plastic and virtuality, people want real things." Guy is not only an excellent musician and singer, but also an all-round entertainer, backed by his solid band "The Mighty Gators". It does not matter for whom he plays or where he performs, people always start shaking their asses and having a mighty good time, when Guy Verlinde & The Mighty Gators are on stage. Laissez le Bon Ton Rouler!!!

Guy Verlinde & The Houserockers

In 2011 Guy Verlinde recorded his Hound Dog Taylor tribute album, in which he honored the Chicago slide guitar legend by playing his music in the same setting and style as the master himself. Today, the band sounds tighter than ever and over the years it has acquired its own identity and sound. In 2017 they release their album "How How How", original songs within the same tradition, the sound and energy of Hound Dog Taylor. With Guy and his Houserockers on the stage, people always take part in a wild blues party with a mix of old school Chicago style and contemporary sounds you can hear with artists like The Black Keys, Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, Seasick Steve, ... All songs are played in the key of C, with 2 fat soundin' guitars and a quirky drum.

Guy Verlinde One Man Band

It all started for Guy Verlinde with an acoustic guitar & a blues harp. Although he never picked cotton on the fields, he surely had his share of bad luck and trouble. You can hear these feelings and thoughts in his original contemporary acoustic blues songs, with deep roots ranging from Flanders' clay, over the Mississippi Delta to the swamps of Louisiana. During his One Man Band shows Guy Verlinde takes his audience back to the roots of his musical career and plays a variety of resonator guitars, a Weissenborn guitar, some harmonicas, while using an old suitcase as a kick drum.

Blues In Schools

The "Blues in Schools" project is a music education program developed by Guy Verlinde that gives young people an overview of the different styles of blues (Delta Blues, Chicago Blues, ...), the most influential musicians (Muddy Waters, BB King, ...) and the most important instruments (guitar, harmonica, ...) and also highlights the sociocultural background of the blues with stories and anecdotes. Each story is illustrated by musical examples, performed live.

www.guyverlinde.com

BIOGRAPHY

After years of hard work Guy Verlinde has become the Belgian blues pride. And though it may sound like a dusty cliché, he's by far "the hardest working performer" within the Belgian blues scene. In eight years he released 9 albums and signed a record deal with the prestigious labels Parsifal (B) & Dixefrog Records (FR). In 2011 he won the Belgian Blues Award. He represented Belgium at the European Blues Challenge '12 in Berlin (D), and in 2014 he was voted "Best Live Act". The last few years the European Blues scene has also discovered Guy Verlinde after his tours in Holland, Germany, France, Austria, Spain, Switzerland, Slovakia, Luxembourg, ...

Guy Verlinde not only tours non-stop with his band "The Mighty Gators". He also performs as a "One Man Band" with his resonator & Weissenborn guitars & an old suitcase as drumkit. In 2011 he founded the only Hound Dog Taylor tribute band in Europe, to keep the legacy of Hound Dog Taylor alive. As he once got infected by the blues at a young age, Guy Verlinde also wants to introduce the blues to youngsters. Therefore he has a "Blues in Schools" project. And he organizes two times a month a blues jam session in his home town Ghent for young blues musicians. As his slide guitar & harp style are very emotional, unique & authentic, a Guy Verlinde show is always very energetic. As he says: "In a world of plastic & virtuality, people want real things". A Guy Verlinde show is all about energy and total surrender to the audience. This makes him a real crowd pleaser.

As a young blues musician he already played the support act for great blues artists like B.B. King (US), John Fogerty (US), Keb' Mo' (US), Kenny Wayne Sheppard (US), Jimmy Vaughan (US), Jim Shuler (US), Lucky Peterson (US), Otis Taylor (US), Ian Siegal (UK), Shemekia Copeland (US), ... In 2010 he recorded with Texan Blues artist Guy Forsyth (US) the album Banana Peel Sessions and in 2011 he toured Europe with his Chicago slide guitar hero Studebaker John.

Guy Verlinde was born on the 22nd of March 1976 in a small village near Bruges. As a child he was always obsessed with music: making his own toy guitars, being a bedroom dj, singing in the church choir, being a local playback star, playing in the local harmony ... But it all started to fall into place when he bought his first guitar and harp at the age of 16. After moving to Bruges, he discovered the blues through the massive record collection of a friend's father. Soon after he founded his first band Smokin' Chillums at the age of 17. They played on the Belgian & Dutch blues scene intensively for 6 years.

Every talent needs a master, a guide and a bullshit detector. After moving to the city of Ghent, he met slide guitar player Marino Noppe of the legendary bluesband Maxwell Street. He spent countless hours in his house, listening to old vinyl & blues stories and playing his old vintage guitars. With Marino he learned everything about being a blues musician. As the backing guitar player of Maxwell Street he toured through the States and Europe playing with Hash Brown, Johnny Moeller and Louisiana Blues legend Roscoe Chenier.

Together with Marino Noppe he started the band Mo' Rice, in which Guy Verlinde for the first time really focussed on the blues harp. During that time he developed himself as an energetic harp player influenced by Sonny Boy Williamson II, Junior Wells, James Cotton and Lester Butler, who had a big impact on his playing.

Since he started playing the guitar, Guy Verlinde, who was first influenced by Chris Whitley and later blown away by Hound Dog Taylor, has felt attracted to the slide guitar. It became clear that this was his path to walk. Even though he incorporated the soul of the traditional slide guitar players as Fred McDowell, Bukka White, Elmore James ... , he also got inspired by contemporary artists like John Mooney, Anders Osborne, Sonny Landreth, Ben Harper and John Butler.

DISCOGRAHY

- How How How (2017) - Electric Studio CD/LP
- Rooted In The Blues (2016) - Electric Studio CD/LP
- Better Days Ahead (2015) - Electric Studio CD/LP
- Oorlogsstemmen (2014) – Acoustic Studio CD (download only)
- Inhale My World (2013) – Electric Studio CD/LP
- Blood For Kali (2012) - Acoustic Studio CD/LP
- Plays Hound Dog Taylor (2012) - Live CD/LP
- Banana Peel Sessions ft. Guy Forsyth (2010) - Live CD
- Live From The heart (2009) - Live CD
- Lookin' Back (2008) – Compilation CD '98-'08