



MUSIC SCENE

THE SOUNDS OF **BLUE** By Bob Putignano



Johnny Winter DVD "Live Through the '80's" MVD Visual. Following on the Heels of Johnny Winter "Live Through the '70's"

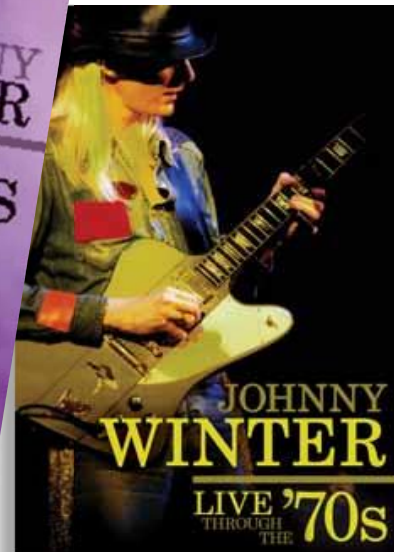
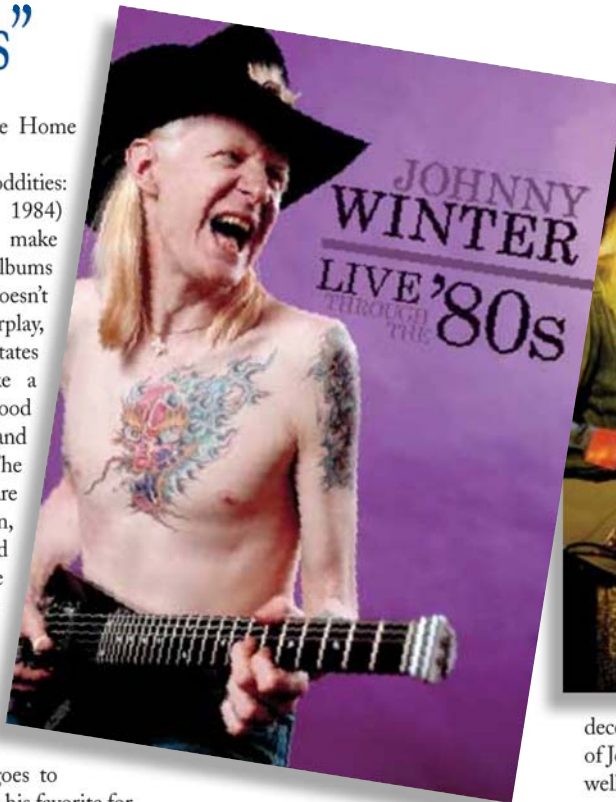
This DVD represents Winter's energetic '80's era, where the than gunslinger still had commanding energy, all performances were with Johnny in a trio format with various drummers, New York's Jon Paris is the bassist on each of the live performances. Live Through The '80s features eighteen Johnny Winter performances, at venues of various sizes. Four songs from Toronto, Canada from 1983, ten segments in '84; Denmark, the Capitol Theater in NJ, and Nashua, NH, there's also a couple of Alligator MTV like videos. The later '80's are covered from Sweden in '87 and Italy in '88. Also included is a Winter interview, and a few quick comments.

Noteworthy: Johnny's razor sharp on the emotional ballad "Stranger," and on Bobby Womack's "It's All Over Now," both culled from the Toronto performances in '83. Covers of "Jumpin' Jack Flash," and "Johnny B. Goode" (recorded in Denmark in front of one-hundred thousand fans) are eye catching but not as explosive as Winter's renditions from Johnny Winter And, the live disc on Columbia recorded over a decade prior. A shirtless Johnny slides his brains out on "Highway 61." Poor video but excellent audio from the The Casbah in Nashua, NH from '84 which also includes an odd

addition of "Please Come Home For Christmas."

Comments and oddities: Winter comments (in 1984) saying that he wants to make more commercial albums because straight blues doesn't receive enough airplay, contrarily in '87 Winter states that Blues music is like a good friend, and that good Blues music makes him and many people feel happy. The Alligator records promos are also a welcome addition, especially the lip-synched "Don't Take Advantage of Me." It is during the second Alligator segment that Johnny talks about the Dick Shurman/Bruce Iglauer produced "Guitar Slinger" being his favorite album, and goes to say that he thinks it will be his favorite for many years to come.

In summary this video demonstrates the raw power Johnny Winter once possessed. For me I still prefer his earlier work with Rick Derringer and company, and with Brother Edgar (checkout the DVD Johnny Winter "Live Through



decent quality. So if you dig the 80's era of Johnny Winter, this DVD should work well for you.

Bob Putignano www.SoundsofBlue.com

Bob Putignano is host of WFDU's Sounds of Blue, www.SoundsofBlue.com the most pledged to program for three consecutive years

the '70s,") for additional evidence. All of these live performances are within the confines of guitar, bass and drums, but I prefer more color and dynamics in music. That being said this documentary is well done, the audio is pretty good, and (for the most part) the video is of

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