

No. 231

Brighter Days: JJ Grey & Mofro Live (MVDvisual) — DVD of a 2011 Atlanta live show surrounded by a loving travelogue of Grey's north Florida roots—"Where the swamp meets the ocean meets the country." He's got an attitude about being dismissed as a "DirtFloorCracker" but sympathizes with the haters who haven't yet received the information he's putting out. Like on "Country Ghetto," where Grey sings: "Love touches us all yes we're black and we're white/Out here in the cut living side by side/So never mind what you've seen and just forget what you've heard/Another ignorant redneck? Just some Hollywood words." Or on "Lochloosa," a slice of country environmentalism that serves as a sequel to Ronnie Van Zant's "All I Could Is Write About It," only this time the perpetrators have a name: Disney. Grey can sing as well as shout and his Memphis-style horn band sounds much like the food, the waterways, the love and hate that the songs reflect.