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**Thursday 17th
 October 2002**

+ Peer Gynt

Peer Gynt are a three piece power outfit who opened the show and cleared the wax from our ears. Some fine guitar work and superb songs. Setting fire to his guitar a la Hendrix is not the thing to do in a 135 year old theatre which almost burnt down 17 years ago. Anyway, the Hendrix bit is a bit long in the tooth. If the band concentrate on the music, they should do very well.

One man power-house, amazing guitarist, superb vocals, he will lift your wig to get you in the mood for Walter to complete the job. It's strongly recommended that you are in for 7.30pm to see this lad!

Walter Trout is in the wings, but doesn't wait for the stage managers cue, on he goes, the lighting operator is not ready, the sound man is still playing with his knobs. But that is Walter, keen as mustard to get on there and get on with it. He's direct, can give it slow and easy, or dirty and rough. Between the tunes its the famous Trout humour - I'm sure Walter could do stand up if he wanted to - but its the guitar we want.

Walter goes right to his audience and it was a big one and delivers the stuff that

Walter Trout & The Radicals

Having played alongside some of the greatest names in Blues including **John Lee Hooker**, **Big Mama Thornton**, **John Mayall & The Bluesbreakers** and **Canned Heat**, the adage "six degrees of separation" certainly does not apply to world-renowned musician, Walter Trout. With the release of **Go The Distance**, released last year, fans and critics will no doubt agree that Walter Trout is now zero degrees away from the Blues greats.

The Los Angeles Times describes the Southern California resident as "a torrential, gladiator guitar player - the kind the term 'guitar hero' was coined to describe." With his arresting technique, relentless tour schedule and exhilarating showmanship, Trout merited the cover of **Blues Revue** in October 2000 and his first American live album, **Live Trout** (released in 2000), hit #15 on the Billboard Blues charts. **Go The Distance** increased the forward momentum. The 13 original tunes were recorded at Ardent Studios in Memphis and produced by **Jim Gaines**, (Blues Traveler, Santana, Stevie Ray Vaughan) who also worked on Trout's 1999 **Live In' Every Day** and **Live Trout**. As cuts like "**Ride 'Til I'm Satisfied**" and the title track attest, **Walter Trout & The Radicals'** final destination may be unknown, but they have embarked on the journey and are enjoying the ride, picking up rabid fans along the way.

Playing live is something Trout knew, even as a youngster, that he wanted to do. A chance meeting during his childhood with the mighty **Duke Ellington** catapulted Trout's interest in pursuing a professional music career. "That was the turning point in my life," he recalls. "I was there for two hours while Duke, Cat Anderson, Johnny Hodges and Paul Gonsalves sat in a circle and talked to me about music and life. They were so warm and generous and kind to me. I was in awe."

As a teenager Trout got bit by the rock bug, plugged into an amp and never looked back. It didn't take long for him to gain entry into the major leagues. His ability to tear up the neck made him a sought after sideman for **John Lee Hooker** and eventually launched a solo career after cutting his chops the way **Eric Clapton** and **Mick Taylor** did, playing with **John Mayall & The Bluesbreakers**.

In a BBC radio poll, Trout was ranked #6 out of the top 20 all-time greatest guitarists (where a few more votes would've landed him snugly in the Top 5 amongst **Jimi Hendrix** and **Jimmy Page!**). Trout has his sights set on similar stateside notoriety. His 1998 self-titled release sold 25,000 units, locking the disc into Blues Revue's Top 40 sales chart for a year where it

we love here in the Northeast. As ever the band are brilliant, Jimmy - strong on the bass, Sammy - making the keyboards dance and new drummer Joe - highly animated and a solo that we all loved, he's some lad.

That's it, another awesome two hour show from Walter Trout, just another year before he returns.

venues nationwide, look for Walter Trout & The Radicals to ride coast to coast this summer playing at clubs and festivals including returning to the Tampa Bay Blues Festival after the organizers handed Trout a contract the moment he walked off the stage in 2000.

Both on record and on stage, Walter Trout keeps the art of blues thriving and vivacious. Blues Revue comments "*Trout gets into the groove where the magic happens. But each night offers a particular set of circumstances that keep the music fresh.*" From introspection to full blown rockin' blues, Trout's music is always marked by his adept songwriting, sturdy vocals, searing guitar work and ability to enhance the boundaries of one of music's oldest forms. But as Trout is quick to point out, "*the blues shouldn't be a museum. The music ought to constantly expand and be alive.*"

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