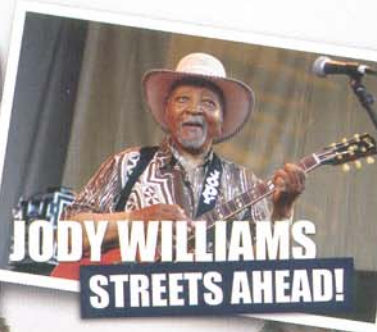


BLUES MATTER

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JODY WILLIAMS
STREETS AHEAD!



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THE ROLLING STONES!

THE WORLD'S RICHEST ROCK BAND
AND HOW IT STARTED WITH THE BLUES!

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PLUS!

DANNY BRYANT PLUS! TOMMY ALLEN PLUS! ROBIN ROGERS

BLUE TOUCH Bump

Independent Release.

A new CD from Blue Touch which follows on from Grind. Do I detect a theme here? Of course the band's talented, sexy and crowd pleasing vocalist, Andrea Maria is now "bumpless" following the birth of her daughter, Anna. Plus, since "Grind", the band have a new guitarist, Neil Sadler who also takes the vocals on one track. With 12 great tracks, all covers, this is a damn good reminder of Blue Touch as they are live and offers a fine variety ranging from the seductive Cray/Clapton song Old Love, Lieber/Stoller's rocking Kansas City which features Neil Sadler, an excellent mid-tempo blues treatment of Tom Waits' Way Down in the Hole, one of a number of tracks that features some lovely guitar work, Otis Redding's soulful I've Been Loving You Too Long underpinned by some gorgeous guitar reverb, Johnny Winter's Black Cat Bone done super funky style followed by Rufus Thomas' classic Walking The Dog, given the Blue Touch, well touch. Blue Touch's "Bump" certainly does not grind on the ear!



Ashwyn Smyth

MA RAINEY Hustlin' Blues

Blue Orchid. 2CD.

Ma Rainey was one of the earliest known professional blues singers and one of the first generation to make records. Like Bessie Smith and Memphis Minnie, both of whom followed in that tough, no-nonsense tradition, Rainey's work represents the earliest blues scene. It was a hard world of tent shows and dubious venues in a pre-civil rights world where racism and the Jim Crow laws were the order of the day. Naturally, because these recordings are so very old, (all between 1926 to 1928), then even with modern technology they leave a lot to be desired when it comes to high fidelity. But what does come through is the sheer power of this tough woman, a champion of women's issues who set the template for future black female performers. Her heyday is represented by this collection where she's accompanied by the fine Georgia Jazz Band on many tracks. There are some great performances, such as 'Misery Blues' and 'Titanic Man Blues'. However, if wailing guitars or cheesy Hammond organs are your thing, then you'll find this pure archive material hard going. A mighty fine woman and a very atmospheric pair of discs. What is the blues about? Listen to 'Little Low Mama' and you'll have the answer.

Roy Bainton

TITUS TURNER

The Chronological Titus Turner 1949 - 1954

Classics. 20 tracks. 52.38 mins.

There's probably going to be a "Volume 2" from Titus somewhere along the line - and as the guy has penned songs covered by Louis Jordan, Ray Charles, Aretha, Elvis, The Everly Brothers and even The Beatles, that will definitely be worth waiting for! Meanwhile, we have this. Starting with a crooning cover of Al Hibbler's I'm Just A Lucky So-And-So didn't set my pulse racing. It did get better - but only just. Having been blessed with such a great name - and not a bad voice - I was definitely expecting more from the original 'Mr T'. He looks the

CD REVIEWS

part - a little like a slicker Arthur Conley - and he recorded for some pretty substantial labels (with sides here from Aladdin, Regal and Okeh) but the feeling is that he couldn't decide whether to be a crooner or a blues-shouter. That lack of focus probably spoiled his career prospects and, for me at least, it spoils this album. If ever there was justification for stepping outside the series title and dropping the time-line fetish it's here in Over The



Rainbow. But for the best on offer here, check out Got So Much Trouble and Please Baby from 1952. Then, just when you think the guy is on a roll with 1953's Big Mary's, it's back to croonersville with Rainbow. The proverbial curate's boiled 'un!

Gary Price

LARRY CORYELL, VICTOR BAILEY & LENNY WHITE Electric

Chesky Records. 9 tracks.

There was no information with this CD that came in a single cardboard sleeve, and it makes me wonder who it is intended for? The blurb says that this is "one of the Worlds Greatest electric power trios!" and it also says "a blistering performance" so I was expecting to hear something like Cream, or ZZ Top, or the Jimi Hendrix trio? What did I get? Well, I am still not certain, there are 9 tracks, all instrumental and they all seem to be showcasing the individual talents of the trio, at some points, they almost appeared to be playing independently of each other! If it is meant as a commercial release I can't see it selling to anybody other than die hard fans, because quite frankly, it is boring! Most of the tracks go on far too long, and it seems that once the main riffs and "Oh what a clever bugger I am" bit is over, all they do is play it again! Sorry guys, you are without doubt superb musicians, but this does nothing for me.

Dave Stone

WILLY MASON where The Humans Eat

Virgin/EMI. 12 tracks.

This release somehow slipped passed the BM! Radar in 2005 and what a miss! If the music wasn't familiar to me, the name was and enough so to make parting with £2.97 at my nearby Tesco less of a tear. A wonderful example of how the Blues



can, and really should, sound for the "today"...steeped in the traditions yet moving on with individuality. Most white 20-somethings (yes, he really is only in his early 20's although his weathered/'lived' vocals will surely have you checking this isn't some 60-year old undiscovered Blues master) play-