

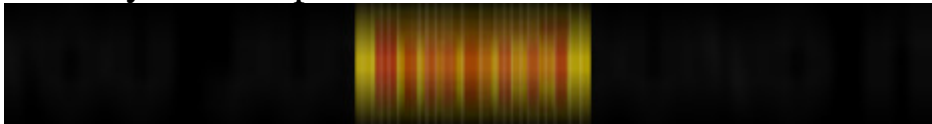
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Video Review: Robert Plant's Blue Note

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Well, its getting that time of year when we start looking for things to do as the weather turns bad and riding season is basically over. If you're a music fan and want to kill about two and a half hours you could pick up a copy of the video Robert Plant's Blue Note. I'll tell you up front it's not a Led Zeppelin anthology so don't expect to see or hear the long version of "Stairway To Heaven". Yes, there are clips from that era, but it is just a small part of the story.

This video is an insightful look into Led Zeppelin front man and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Robert Plant. It details the influences that shaped

the man and his music during the past fifty years. Collaborators, contemporaries, music executives and friends detail how Plant has melded all the musical influences he has experienced over the years into the various styles he has shown in his career.

The video starts out showing that like many other future British rockers, Plant listened to American Rock and Roll and Blues artists like Elvis, Muddy Waters and Willie Dixon during his formative years in the late '50s and early '60s. His first band, "Band of Joy", was a blues based band with an avid fan base. During the mid '60s Folk Rock, Hard Rock and Psychedelic Rock began to influence the sounds of many bands. It was in this era that Led Zeppelin was formed with Plant as lead vocalist. Some music historians credit Led Zeppelin as the first "Heavy Metal" band.

Following the tragic death of drummer, John Bonham (Plant's childhood friend), Led Zeppelin dissolved in 1980. For a while Plant grieved but soon went back to performing as a member of the Honey Drippers which performed blues and rock-a-billy music. These songs harkened back to the music from Plant's early years of listening to early American rock music. After a few recordings with this band Plant began his solo career.

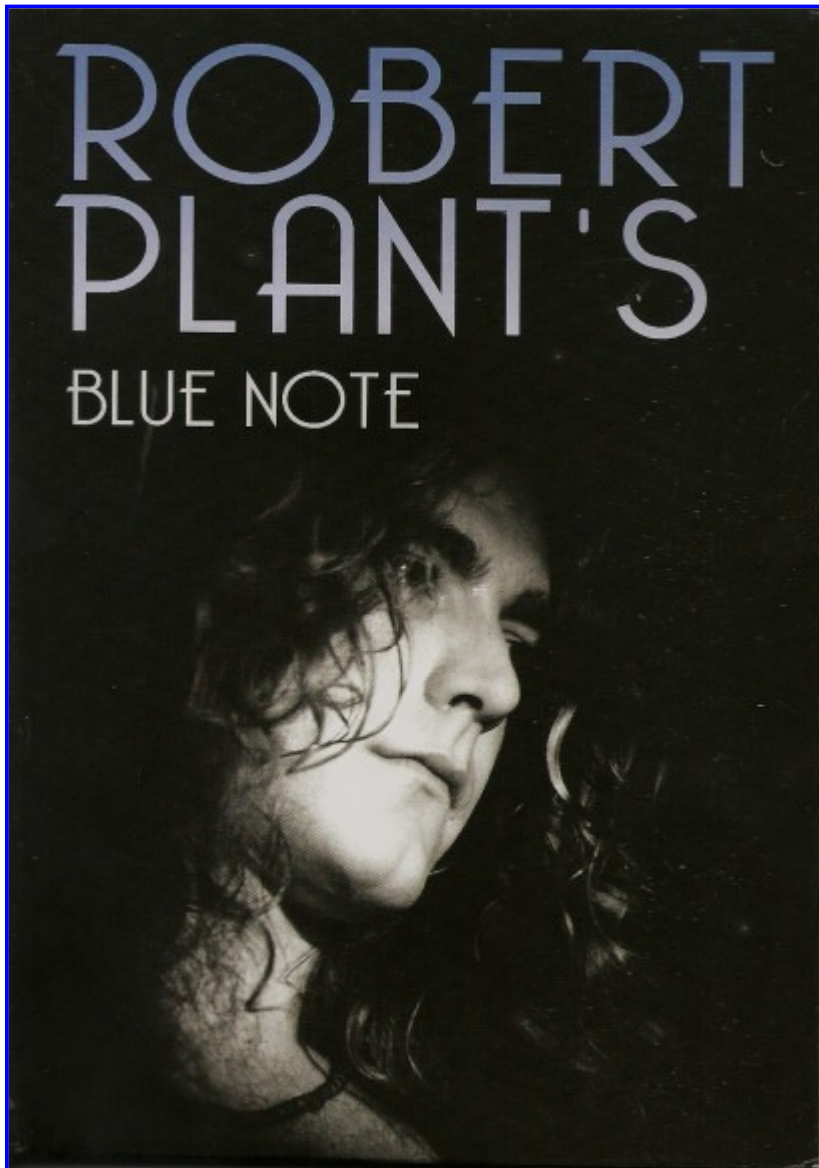
This phase of Plant's career and his subsequent reunion with Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page was a time when they showed how much they had been influenced by the haunting sounds from Middle Eastern cultures. Plant and Page dubbed the act "Unleaded" since they had not invited fellow Zeppelin member John Paul Jones to join them. This led to some awkward moments on stage when the surviving members of Led Zeppelin were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

As the new millennium dawned Plant again went back to American music for a new, for him, sound. He headed to Nashville, the home of country and blue grass music, to collaborate with the angelic voiced Allison Krause and producer T-Bone Burnett. Together in 2007 they came up with the wildly popular Raising Sand recording and follow-up tour. It was so popular and Plant was having such a good time that a rumored Zeppelin re-union was put on hold.

Lately Plant has again returned to his past with a newly formed version of his original group The Band of Joy. This rendition of the band consists of

musicians from the Nashville area and with it Plant once again displays the numerous musical tastes he has acquired over the years. Who knows what lies ahead for Robert Plant? Whatever it is we'll be listening to it.

Source and image: Robert Plant's Blue Note
Posted by Sam Kanish



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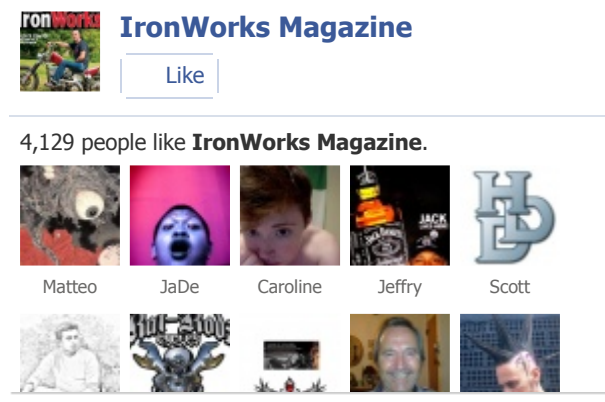
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