

## Hubert Sumlin - Bio

Hubert Sumlin is a living legend. He is the hero of guitar heroes but he doesn't think about that. Sumlin grew up playing his guitar with harmonica great James Cotton. In 1949 at the age of eighteen he became Howlin' Wolf's lead guitarist, a position he held down for the next twenty-five years, except for a brief six-month stint in Muddy Waters' band. He has played with Pinetop Perkins, Willie Dixon, The Rolling Stones, Chuck Berry and countless others. He counts among his biggest fans Jimmy Page, Carlos Santana, and John Mayer as well as Keith Richards and Eric Clapton, both of whom play on his album About Them Shoes.

Sumlin was born in Greenwood, Mississippi. At the age of seven, his family moved to Arkansas. Around this time, Sumlin began fiddling around with some string his brother had nailed into a wall. The young boy became so proficient playing this twine (and annoyed his brother so) that his mother took a week's paycheck and bought her son a guitar of his own to play. History, as they like to say, was made. "I can still remember that day," Sumlin, now well in his 70's, recounts with a smile. "My mom worked at a funeral parlor four miles away. She had to walk eight miles a day there and back to work. It was a Friday and I ran and met her. I loved that guitar, man. Played it all the time. I still have what's left of it."

When Hubert was about 10, he sneaked out to the local juke joint and stood on a pile of Coca Cola crates to see Howlin' Wolf. Drawn in by the music, he fell through the window and landed right on the stage. The club owner tried to throw out the underage boy, but Wolf insisted that Hubert stay and sit on the stage while he played. He later took Hubert home to his Mama and asked that he not be punished.

A few years later, Hubert and James Cotton started a band together. Howlin' Wolf heard about them in West Memphis and soon brought Hubert to Chicago. Along with Wolf's other great guitar players in the '50s, Willie Johnson and Jody Williams, Hubert contributed to some of the deepest, darkest, most primitive and powerful Blues the world has ever known.

In the past few years Hubert has shared the stage with The Rolling Stones, Elvis Costello, Aerosmith, Santana, The Allman Brothers and Derek Trucks Band, not to mention his work with friends and fellow legends, James Cotton, Pinetop Perkins, Willie Smith and Bob Margolin as the "Legends of Chicago Blues". Hubert is better than ever right now....go see for yourself!!