

Tommy album, with frequent stops along the way for wonderfully insane onstage antics, self-deprecating jokes and mock challenges with their audience. These too are all lovingly preserved, and when Pete Townshend orders the crowd, "Smile, ya buggers!" trust me, you already are.

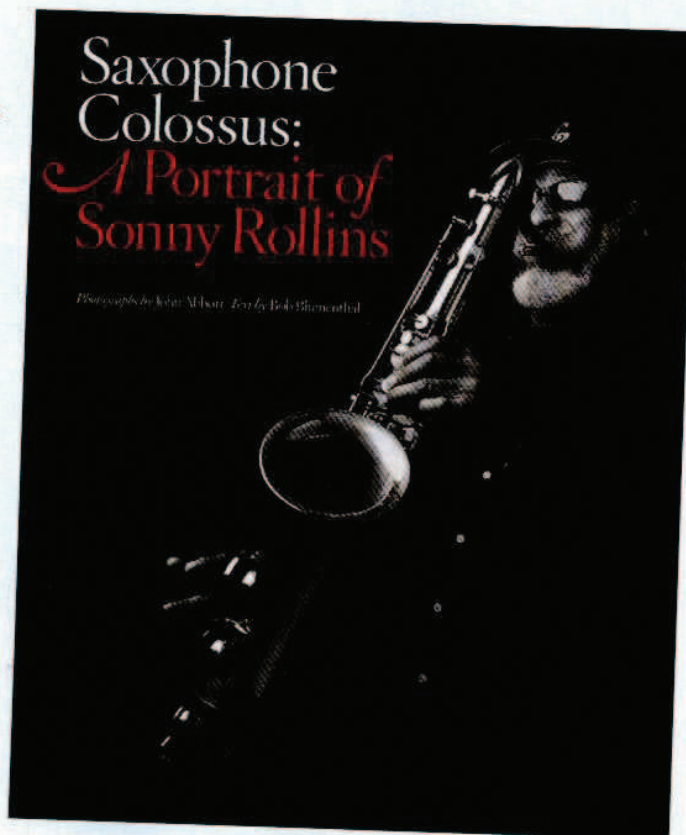
ABIGAIL WRIGHT

Bob Blumenthal and John Abbott
Saxophone Colossus: A Portrait of Sonny Rollins
 (ABRAMS)

In 1956, tenor saxophonist Sonny Rollins recorded *Saxophone Colossus*. In 1986, Rollins was the subject of a documentary called *Saxophone Colossus*. In 2010, author Bob Blumenthal and photographer John Abbott combined their skills to tell a tale of Rollins entitled, well, you get the point.

The book is quite the anomaly. A majority of Blumenthal's informative text concentrates on Rollins' past, but not one of Abbott's photos predates 1993, capturing poses, candid and portraits of Rollins from everywhere between Syracuse and Berlin, hardly ever without sunglasses or assorted headgear. The pictures are so clear and varied in tone and perspective, it's almost like watching a concert in HD. Perhaps the most iconic photograph here is a shot of Rollins' back as he lifts his sax high in song before a giant crowd of onlookers on the shore of Newport.

Each chapter concentrates on important individual aspects of Rollins' artistry (appropriately named after the five tracks of the namesake LP), covering his Caribbean heritage, his legendary collaborators Miles Davis and Max Roach and his penchant for popular standards. *Saxophone Colossus* illustrates that the man known as the best



living jazz improviser still has more bridges to cross.

MATTHEW ALLEN

Eric Andersen and John McEuen
Joe's Pub
New York, NY

When Eric Andersen and John McEuen first met face-to-face the morning of their performance at Joe's Pub, they discovered that they were "like brothers." Appropriately, the sentiment sums up not only their first meeting, but also their eclectic and captivating performance.

McEuen began on the banjo, guitar and fiddle, performing everything from Nitty Gritty Dirt Band favorites ("I Am a Pilgrim") to 19th century banjo ditties and even "The Beverly Hillbillies" theme. His obvious virtuosity was enhanced by witty repartee and engaging tales from his illustrious career.

Anderson joined McEuen

onstage for a sing-along rendition of "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" before delivering a precise and emotional set of ballads, including the haunting "Blue River." Backed by talented multi-instrumentalist Robert Aaron, the lyrical craftsman also featured the tender "Salt on Your Skin," and "Before Everything Changed," joined by McEuen on mandolin.

The spontaneous brotherhood of McEuen and Andersen lent itself well to the evening's relaxed and intimate chance to see two legends doing what they do best, together. Indeed a rare treat.

ALLISON JOHNELLE BORON

Johnny Winter
Live Through The '80s
 (MVD VISUAL)

This excellent DVD retrospective immediately grabs viewers' attention when Johnny, clad entirely in black and wielding his trusty Gib-

son Firebird, tears into the up-tempo blues "Unseen Eye." Accompanied only by bass, drums and harmonica, Johnny's growling vocals and searing guitar let the audience know that he's returning to his blues roots with a vengeance.

Johnny Winter's music has always straddled the line between blues and rock. During the 1970s, Winter's stage show began edging towards arena rock—complete with gratuitous jamming and outrageous glittering outfits. As *Live Through The '80s* shows, Winter eventually outgrew the rock star persona and got back to performing his inimitable brand of high octane electric blues. Tracks like "Mad Dog," "Lights Out" and Winter's smoldering cover of J.B. Lenoir's "Mojo Boogie" are great examples of the energy and passion Winter brings to his music.

The slowdown, menacing "Boot Hill" is a great showcase for Winter's famous snarling vocals, and a heartfelt cover of Robert Johnson's "When You've Got A Good Friend" demonstrates Johnny's deep love of traditional Delta Blues. *Live Through The '80s* is a beautiful collection of some of the greatest performances of Johnny Winter's career.

JON KLEINMAN

