

Boo Boo Davis - Name Of The Game (2008)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Dirty Dog* [00:04:11] 02. *I'm Comin Home* [00:04:53] 03. *Stay From The Casino* [00:03:47] 04. *Want Nobody Tell Me How To Live My Life* [00:04:14] 05. *Tryin To Get Ahead* [00:03:25] 06. *Name Of The Game* [00:03:06] 07. *Who Stole The Booty* [00:04:42] 08. *Why You Wanna Do It* [00:03:15] 09. *Lonely All By Myself* [00:03:35] 10. *It's A Shame* [00:03:59] 11. *I'm So Tired* [00:05:06] 12. *Hot Foot* [00:02:36] 13. *St Louis Woman* [00:02:56] Boo Boo Davis (vocals, harmonica) Jan Mittendorp (guitar) John Gerritse (drums, percussion)

From primitive drive to soft blues goes Boo Boo Davis's newest album "Name Of The Game". The unclad, bassless trio plays with an appropriate less-is-more attitude, still giving depth to the big picture.

Mississippi Delta-born and bred Boo Boo Davis's latest album "Name Of The Game" is steadfast, primitive blues. Its grooves contain both harshness and soulful moodiness. "Name Of The Game" is the fourth CD by Davis released by Black and Tan Records. Davis grew up with the blues all around him. His father Sylvester Davis played multiple instruments, and jam-sessions at home had friends like Elmore James, John Lee Hooker and Robert Pete Williams - nice guests indeed!

Davis's own playing career started with the harp when he was five years old. In addition, he sang in the church choir. In the early sixties, he and his brothers had a band, which was involved in the lively blues world of St. Louis. They played as the house band at Tabby's Red Room for no less than 18 years.

By his side, Davis has a drummer, John Gerritse, and guitarist Jan Mittendorp. Together they

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make an inspired trio contributing to an album full of interesting and versatile music. Davis has warmth and depth in his voice and his harp has a rich sound to it.

Raw, even primal blues proclaimed in tunes such as "Dirty Dog", "Who Stole the Booty" and "Stay From The Casino" meet with funky "Hot Foot" and the Jimmy Reed-style soft blues tunes "Want Nobody Tell Me How To Live My Life!" and "It`s a Shame".

What might be the highlight of the album is the soul style of "Why You Wanna Do It". Based on a two-chord change swaying back and forth is brilliant in its simplicity. All in all, the music is stripped to its barest and at times creates spaciousness in its monotony.

The spare guitarism of Jan Mittendorf contributes to the authenticity, communicating finely with Davis`s harp-playing. A good band needs a good drummer, and that is what John Gerritse most definitely is. His expressive playing combined with ingenious shifts of rhythm patterns such as found in "Stay From The Casino" give a brilliant rhythmic dimension to the record. The sound of his drums is captured in all its glory at the beginning of "I`m so Tired".

"Name Of The Game" consists entirely of originals by Davis-Mittendorf-Gerritse. They sure have managed in recording an album of authentic blues music in 2008 - one can only imagine how well they work in a live situation. ---L. Raudas, blues-finland.com

Description Boo Boo Davis is a survivor and belongs to one of the last generations of musicians that write and play the blues based on first hand experience of a hard life in the Mississippi Delta. He was born and raised in Drew, Mississippi where times were tough and everybody had to work the fields. Sharecroppers sang loudly to help pass the grueling hours of work and without a doubt Boo Boo developed his loud, bellowing voice based on the singing he heard in the fields as a young boy. All the music and extemporaneous sounds that you'll hear on this record are coming from Boo Boo s vocal chords and harmonica, John s drum kit or Jan s guitars. On the Spring Tour of 2008 they decided to leave out the bass and tour as a trio. The audiences loved it and were amazed all that sound was coming from just three pieces. John created a great drum kit (100% Radio King with real skin heads) around his 60+ years old 28 inch bass drum and Jan bought a baritone guitar and put very heavy strings on his regular

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guitar. These were the ingredients that produced this big authentic sound. Unlike many modern blues bands, Boo Boo and his band focus on the groove, the feel, and the basic truths found in the blues. Blues doesn't come any realer than this. ---Editorials Reviews, amazon.com

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