

John Lee Hooker – The Healer (1989)

Written by bluesever

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Tracks: 01. The Healer 02. I'm in the Mood 03. Baby Lee 04. Cuttin' Out 05. Think Twice Before You Go 06. Sally Mae 07. That's Alright 08. Rockin' Chair 09. My Dream 10. No Substitute

John Lee Hooker – vocals, guitar, steel guitar Carlos Santana – guitar
Chepito Areas – timbales Armando Peraza – congas Ndugu Chancler – drums
Chester Thompson – keyboards, synthesizers Bonnie Raitt – vocals, slide guitar Roy Rogers – guitar, slide guitar Scott Mathews – drums Robert Cray – guitar Richard Cousins – bass Henry Vestine – guitar Larry Taylor – bass Fito de la Parra – drums
Charlie Musselwhite – harmonica Cesar Rosas – guitar David Hidalgo – guitar, accordion
Louie Pérez – drums Conrad Lozano – bass Steve Berlin – saxophone George Thorogood – guitar Steve Ehrmann – bass

The Healer was a major comeback for John Lee Hooker. Featuring a wide array of guest stars, including Bonnie Raitt, Johnnie Johnson, and Los Lobos, The Healer captured widespread media attention because of all the superstar musicians involved in its production. Unfortunately, that long guest list is what makes the album a fairly unengaging listen. Certainly there are moments where it clicks, but that's usually when the music doesn't greatly expand on his stripped-down boogie. The other moments are professional, but not exciting. It's a pleasant listen, but never quite an engaging one. ---Thom Owens, AMG

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