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## Fruteland Jackson, Blues 101







ow run by the Blues Foundation, the Blues in the Schools (BITS) program has a long history. Indeed, as Fruteland Jackson reminds us, Willie Dixon himself launched these courses in 1970 in Chicago... Today, BITS is taught all over the United States, mostly with local blues societies and with the help of well-known artists. For his part, Jackson, who has been involved in this program since 1991, decided to compose a very complete set on the BITS, subtitled "All About The Blues Series".

First of all, it includes three videos for as many levels, elementary (35'), secondary (33') and high school (41'), in which Jackson details the content of the lessons, evokes the history and relies on musical illustrations that he provides himself, because everyone knows that he is also an accomplished bluesman and a captivating "storyteller" who knows the history of his music well.

In addition, there are several documents and tutorials that are very well documented guides for teachers, including a general presentation, different chapters (preparation, exercises, workshops, lessons, etc.), resources, program costs, a bibliography and a discography.

Finally, Jackson adds to the set a few texts that he wrote on his methods and approach to teaching, or on the history of the blues in his country.

Of course, we cannot attribute our own to this collection, which is aimed at teachers, academics, researchers, authors and journalists, and which is also available in English. But in the genre, it is very well done and to our knowledge the first initiative of its kind to publicize the program (details on the <u>fruteland.com</u> website).

## **Daniel Leon**

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