

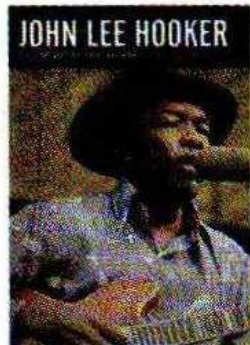
John Lee Hooker

Cook With The Hooker: Live In 1974



MVD Visual MVD 5302 D

Do you want to boogie? Want to cook with the Hook?



Despite his legendary status among blues fans, by 1974 John Lee Hooker's career was

failing. His contract with ABC/Bluesway was coming to an end – he'd been with the label since 1967 – and, bar the odd indie recording, he'd have to wait until 1989's *The Healer* to resurrect his standing.

Yet he was still a winner onstage – as this hard and rockin' six-song set testifies.

Playing with the robust Coast To Coast Blues Band at the Down In The Dumps festival (other artists on the bill included Captain Metro and Firewater And Zargut) on 6 July 1974 in Gardner, Massachusetts in front of a 6,000-strong audience, Hooker pulled out all the stops. Filmed in black-and-white, the picture quality is far from perfect, but the sound is spot-on. The crowd go wild for the kind of improvised groove he'd been perfecting since Boogie Chillen, his first hit back in 1948. "Do you feel it?" he sings – and we sure do. Cast in the role of preacher, he continues, "I want to go higher, higher, higher," and his congregation are with him all the way. *Lois Wilson*