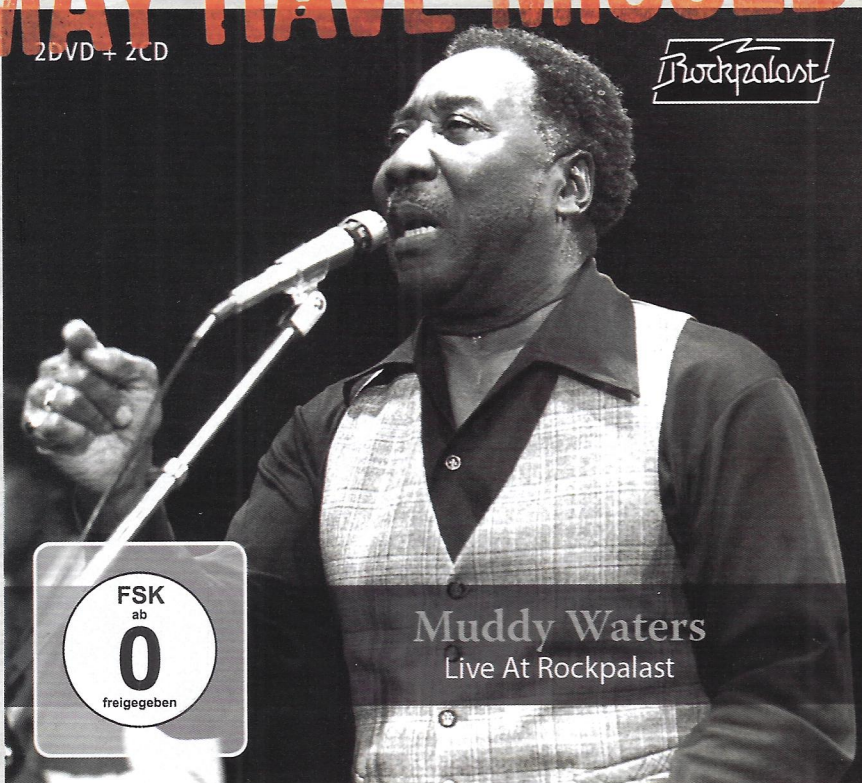


BLUES STUFF YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

2DVD + 2CD

Rockpalast



Muddy Waters. There are not many names that are as immediately synonymous with classic Chicago blues frontmen. **Muddy Waters - Live At Rockpalast** (MIG/MVD), a brand new 2DVD/2CD set, captures the spiffy-looking and legendary Mississippi-to-Chicago bluesman in fine form in 1978 with a superb backing band comprised of Luther “Guitar” Johnson and Bob “Steady Rollin” Margolin on guitar, Calvin “Fuzz” Jones on bass, Jerry Portnoy on harp, Pinetop Perkins playing piano and singing a few tunes and Willie “Big Eyes” Smith sitting behind the drums. Profound declarations aside such as “I was the most bluesiest man, peoples” and in between allowing all of the members of his performing unit to individually shine with their chosen instruments, Muddy

himself plays some fantastically raw slide guitar. During “Mannish Boy” and “Got My Mojo Working”, when he finally gets off the stool he resides on for most of the show, the master is at his captivating peak as he hypnotizes his audience with moves not normally seen on typical dance floors. The place goes crazy as Muddy Waters suddenly becomes a man half his age. Muddy betrays his obvious affection for Pinetop, sharing lead vocal duties on the chestnuts “Kansas City” and “Caldonia”. And special mention must be made to the outstanding mouth harp majesty of Jerry Portnoy throughout the concert.

The second DVD jumps ahead eighteen years to 1996, long after the loss of the magical mentor, and features the Muddy Waters Tribute Band. Most of the lineup

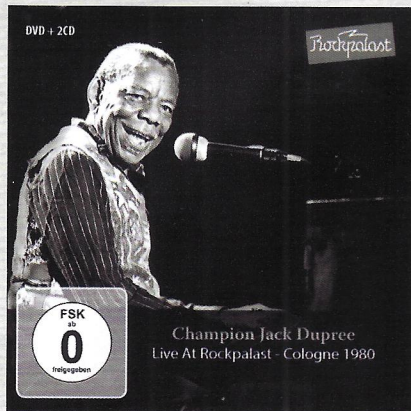
remains the same with the notable exceptions of Jerry Portnoy being replaced by the equally talented Muddy Waters alumnus Carey Bell and Pinetop Perkins not joining the group because of illness. Each of the band members takes their turn at the mic, providing some diversity to the set, giving the feeling of witnessing several shows in one.

Muddy’s ghost must have been in attendance, smiling, as Bob Margolin, hardly recognizable from the earlier show, rips it up with his own rough’n’ready slide guitar. Carey Bell is a delight, taking a shot at “Laundromat Blues”, popularized way back when by the great bluesman Albert King. Fantastic. Carey, with a rollicking Chicago groove backing him up, leads the way through Little Walter’s “Everything Gonna Be Alright”. Great stuff. Even Willie “Big Eyes” Smith takes a turn singing on a few tunes, among them “If The Washing Don’t Get You, The Rinsing Will”. In a genre full of compositions with great titles, this one should have received an award. As a surprise, The Band’s Levon Helm jumps onstage to help sing a tune and, strangely enough, has a go at some twerking (before it went by that name.)

The full performances from the DVDs are included on two CDs. And as a little bonus, video clips of full songs are included from other artists that have appeared in the Rockpalast series. These include Johnny Winter, Roy Buchanan, Albert Collins and George Thorogood. A nice enticement to go and pick up some more tasty blues snacks.

Golden Gloves-winning boxer and World War II Japanese prisoner of war **Champion Jack Dupree** was nothing if not a classic character, a legendary gentleman in the laid-back New Orleans blues piano-playing tradition. (Mis)quot-

ing Shakespeare while drinking lots of beer and giving advice to those in the crowd that are not yet married (the already-married do not need to pay attention), throughout



Champion Jack Dupree - Live At Rockpalast - Cologne 1980 (DVD/2CD) (MIG/MVD), Jack keeps his audience in the palm of his hand, just himself, a piano and a soulful Danish guitarist named

Kenn Lending who very patiently keeps up with Jack's never-ending musical meandering. An extremely entertaining performance, overall.

Jack loves to tell a story, many not suitable for the ears of children, the contents of which should most likely be taken with a large grain of salt but are lots of fun, nevertheless. His scatting during renditions of well-known tunes from the blues and boogie-woogie world (incorrectly credited to him with altered song titles) often accompany little history lessons, again not necessarily those which can be found in any book. Hilarious. Included are amusing anecdotes about other artists that may or may not have stolen songs from Jack.

Jack does not always hit the "right" keys on his piano, but they *are* the right ones for him, providing his playing with an element of edge

not always present with this type of music. Through a large part of the show, Jack claims that he is going to bring an old friend out after one more tune. Finally, Ramblin' Jack Elliott walks onstage for an obviously unrehearsed and messy number, but one which is lots of fun. Champion Jack then lurches into "When The Saints Go Marching In", smacking away at everything but his piano keys, utilizing every aspect of what he displays truly to be a percussion instrument. After giving Arthur Crudup's classic "Mean Old Frisco" a workout, Jack wraps up his performance with a partly "Japanese" rendition of "It's Now Or Never", bringing to mind a deranged Screamin' Jay Hawkins. Champion Jack Dupree's musical style and humor may be somewhat of an acquired taste to newcomers, but if given a chance, his delivery is absolutely delightful.

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