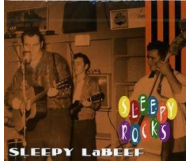


Sleepy LaBeef - Sleepy Rocks (2008)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 19 September 2014 16:05 - Last Updated Saturday, 12 January 2019 21:25

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1. *All The Time* 2. *I'm Through* 3. *Baby Let's Play House* 4. *All Alone* 5. *I Ain't Gonna Take It* 6. *Lonely* 7. *Don't Make Me Go* 8. *Little Bit More (alt)* 9. *Ballad Of A Teenage Queen* 10. *Turn Me Loose* 11. *You're So Easy To Love* 12. *Ridin' Fence* 13. *The Ways Of A Woman In Love* 14. *Walkin' Slowly* 15. *Ride On Josephine* 16. *Home Of The Blues* 17. *Tore Up* 18. *Little Bit More* 19. *You're The Nearest Thing To Heaven* 20. *Goodnight Irene* 21. *Guess Things Happen That Way* 22. *Can't Get You Off Of My Mind* 23. *I Found Out* 24. *You Can't Catch Me* 25. *Shame, Shame, Shame* 26. *Ain't Got No Home* 27. *Too Much Monkey Business* 28. *Honey Hush* 29. *Good Rockin' Boogie* 30. *Roll Over Beethoven* 31. *I'm Coming Home* 32. *Shot-Gun Boogie* 33. *Honky Tonk Man* 34. *Lonesome For A Letter* 35. *Ride On Josephine*

Sleepy LaBeef - Guitar, Guitar (Electric), Lead, Vocals Earl Aycock - Guitar (Rhythm)
Brooks Barnes - Guitar, Lead Clete Chapman Berg - Drums Harold Bradley - Guitar Charlie
Busby - Guitar, Lead Kenny Buttrey - Drums Jimmy Capps - Guitar, Lead Wendall Clayton -
Bass Terry Duncan - Piano Gene Dunlap - Piano Bobby Dyson - Bass Joe Gillingham - Piano
Eddie Hammer - Drums Hal Harris - Guitar, Lead Hal Higgins - Guitar (Rhythm) Karl Himmel
- Drums Bill Humble - Bass (Acoustic) Dee Knipe - Guitar, Lead Kenny Krumboltz - Bass
(Electric) Grady Martin - Guitar, Leader Charlie McCoy - Harmonica Bucky Meadows - Guitar,
Guitar (Rhythm), Lead Terry Nicholson - Bass Cliff Parker - Guitar, Guitar (Electric), Lead
William Whitney Pursell - Piano Herb Remington - Guitar (Steel) Red Robinson - Guitar
(Rhythm) Mike Schellachi - Drums Carl Scroop - Piano Lonnie Seabolt - Bass Steve S.
Singleton -Guitar Howard Tibble - Drums Dave Travis - Guitar (Acoustic) James L. Wilkerson
- Guitar

Sleepy LaBeef was one of dozens of second-string rockabilly acts of the 1950s who found a new and receptive audience in Europe, Great Britain, the Netherlands and parts of the United States in the '70s. But one thing set LaBeef apart from the sizable majority of his comrades -- Sleepy actually got better with the passage of time. When LaBeef began cutting new records in the '70s, his rich baritone voice had gained plenty of strength and seasoning after a few thousand honky tonk gigs, and thanks in part to a lack of interest in booze and drugs, LaBeef sounded every bit as energetic and enthusiastic as he did when he first started making records in 1957. Given the impressive number of labels he has recorded for over the years, it's no

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wonder there hasn't been a definitive Sleepy LaBeef collection up until now, but the cross-licensing specialists at Bear Family Records have finally put together a truly essential single-disc overview of his career, and Sleepy Rocks certainly lives up to its name. LaBeef never put much stock in the notion of songwriting, having recorded only a tiny handful of originals over the course of his career, but he's long seemed able to sing and play a little bit of everything, and though his deep voice led him to record a big stack of Johnny Cash covers for Starday (four of which make the cut here), he could also tackle Tennessee Ernie Ford ("Shotgun Boogie"), Clarence "Frogman" Henry ("Ain't Got No Home"), Johnny Horton ("Honky Tonk Man"), Chuck Berry ("You Can't Catch Me"), and Bo Diddley ("Ride on Josephine") and make each one sound as if it had been written with him in mind. Sleepy's Bo Diddley-ized cover of "Goodnight Irene" is frantic and unique, "Tore Up" is practically feral in its forward momentum, "Good Rockin' Boogie" fuses Roy Brown's classic "Good Rockin' Tonight" with a rockabilly backbeat and sends it into orbit, and even his rare major-label sides (he cut a single for Columbia that just skimmed the charts) sound tough and untamed. Sleepy LaBeef has been one of America's leading natural resources of honky tonk music over the course of a career spanning six decades, and Sleepy Rocks delivers a full 80 minutes of rowdy good times; if you're only going to own one Sleepy LaBeef CD in your lifetime, this is the one to get. ---Mark Deming, allmusic.com

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