Fillmore Slim - Funky Mama's House (2004)



1. Funky Mama's House 2. Brown Sugar Eyes 3. Street Walker 4. Tabby Thomas' Place 5. Those Lonely, Lonely Nights 6. Ya-Ya 7. Down At Eli's 8. Stagger Lee 9. Earl King 10. Saturday Night 11. I Cross My Heart Fillmore Slim - Guitar, Vocals Tim Bird - Sax (Tenor) Terry McDonald - Baritone Saxophone Frank "Paris Slim" Goldwasser - Guitar Chris Millar - Drums Roger Perry - Bass, Guitar, Guitar (Steel), Keyboards

Although Fillmore Slim -- also known as Clarence "Guitar" Sims -- made a few electric blues records in the '50s for tiny west coast labels like Dooto (much better known for releasing Redd Foxx's still-hilarious party albums), the New Orleans-born, San Francisco-based musician cut a much more notorious figure as one of the Bay Area's most visible and notorious pimps. After his role in the oddly fascinating 1999 documentary American Pimp, Fillmore Slim got the chance to return to music when he was picked up by the blues-purist label Fedora. His second album for the label, 2004's Funky Mama's House, inadvertently shows why his secondary profession was more lucrative than his first: although he's an entirely adequate blues guitarist in the Elmore James style, better with riffs than solos, Fillmore Slim's singing voice is almost aggressively unpleasant. On the faster numbers, like the title track, Slim sounds like an old-school blues version of the infamously pitch-challenged indie rock singer Daniel Johnston. Add in a tiredly salacious group of songs like "Street Walker" and the umpteenth version of the playa classic "Stagger Lee," and Funky Mama's House sounds like a new word needs to be coined for this sort of thing: how about "pimpsloitation"? ---Stewart Mason, allmusic.com

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