Livin' Blues – Wang Dang Doodle (1970)



A1 Wang Dang Doodle 5:15 A2 I Came Home At Night 7:00 A3 Whiskey And Gin 2:35 A4 Go-Go-Train 5:05 B1 When The Sun Goes Down 5:15 B2 This Is The Hour 2:30 B3 Spoonful 12:10 Bass Guitar – Ruud Van Buuren Drums – Dick Beekman Guitar – Teddy Oberg Harmonica, Percussion – John Lagrand Vocals, Percussion, Saxophone, Guitar – Nicko Christiansen

Wang Dang Doodle is without doubt one of the best Dutch Blues albums of all time. Together with Cuby & The Blizards The Livin' Blues were responsible for the fine blues albums the Dutch released by the end of the '60s, early '70s. Their blues style of the debut album was mixed with progressive rock, with some long songs as a result. The guitar riff from the title track is reminiscent of Black Night by Deep Purple. A shortened version of this song was released on single and became a modest hit. The band's success has resulted in performances all over Europe, from England to Italy. ---thesoundofvinyl.com

This Dutch blues band was formed in the Hague around 1967, becoming a regular outfit from 1969. The early line-up included Bjorn Toll (vocals), John Lagrand (harmonica), Ted Oberg (guitar), Ruud Fransen (bass) and Niek Dijkhuys (drums) but although the name remained wholesale changes soon took place, bringing in a new singer, Nicko Christiansen, and new bass and drums, Peter Kleinjan and Beer Klaasse, the latter pair being swiftly replaced by Gerard Strutbaum and Cesar Zuiderwijk, while keyboard player Henk Smitskamp was added. Other changes followed through the 70s, by which time the band's repertoire was more inclined towards rock. Musicians involved included bass players Ruud van Buuren, Jan van der Voort, Jaap van Eijk and André Reynen, drummers John Lejeune, Herman van Boeyen, Cor van Beek, Michel Driessen, Kenny Lamb and Arjen Kamminga; the latter pair played in the band

simultaneously for a spell. Smitskamp sometimes played bass, singer Johnny Frederiksz came in, as did organist Paul Vin and guitarist Ron Meyes. Although best known in the Netherlands, Livin' Blues also gained a following elsewhere in Europe, especially in Poland. At the start of the 80s, the band included Oberg, Christiansen, Evert Willemstein (bass) and Boris Wassenbergh (drums). Spin-off bands formed by ex-members of the Livin' Blues included Nitehawk and the J&T Band, while most members also played with other Dutch blues and rock bands. The band recorded from 1968, cutting a few singles with its first album coming in 1969. The band appears to have drifted from the limelight after the early 80s but interest in its recorded work remained high into the new millennium. ---sputnikmusic.com

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