

Mitch Kashmar - Nickels & Dimes (2005)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Dirty Deal* (Mitch Kashmar) 4'02 02. *Nickels & Dimes* (Mitch Kashmar) 5'51 03. *New York Woman* (Mitch Kashmar) 3'33 04. *Just Show It To Me* (Mitch Kashmar) 3'40 05. *Lizzy Mae* (Abu Talib) 4'46 06. *Gettin' Drunk* (Johnny Watson) 3'24 07. *Becky Ann* (Mitch Kashmar) 4'29 08. *Knock 'em Dead* (Arthur Adams) 3'35 09. *I Don't Play* (Willie Dixon) 2'17 10. *Whiskey Drinkin' Woman* (Lou Donaldson) 5'12 11. *We're Sittin' Home Tonight* (Mitch Kashmar) 4'28 12. *Who* (Bernard Roth) 4'04 13. *Runnin' Off At The Mouth* (Mitch Kashmar) 4'32 Mitch Kashmar - vocals & harmonica Jr. Watson - guitars except #13 Ronnie James Weber - upright & Fender bass Richard Innes – drums + Bob Welsh - piano, guitar on #13 Arthur Adams - guitar & vocals on #8 Abu Talib - guitar & vocals on #5 Randy Chortkoff - background vocals on #2

"Nickles and Dimes" is not Mitch's first release, but it is certain to be his breakthrough into the mainstream of the blues world. Delta Groove Productions head Randy Chortkoff, one of the West Coast blues scene's movers and shakers for many years, has been a longtime fan and friend of Kashmar. Under Chortkoff's expert guidance Mitch has been teamed up with his longtime friend and collaborator Junior Watson, plus the all-star rhythm section of Richard Innes and Ronnie James Weber, and pianist Bob Welsh. Watson is well-known to blues fans worldwide as the dean of west coast blues guitarists; he was one of the first, and certainly the most influential, to blend gritty Chicago blues with the jazzy sophistication of players such as T-Bone Walker and Pee Wee Crayton. In the process, he created a virtual blueprint for succeeding generations of West Coast guitarists, and pioneered the blues style now known as "West Coast Swing." What Watson is to the guitar, Richard Innes is to drums; it would be far easier to list those he hasn't played with over the last four decades than those he has. His unerring sense of balance between subtle swing and driving power are legendary, and has made him the drummer of choice among those in the know since the late 1960s. Weber is one of the few bass players to completely master both old-school stand-up bass it's modern, funky electric counterpart, making him the perfect choice for this band. And Welsh brings the excitement and enthusiasm of youth to his mastery of the piano styles of such icons as Otis Spann and Lloyd Glenn. The end result of this outstanding combination of talent is one of the deepest-rooted, hardest-swinging, funkier blues outfits you're likely to come across - and one

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that is perfectly tailored to Mitch Kashmar's finely honed blues blend of old school tradition and modern power and sophistication.

Also making guest appearances here are two bona fide blues legends: Arthur Adams and Abu Talib, both incredibly versatile guitarists and singers with long and varied resumé's. Adams began playing blues and gospel in the 1950s, and over the years branched out into session work that has resulted in his guitar being heard on literally hundreds of high-profile recordings by artists as diverse as the Jackson Five, B.B. King, the Jazz Crusaders, and comedian Bill, among many others, in addition to an impressive discography of his own releases going back to the early 1960s. Abu Talib (formerly known as Freddy Robinson) was a member of blues harp icon Little Walter's band in the late '50s, and recorded for Chess in Chicago both as a leader and sideman in the 1960s (he's on Howlin' Wolf's "Back Door Man", "Spoonful" and "Wang Dang Doodle.") His fleet-fingered and sophisticated guitar work later earned him a place in the bands of Ray Charles and John Mayall, among others, along with a lengthy series of releases under his own name beginning in the mid 1960s.

Of course all this impressive company would be for pointless without a strong frontman, but Mitch ably proves he's more than up to the task. He's one of the most soulful and powerful blues singers in the business today, black or white. Add deep-rooted blues harp playing that is second to none for creativity, drive and excitement. And on top of that, he's also a witty and imaginative songwriter, as he displays on the seven originals included here. Season the whole mix with a few decades of experience as a bandleader, and the end result is one of the most exciting blues releases of the year. So sit back, turn it up, and make the "discovery" for yourself - Mitch Kashmar is the real deal. --- cdbaby.com

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