



## Cook With The Hook! John Lee Hooker DVD Preview

By [h A. Gordon](#), About.com Guide May 17, 2012



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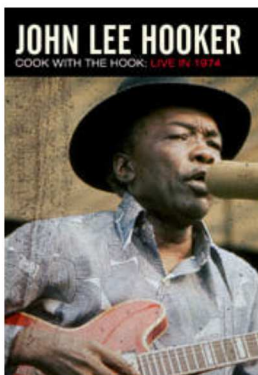
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It's no secret to long-time blues fans that the late [John Lee Hooker](#) was a spellbinding performer who could hold an audience in the palm of his hand. On a hot July day in 1974, Hooker was one of the headliners at an all-day festival called "Down In The Dumps" that was held in a former landfill in Gardner, Massachusetts. The event was attended by 6,000 blues fans and, by chance, Hooker's dynamic performance was caught on a three-camera shoot and later broadcast on cable TV.

On June 19, 2012 Hooker's long-lost festival appearance on that day in Massachusetts will be released on DVD by our friends at MVD Entertainment. Titled *Cook With The Hook: Live 1974*, the six-song, 45-minute performance includes such Hooker favorites as "It Serves You Right To Suffer," "Boom Boom," "Sweet Sweet Thing," and "Whiskey & Woman," among other songs.



John Lee Hooker began his career in the 1940s, and began recording in 1948, his "Boogie Chillen" becoming an overnight hit. That song would be followed by a string of successful singles throughout the late 1940s and well into the 1950s, including songs like "I'm In The Mood" and "Crawling Kingsnake." Paid by the song, during this era Hooker would record dozens of sides under a variety of names for a number of labels.

Hooker's career was still swinging in the 1960s and '70s, the bluesman touring and recording prolifically during the two decades. In 1974, at the time that *Cook With The Hook* was taped, Hooker was still at the peak of his performance skills. He didn't slow down during the 1980s and '90s, either - Hooker's 1989 album *The Healer* would sell over a million copies and earn the bluesman a Grammy® Award, and subsequent releases would cement his status as one of the great artists of the blues. Hooker would be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1991.

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