

John Lee Hooker – Endless Boogie (1991)

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John Lee Hooker - Endless Boogie tracks: 01 (I Got) A Good 'un 5:14 02 House Rent Boogie 6:23 03 Kick Hit 4 Hit Kix U (Blues For Jimi And Janis) 6:43 04 Pots On, Gas On High 11:23 05 We Might As Well Call It Through (I Didnt Get Married To Your Two-Timing Mother) 8:04 06 Doin' The Shout 3:31 07 A Sheep Out On The Foam 6:30 08 Endless Boogie, Parts 27 And 28 8:43

John Lee Hooker vocals; guitar Dave Berger harmonica on 02, 11 Mark Naftalin piano (except 03, 05, 07, 08) Cliff Coulter electric piano (except 02, 04, 07, 09, 11) John Turk electric piano on 09; organ on 11 Jesse Ed Davis* guitar on 05, 06 Mark Naftalin guitar on 03 Steve Miller** guitar (except 03, 05, 06, 08) Mel Brown guitar on 01, 09, 10, 11 Cliff Coulter guitar on 11 Dan Alexander guitar on 02, 08 Jerry Perez guitar on 11 Carl Radle bass on 05, 06 Gino Skaggs bass (except 05, 06) Cliff Coulter bass on 09 Jim Gordon drums on 05, 06 Billy Ingram drums on 01, 10 Ken Swank drums on 02, 03, 04, 07, 08; tambourine on 11 Reno Lanzara drums on 09, 11

The black blues legends playing with the white up-and-comers. I guess Sonny Boy Williamson II started it all about six years ago with his Live With the Yardbirds album. Successive years have seen a record-rack full of similar efforts ... from Muddy Waters, Lowell Fulson, Furry Lewis and Otis Spann .. all resulting in quasi-successful albums that at times effectively blended the old urban, Texas/Chicago post-war Fifties sounds with the post-wah-wah generation. The best of them allowed the old bluesmen a lot of up-front playing and singing space (the Sonny Boy and the Spann) while the rest suffered from a distasteful updating attempt — Muddy Waters and Fulson got drowned out and psychedelized upon.

This album falls distinctly into the former class John Lee Hooker, a 54-year-old blues legend in his own right, is sympathetically accompanied by the likes of Jesse Davis, Carl Radle, Steve Miller, Gino Scaggs and Mark Naftalin and the end product is a double-album set of unadulterated Hooker portraits in blues.

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I use the word "portraits" without hesitation. Hooker has long been a master at the extended built — around — a — foot — stomping-beat kind of blues as well as the quick, boogie-based instrumental. He nearly outdoes himself here on "Pots On. Gas On High." "A Sheep Out On the Foam" as well as the tersely effective "Kick Hit 4 Hit Kix U (Blues for Jimi and Janis)," all solid, rambling tunes. Examples of the more mainstream "Boogie Chillun" Hooker approach include the title song, the harp-studded "House Rent Boogie" and the blues gospel shortie "Doin' the Shout." Throughout, it's Hooker all the way he makes it his brand of blues with the ease and dexterity of the genius he is all the textures and highlights paced with his ever-churning, heavy-bassed electric guitar and his rough down-and-out voice. ---Gary Von Tersch, rollingstone.com

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