

Big Daddy Kinsey – Ramblin' Man (1999)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)
Thursday, 26 November 2020 15:24 -

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1 *Tippin On In* 2 *Little Rain Falling* 3 *These Kinda Blues* 4 *Its Over* 5 *Ramblin Man*
6 *Nothing Too Good For My Baby* 7 *Treat Your Woman Right* 8 *For The Love Of A*
Woman 9 *Bloody Tears* 10 *Stayed Way Too Long* 11 *Worst Feeling* 12 *Dancing*
Shoes Backing Vocals – Jacqueline Johnson (tracks: 6, 10) Bass – Johnny B Gayden
(tracks: 1, 3 to 12) Guitar – John Primer Harmonica – Carey Bell (tracks: 3, 5, 9 to 12) Horns –
Memphis Horns (tracks: 6) Lead Vocals – Big Daddy Kinsey, Koko Taylor (tracks: 6) Organ –
Charles Hodges (tracks: 6) Piano – Johnnie Johnson (tracks: 1 to 5, 9 to 11) Slide Guitar –
Donald Kinsey Tenor Saxophone – Andrew Love Trumpet – Wayne Jackson

Recorded in the early part of 1994, this is a richly produced album. Big Daddy Kinsey's voice, while not a dominating force on this outing, benefits from a stellar production that includes an all-star cast of supporting musicians. Audio fidelity is top notch throughout. My only caveat is that it's hard to imagine a BDK album without his trademark slide guitar. That signature sound of his slide tearing through the opening moments of a Muddy Water's song is the thing I remember most about him in concert when I saw him in Amherst in 1993/4. He had such presence on the stage with that white Fender, and the sound....

The album begins with a mid-tempo, funky take on Slim Harpo's hit "Tippin' On In", followed with a fine, slow Delta styled ensemble with John Primer on acoustic guitar; son Donald contributing a nice slide solo. The disc program continues on with a skillful mixture of rhythmic beats and varied song selections; Johnny B. Gayden's excellent bass lines and tempos pacing the selections. The program is punctuated midway through the disc with Koko Taylor dueting with Big Daddy on "Nothing's Too Good for My Baby"; and Carey Bell's adept harp playing on a half a dozen tracks. This is as close as you'll get to a late '50s styled Chicago Blues Band sound recorded in a modern day audio facility.

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Would I choose this over Kinsey's benchmark "Bad Situation" album, recorded in 1984? I think BDK's voice was in better form on "Bad Situation"; it is a more straight ahead Chicago Blues album and also features his slide guitar. "Ramblin' Man" is a more varied program, and more richly produced. I really can't decide. But I can recommend this w/o hesitation to anyone in need of a classic Chicago Blues album. Purchase with confidence! ---bluesfan, amazon.com

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