

Maceo Parker - For All The King's Men (1990)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Sax Machine* {B Collins, Maceo Parker, Bobby Byrd} 6:01 2. *Let 'Em Out* {B Collins, M Parker, B Byrd, James Brown, Roger Troutman} 10:39 3. *Tell The World* {B Collins, M Parker, Sylvester Stewart} 3:16 4. *Let 'Em Out (First Cut)* {B Collins, M Parker, B Byrd, J Brown, R Troutman} 8:58 5. *Sax Machine (Bonus Saxed Version)* {B Collins, M Parker, B Byrd} 4:52
Personnel: Produced & Directed: Bill Laswell & Bootsy Collins Vocals: Maceo Parker, Bobby Byrd, Bootsy Collins, Joel "Razor Sharp" Johnson Background Vocals: Carolyn Stanford, Arnenita Walker Background Vocals on "Tell The World": Cynthia Girty Alto Sax: Maceo Parker Trombone: Fred Wesley Guitar, Bass, Drum Programs: Bootsy Collins Organ: Maceo Parker, Sly Stone Synthesizer: Bootsy Collins, Joel "Razor Sharp" Johnson, Jeff Bova Synthesizer on "Tell The World": Sly Stone, Chong Spradley Synclavier on "Sax Machine": Bernie Worrell Piano: Sly Stone Fairlight: Nicky Skopelitis Percussion on "Sax Machine": Timothy "T-Bone" David

"Let 'Em Out" is a great tribute to James Brown, who at the time was in prison. It features a hilarious rap from Byrd and Maceo, and like the first track, it's musically a take-off on "Sex Machine". Snippets of "Soul Power 74" can also be heard, done in an ultra-slow manner. Maceo & Fred really drive the whole thing, with more great keyboard work. Only complaint is the electronic drums, but they're pretty subdued. Bootsy handles the guitarwork as well. Sly Stone weighs in with "Tell The World", a low-key ballad that features Godmoma doing the vocals, backing up Bobby Byrd. Stone handles the keyboard work. A good mood piece, it would probably work better on a longer album as a sort of 'rest piece'. The two remixes differ only slightly from the originals, with the original "Let 'Em Out" less interesting percussively, and the remix of "Saxmachine" is more of an instrumental.

The album was significant as a comeback for a number of people: Bootsy, Maceo, Sly, Bobby Byrd, etc. It's a rousing and varied funk grab-bag that makes you want more. It was done at the same time (and with much the same personnel) as Bootsy's *Jungle Bass* EP, and predated Maceo's hugely successful jazz album *Roots Revisited* by a few months. Both "Saxmachine"

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and "Tell The World" ended up on the Funkcronicomicon album, making this one less of a necessity, but "Let 'Em Out" can only be found here as a studio tune. ---

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