

AL MANISCALCO *quartet*

THE WASHINGTON POST Al Maniscalco Quartet

AT Blues Alley
(1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington)

Post writer Mike Joyce says of Maniscalco's new album "Live at Tidings Park":

Well known or not, each of the tunes allows the gifted reedman and his bandmates plenty of room to stretch out and create a distinctive mood. While the most tuneful and engaging cut comes at the album's close, when Maniscalco reprises "I'll Be Seeing You" in a robust fashion that occasionally evokes images of tenor titan Sonny Rollins taking a final encore, there's not a dud in the bunch. The standards include "What a Difference a Day Made," another example of Maniscalco's knack for soulfully revitalizing pop favorites with his tenor-driven melodic embellishments, and "If This Isn't Love," a soprano showcase that derives much of its tension and energy from the interplay between sax and drums.

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