

Saffire, Uppity Blues Women - White Mountain Boogie and Blues (2009)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Wild Women* 2 *Big ovarys baby* 3 *Hard to sing the blues* 4 *Sloppy Drunk* 5 *Bad Debt* 6 *Spread your wings* 7 *Hop on your harley* 8 *Too much butt* 9 *Drown in my own tears* 10 *No Place to go* 11 *Crazy* Saffire: Gaye Adegbalola - guitar, vocals Ann Rabson - piano, vocals Andra Faye – bass, vocals

“A rollicking joyride of infectious blues energy...smart and sexy, soulful and sassy” –Chicago Sun-Times

Ann Rabson, Gaye Adegbalola and Andra Faye, the spirited women of Saffire–The Uppity Blues Women, have never shied from speaking their minds. During the course of their 25-year career, words like ‘fearless,’ ‘inspiring,’ ‘witty,’ ‘joyful’ and ‘powerful’ have been used to describe their smart, sassy, and deeply emotional blues. A review in Ms. Magazine perfectly summed up the band’s incredible rise to the top: “Recipe for success: start with three talented musicians. Stir in rich melodies, honky-tonk rhythms and spicy-hot lyrics. Then add a bucketful of courage, the kind it takes to leave home and career in mid-life. Simmer for a few hours in smoky roadhouses and cheap motels. The result? Saffire–The Uppity Blues Women.”

The trio’s new Alligator CD, *Havin’ The Last Word*, will be their final declaration together as Saffire–The Uppity Blues Women; the group has decided it’s time to move on so they can pursue their own individual interests. But pianist/guitarist/vocalist Rabson, guitarist/harmonicist/vocalist Adegbalola and multi-instrumentalist/vocalist Faye have plenty to say with *Havin’ The Last Word*. From the uplifting opening track “Going Down To The River” to the saucy ode to aging, “Growing Older,” to the salacious “Bald Eagle” (Gaye’s hilarious follow up to fan favorite “Silver Beaver”) to the heartbreaking “Blue Lullaby,” *Havin’ The Last Word* is a showcase for the band’s stellar musicianship (including Gaye’s slide guitar solo debut on “Bald Eagle”), razor-sharp wit and provocative songwriting. As their fans have come to expect, the CD

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also features terrific vocals, rollicking piano, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, upright bass and harmonica.

Making their final record together in their hometown of Fredericksburg, VA was a true labor of love. “After nearly eight years, it was exciting to get back into the recording studio with my sisters,” Gaye Adegbalola recalls. “From song searches to songwriting, we worked really hard. Every song offers something special for the listener.” Ann Rabson also “wanted this farewell recording to be special, personal and historic.” Andra Faye agrees. “We all put our hearts and souls into every project, but this one is definitely special as it feels like the cap on our ‘legacy’.”

The decision to retire the band and go their separate ways was a natural progression. Gaye explains, “All three of us have different needs and different visions. For many years, our visions coincided and Saffire provided a realization of our visions. But, as we have aged and grown, our individual agendas have changed. The love has not changed. The love of the music and each other has not subsided. We continue to support each other’s varied visions—whether manifested on a front porch or in a world-wide, thousands-of-listeners arena.”

Saffire–The Uppity Blues Women burst onto the national music scene in 1990 with the release of their self-titled debut album, after six years of playing locally and regionally. With their brazen, no-holds-barred acoustic blues, Saffire took the music world by storm and earned legions of fans of all ages and genders around the globe. The group quickly went from being local favorites to internationally recognized blues stars, sharing stages with Koko Taylor, B.B. King, Ray Charles and Willie Dixon, who said of the band, “They knock me out.” National media like People, Entertainment Tonight, CNN’s Showbiz Today and National Public Radio’s Weekend Edition sang the band’s praises. With seven critically acclaimed albums, a large, loyal fan base, countless awards, and thousands of sold-out shows under their belts, plus a soon-to-be released documentary, Hot Flash, chronicling their storied history, Saffire–The Uppity Blues Women have achieved success beyond their wildest dreams.

With their music Rabson, Adegbalola and Faye reestablish and update the long tradition of uppity women blues singers like Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Sippie Wallace and Memphis Minnie. Mixing first-rate musicianship with equal parts of sass, soul and humor, Saffire unleashes unforgettable originals, composed with humor and poignancy, alongside definitive versions of classic blues songs. The Los Angeles Weekly says, “Their sweetly raunchy combination of cover chestnuts and outspoken originals turn double-entendre lyrics on their head.” In 1990, Gaye won a Blues Music Award for “Song Of The Year” for her raucous Middle-Aged Blues Boogie, featuring the oft-quoted lines, “an old woman don’t yell/an old woman don’t tell/an old woman don’t swell/and she’s grateful as hell/I need a young, young

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man/to drive away my middle aged blues." ---amazon.com

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