



With the 1980s just around the corner, and having recently come out of rehab after years as a rock god, **JOHNNY WINTER** made a firm statement in 1979 that he was moving back to his first love, the blues. On "Live at Rockpalast" (MVDvisual.com), the German television show, his trio with whom he'd previously rocked out support him through some solid electric versions of the delta sound. Also out as a longer DVD, this collection just wails.

It starts off powerfully with the likes of "Hideaway," "Messin' With the Kid," "Walking' By Myself," and "Divin' Duck," each one a gem of screaming and stretched guitar strings. Simply a joy, each song is long and rambling, but never losing home. The last three cuts, however, is where this gets muddled. Bassist Jon Paris takes over the lead for "I'm Ready" and "Rockabilly Boogie," before Winter concedes his rock and roll lineage and out-plays Keith Richards on "Jumpin' Jack Flash." Now, there were a number of other songs that were left off due to time constraints, but why cut out Winter's material for those of Paris? While Paris is no slouch himself, he is not "the man." However, even if you just play the first four cuts and leave it at that, it's still longer than most records, and worth finding.

