

Eric Clapton – Old Sock (2013)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Further on Down the Road* [05:45] 02. *Angel* [03:54] 03. *The Folks Who Live On the Hill* [03:46] 04. *Gotta Get Over* [04:38] 05. *Till Your Well Runs Dry* [04:42] 06. *All of Me* [03:23] 07. *Born to Lose* [04:04] 08. *Still Got the Blues* [05:55] 09. *Goodnight Irene* [04:23] 10. *Your One and Only Man* [04:31] 11. *Every Little Thing* [04:35] 12. *Our Love Is Here to Stay* [04:13]

Personnel: Eric Clapton – vocals, Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, 12-String Guitar, Dobro, Mandolin Doyle Bramhall II - Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Slide Guitar, Mandolin, Backing Vocals Willie Weeks - Bass, Upright Bass Steve Gadd - Drums Walt Richmond - Upright Piano, Keyboards Greg Leisz - Pedal Steel, Mandolin Chris Stainton - Clavinet, Fender Rhodes, Wurlitzer, Hammond B3 Organ Taj Mahal - Harmonica, Banjo Jim Keltner - Drums Steve Winwood - Hammond B3 Organ JJ Cale – Guitar, vocals on "Angel" Paul McCartney - Upright Bass, Vocals Abe Laboriel Jr - Drums Tim Carmon - Hammond B3 Organ, Chord Organ Henry Spinetti - Drums Justin Stanley - Clavinet, Melotron, Drums Matt Chamberlain - Drums Matt Rollings - Keyboards Simon Climie - Percussion, Piano Frank Marocco - Accordion Gabe Witcher - Fiddle Stephen "Doc" Kupka - Baritone Sax Joseph Sublett - Tenor Sax Nicholas Lane - Trombone Sal Cracchiolo - Trumpet Sharon White - Background Vocals Michelle John - Background Vocals Chaka Khan – Guest Vocals on "Gotta Get Over" Julie Clapton - Guest Vocals Ella Clapton - Guest Vocals Sophie Clapton - Guest Vocals Nikka Costa - Guest Vocals Wendy Moten - Guest Vocals Lisa Vaughan - Guest Vocals Nick Ingman - String Arrangements

Eric Clapton doesn't need to make a new album. His vast back catalog—although not without its ups and downs—speaks for itself. With *Old Sock*, Clapton has fully completed the transformation from elder blues statesman to professional musicologist that started with 2010's *Clapton*. This doesn't mean Clapton has turned his back on his roots (I've yet to hear a note that isn't influenced by the three Kings), but I wonder if this jazz-crooner direction is merely a phase or Clapton's newfound voice.

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Instead of cranking out his trademark blues-rock, Clapton focuses more on the groove and pays tribute to his various influences. Songs by Taj Mahal, J.J. Cale, George Gershwin, Peter Tosh, and Gary Moore surround two originals, and you need to search the nooks and crannies of these songs to find that Slowhand fire.

The most “Claptonian” track is “Gotta Get Over.” From the opening Dominos-inspired riff to the gospel-influenced chorus, this is when Clapton really shines. He not only rips out a solo but also plays some of the tastiest fills this side of the Cook County Jail. It might make some aficionados’ top 10 EC studio albums list, but I’m hoping Old Sock is just a stylistic detour before we get a sequel to From the Cradle. --- Jason Shadrick, premierguitar.com

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