

RECORD COLLECTOR

Ian Hunter Feat. Mick Ronson Live At Rockpalast

MIG 90407

Indispensable artefact for the Hunter-Ronson massive.

Although Mick Ronson's time in Mott The Hoople was so brief that lineup never played a show on British soil, he had formed a bond with Ian Hunter which would continue until the guitarist's untimely death in 1993. Ronno appeared on Hunter's self-titled 1975 solo album as the pair struck out as the Hunter Ronson Band, their relationship becoming more sporadic as the guitarist became in demand but, judging by this set recorded in 1980 for Germany's *Rockpalast* TV show, always blessed with a rare, magical spark.

The mutual respect and chemistry between the pair is tangible as, after Ronson's scene-setting blitz through the Shadows' F.B.I., Hunter kicks off *Once Bitten Twice Shy*, followed by Mott faves *Angeline* and *Laugh At Me* [with unexpected new arrangements] and, later, *I Wish I Was Your Mother*, blessed with Ronno's heavenly mandolin. Irene Wilde is Hunter's intimate tour-de-force, *Just Another Night* the crowd stoker and *Bastard* [from the recent *You're Never Alone With A Schizophrenic*] a funky rant, before the closing romp through *All The Way From Memphis*, *Cleveland Rocks* and *All The Young Dudes*.

With Hunter in top fettle, Ronno again demonstrates his uncanny ability as the perfect foil, but the finale of the solo guitarist wrenching *Slaughter On Tenth Avenue* from his gentle soul provides the most poignant moment.

- *Kris Needs*