John Lee Hooker - Boom Boom (1992)



01. Boom Boom 02. I'm Bad Like Jesse James 03. Same Old Blues Again 04. Sugar Mama 05. Trick Bag (Shoppin' For My Tombstone) 06. Boogie At Russian Hill 07. Hittin' The Bottle Again 08. Bottle Up And Go 09. Thought I Heard 10. I Ain't Gonna Suffer No More John Lee Hooker (vocals, guitar, National guitar); John F. Hammond (guitar, harmonica); Mike Osborn, Tim Kaihatsu, Billy Friday Johnson, Rich Kirch (guitar); Mitch Woods (piano); Deacon Jones (organ); Jimmy Pugh (keyboards); Melvin Carter, Kevin Hayes, Scott Mathews, Bowen Brown (drums); Jimmie Vaughan, Albert Collins, Robert Cray (guitar); Charlie Musselwhite (harmonica).

In 1989, blues legend John Lee Hooker enjoyed a career revival in the wake of the release of The Healer. Produced by slide-guitarist Roy Rogers, and with a little help from friends like Bonnie Raitt, Robert Cray, and Carlos Santana, the album featured enough contemporary guest stars to attract a young audience unfamiliar with Hooker's enormous blues history. After a decade of sporadic recording (and relative obscurity), Hooker was suddenly a hot property again, and The Healer earned the bluesman a Grammy Award.

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Signed to Virgin Records' blues-oriented Point Blank label, Hooker followed up on the success of The Healer with 1991's similarly-structured Mr. Lucky and, a year later, with Boom Boom. Whereas the first two albums of Hooker's 1990s comeback featured slick production and a mix of old and new songs that would be complimented by the talents of a myriad of guest stars, Boom Boom was rougher, less polished, and places the focus firmly on Hooker's classic songs from decades previous. Sure, there were still a lot of guest appearances - Hooker had found a winning formula and he wasn't about to drop it - but make no mistake, this is John Lee's show. --- Reverend Keith A. Gordon, bluesabout.com

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