

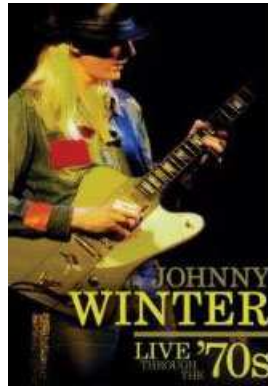
Blast From the Past

Reviews

In Blast from the Past, Bill Kopp takes a quick look at notable reissues from notable recording artists -- some you'll recognize; some you probably missed. All are worth a closer look.

Johnny Winter - Live Through the 70s (MVD Visual)

The DVD kicks off with a true oddity, a performance that is bizarre in any number of ways. This excellent-quality Danish TV clip from 1970 finds Winter playing with his original blues rhythm section (Tommy Shannon on bass and Uncle John Turner on drums), but they don't kick off with a blues tune. Instead they play a new and (then-) unreleased song by Johnny's brother Edgar, present on keyboards. The jazz-rock fusion "Frankenstein" would eventually become Edgar's most popular song, and in its released version would prominently feature Edgar's synthesizer playing. But here with Johnny, it's all organ and electric piano. The performance is built around a drum duel between Edgar and Turner; Johnny plays an oddly cheap-looking Epiphone electric guitar, not the trademark Gibson Firebird.



The next set--from a few months later--finds Johnny in a setting more familiar to his fans. Easing toward his rock phase, here he performs lightning-fast guitar runs on a trip of songs. Footage from a post-concert appearance on a local TV show called *Detroit Tubeworks* is interspersed among the clips; this manner of presentation was a good call by the compilers of this set: the full *Detroit Tubeworks* set airing circulates (in lesser quality) among collectors, but is a bit tedious, and includes some painfully out-of-tune bass playing by Randy Hobbs. Still, fans should be grateful for an footage of Johnny speaking. As this writer can attest (and as [this interview/feature on Johnny Winter](#) illustrates) Johnny is a man of few words.



[Live Through the 70's](#)
Johnny Winter, n/a...
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The *Don Kirshner's Rock Concert* footage is of a style familiar to anyone who ever enjoyed that program. The canned applause layered on top of actual audience made for a cheesy feel (did every act really have to get a reception like The Beatles at the Hollywood Bowl?), but Winter's performances of "Rock and Roll Hootchie Koo" and "Stone County" are winner. Performing here fronting his rock trio (Johnny Winter And), his take on "Hootchie Koo" is fast-paced, owing more to Rick Derringer's version than his own studio outing.

In 1979 Winter appeared on the German *Rockpalast* program; he's returned to that show a number of times over the years, most recently in 2006. Here he plays a fiery version of "Walking By Myself" (from *White hot and Blue*) plus "Mississippi Blues" and a cover of "Suzie Q", Dale Hawkins by way of Creedence

Clearwater Revival.

This no-frills disc is a worthwhile purchase for fans of Johnny Winter, as well as a good career-sampling introduction for those interested in learning a bit about this unique and splendid musician.

- Air - *Moon Safari 10th Anniversary*
- Arthur Alexander - *Lonely Just Like Me*
- Badfinger - *Badfinger*
- Badfinger - *Wish You Were Here*
- Blue Ash - *No More, No Less*
- Brian Jonestown Massacre - *Their Satanic Majesties' Second Request*
- CCR - *Creedence Clearwater Revival, 40th Anniversary Edition*
- CCR - *Bayou Country, 40th Anniversary Edition*
- CCR - *Green River, 40th Anniversary Edition*
- CCR - *Willy and the Poor Boys, 40th Anniversary Edition*
- CCR - *Cosmo's Factory, 40th Anniversary Edition*
- CCR - *Pendulum, 40th Anniversary Edition*
- Rodney Dangerfield - *Greatest Bits*
- Firesign Theatre - *Box of Danger*
- The Grip Weeds - *House of Vibes Revisited*
- Robyn Hitchcock - *I Wanna Go Backwards*
- Love - *Forever Changes*
- Nick Lowe - *Jesus of Cool, 30th Anniv.*
- Thelonius Monk Quartet w/ Coltrane at Carnegie Hall
- R. Stevie Moore - *Meet The*
- Porcupine Tree - *Lightbulb Sun*
- The Pretty Things - *SF Sorrow*
- Rascals - *Once Upon a Dream*
- Rascals - *Freedom Suite*
- Rascals - *See*
- Rascals - *Search and Nearness*
- Replacements - *Hootenanny*
- Replacements - *Let it Be*
- Replacements - *Sorry Ma, Forgot to Take Out the Trash*
- Replacements - *Stink EP*
- The Simpsons - *Testify*
- United States of America - *United States of America*
- Various - *Droppin' Science*
- Various - *Stax Does the Beatles*
- Various - *Wattstax: The Living Word*
- Johnny Winter - *Live Through the 70s DVD*
- Young Rascals - *The Young*

Your feedback is welcome. Mailing list coming soon.

Musoscribe.com *by Bill Kopp*

Pop music interviews, essays, criticism, analysis, news, opinion...and occasional bonus material



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