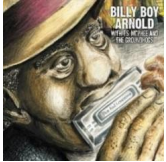


Billy Boy Arnold With Tony McPhee & The Groundhogs - Checkin' It Out (1977/2007)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 03 June 2014 15:55 -

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1. *DirtyMotherFuyer* 2. *Don't Stay Out All Night* 3. *1-2-99* 4. *Riding The El* 5. *Just Got To Know* 6. *Christmas Time* 7. *I Wish You Would* 8. *Ah'W Baby* 9. *Sweet Miss Bea* 10. *Blues and Lonesome* 11. *Eldorado Cadillac* 12. *Mary Bernice* 13. *It's Great To Be Rich* 14. *Just A Dream* 15. *Catfish* Billy Boy Arnold - harmonica, vocals Tony S. McPhee - guitar Alan Fish - bass Wilgur Campbell - drums

An integral part of Chicago's Blues history, Billy Boy Arnold is one of the first Windy City Blues singers actually born in Chicago. Arnold learned to play his "Mississippi Saxophone" from the original Sonny Boy Williamson in the late 1940s.

By the early 1960s, he was performing with Bo Diddley. A stint as a solo artist on Vee-Jay in the 1950s yielded some of his finest sides, especially "I Wish You Would" and "I Ain't Got You," later both covered by Eric Clapton and the Yardbirds. A deal with Alligator Records in the 1990s boosted his visibility to its highest level in forty years.

Recorded in London, Arnold and the Groundhogs tear through this album with a rawness and energy previously unheard of on recordings by white Rock bands backing African-American Blues musicians. Though essentially a Billy Boy Arnold album, Tony McPhee's influence is not to be underestimated.

Whenever he plays one of his scorching solos the album rockets into overdrive. This album represents one of the finest fusions of authentic electric Chicago Blues and the London Rock-infused variety of the genre. Justly, at the time of its original release in 1977, the then influential magazine *Black Echoes* voted the record "Blues LP of the Year".

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