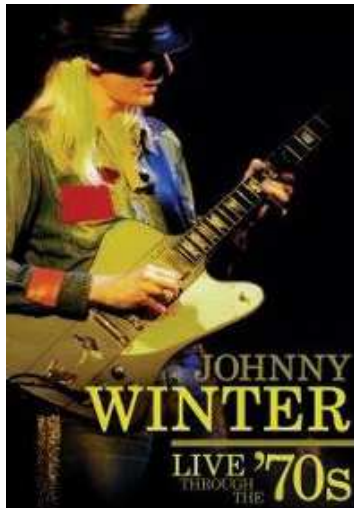


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## Live Through The 70s Johnny Winter



Fans of Johnny Winter will want to get their hands on the **Live Through The 70s** DVD, a mixed bag of some of the guitarist's most magnificent performances, captured on film in Europe and America. Beginning with some early, somewhat impromptu footage and finishing up with latter-day, arena-sized concerts, Winter never loses his sense of the blues while boning down with some truly remarkable fret work. To make it even more intriguing, the wild assortment of talented musicians who accompany Winter, including brother Edgar, definitely keep the master on his toes.

The DVD blasts off with a wild and raw take of "Frankenstein" from 1970 at the Gladsaxe Teen Club in Denmark. The Winter brothers are joined by drummer Uncle John Turner and bassist Tommy Shannon, who later turned up in Stevie Ray Vaughn's *Double Trouble*. Edgar and Turner pretty much carry the song, but then big brother Johnny moves in with the dreamy blues of "Be Care Of The Fool" and all bets are off. While it's hard to gauge a reaction from the audience sitting in what appears to be some kind of multi-purpose room for teens, Winter and company lock in and never run out of steam during this set.

Clips from the *Detroit Tubeworks*, which pop up in between longer sequences, finds Winter in a relaxed state, jawing it up about the blues, spontaneity, levitation, the state of rock and roll and drugs with host Dennis Frawley. In between, the guitarist rolls through standards like "Johnny B. Goode," "Tell The Truth," and "Key To The Highway" — skewing the bridges, pumping grit and iron into the melodies, and polishing each and every verse to a bright, luminous shine.

Winter's 1973 appearance on *Don Kirshner's Rock Concert* opens with a sizzling version of Rick Derringer's "Rock And Roll Hoochie Koo." The equally alluring "Stone County" is next, and at this point you begin to wonder how Winter could get any better. How about the 1974 Blues Summit in Chicago? Here, the guitarist leads an all-star jam of "Walking Through The Park" with legendary blues guitarist Michael Bloomfield, pianist Dr. John, drummer Buddy Miles and harpist Junior Wells on board. This is truly something you have to see to believe.

Germany must have had a love affair with Winter and his brand of the blues when you consider the range of German television clips that made the cut. "Mean Town Blues" from a 1970 appearance on *The Beat Club*, filmed in Bremen, Germany, and "Boney Maroney" from a 1974 *Musikladen* show, also filmed in Bremen, Germany, are prime Winter cuts — pure yet spiked up with an extra shot of primitive Texas attitude to enrapture the listener's sensibilities. Winter simplified the recipe for his 1979 Rockpalast concert in Essen, Germany, taking a breezy, bluesy walk with "Walking By Myself," "Mississippi Blues" and "Suzie Q." At its heart, Johnny Winter transports the blues to a higher plane on **Live Through The 70s**, never showing any signs of retreat. And he's been holding down the fort ever since.

~ Shawn Perry

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