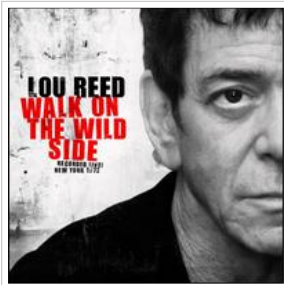


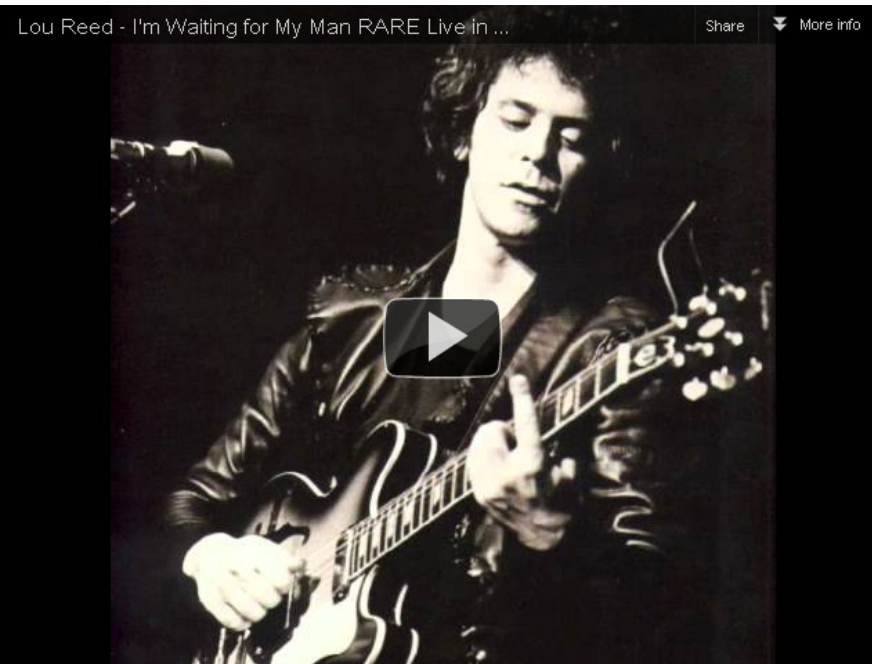


SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012

## Lou Reed - "Walk on the Wild Side" CD Review (XXL Media)



Lou Reed's *Walk on the Wild Side* CD (XXL Media) is a re-release of Lou's live-in-the-studio performance from Ultrasonic Studios which was recorded on Dec. 26, 1972 in Hempstead, NY. At the time this show was recorded, Lou's second solo disc, *Transformer*, had come out the month prior and the songs on this ten track disc are predominately drawn from *Transformer* and the Velvet Underground's back catalogue (Lou amusingly refers to one of the Velvet's tracks as a 'blast from the past').



This disc is an important addition to Lou Reed's catalog as his performance and the sound of his backing band, The Tots, sound like a logic extension of the Velvet Underground's *Loaded*. In addition to the accessibility and spontaneous urgency of the performance, Lou seems (surprisingly) cheerful and upbeat, both of which stand in sharp contrast to some of his later live discs, specifically the heavy metal bombast of *Rock & Roll Animal*, which was recorded a year later, or Reed's venom spitting performance on 1978's *Live: Take No Prisoners*. Lou re-interprets most of the Velvet Underground tracks – playing a languid "I'm Waiting for My Man" and he adds back the verse that was dropped from the Velvet's version of "Sweet Jane"

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