



AUSTIN CITY LIMITS SALUTES B.B. KING

Blues Titan's Iconic 1983 Debut Encores May 23rd on PBS

Austin, TX—May 20, 2015—Once again for the first time, welcome to the [Austin City Limits](#) stage: the King of the Blues, **Mr. B.B. King**.

"[B.B. King](#) personified blues music for the whole world," says Austin City Limits (ACL) executive producer Terry Lickona, "but when he first appeared on Austin City Limits in 1983 it was rare for a blues artist to command a full hour on national television." In honor of the late, undisputed King of the Blues, ACL is proud to bring that iconic hour out from the vault and back to television for the first time in 22 years. This special encore episode airs **Saturday, May 23rd at 8pm CT/9pm ET** on **PBS** stations (check local listings for times).

The first of two legendary appearances on ACL, King's debut episode was recorded in 1982 and originally broadcast in 1983 as part of Season 8. The 11-song set spans the length and breadth of his career to that point, from his then-new album *Love Me Tender* (including "Since I Met You, Baby" and the title track, a cover of the Elvis Presley classic) to his own standards "Everyday I Have the Blues" and "The Thrill is Gone." In a powerhouse performance, King hits full-force with a voice that is neither harsh nor sweet, that bends, like his fingers, with each note.

"There was electricity in Studio 6A that night like no other," says Lickona. "It was pure B.B. - just him, Lucille and one of the best road bands he ever toured with. He mixed up hardcore blues with Elvis ballads, and had the audience in the palm of his hand, following his every lead. It was historic!"

"He was larger than life, but a gentle man with a kind soul and big heart. His ACL performance ranks as one of my personal favorites, and I was never more proud than when he somehow slipped 'Austin City Limits' into the lyric of his classic rendition of Willie Nelson's 'Night Life.' We've lost a giant."

Episode setlist:

"Everyday I Have The Blues"

"Night Life"

"Everybody I Know Sings The Blues"
"Since I Met You Baby"
"Love Me Tender"
"Some Help I Don't Really Need"
"When It All Comes Down"
"One Of Those Nights"
"You And Me, Me And You"
"Someone Really Loves You (Guess Who)"
"The Thrill is Gone"

About Austin City Limits

ACL offers viewers unparalleled access to featured acts in an intimate setting that provides a platform for artists to deliver inspired, memorable, full-length performances. The program is taped live before a concert audience from The Moody Theater in downtown Austin. ACL is the longest-running music series in American television history and remains the only TV series to ever be awarded the National Medal of Arts. Since its inception in 1974, the groundbreaking music series has become an institution that's helped secure Austin's reputation as the Live Music Capital of the World. The historic KLRU Studio 6A, home to 36 years of ACL concerts, has been designated an official Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Landmark. In 2011, ACL moved to the new venue ACL Live at The Moody Theater in downtown Austin. ACL received a rare institutional Peabody Award for excellence and outstanding achievement in 2012.

ACL is produced by KLRU-TV and funding is provided in part by Budweiser, the Austin Convention Center Department, Dell and HomeAway. Additional funding is provided by the Friends of Austin City Limits. Learn more about Austin City Limits, programming and history at acltv.com.

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