

Gwyn Ashton – Two-Man Blues Army (2009)

Written by bluesever

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1. Meltdown At The Hoo 2:28 2. Break 4:23 3. Million Dollar Blues 5:26 4. Cross Road Blues 5:34 [play](#) 5. Mad Dog 3:28 6. All Over Now 3:31 7. Outside Woman Blues 4:20 8. Junior Got A Blade 3:50 9. False Accusations 2:46 10. Ain't Nobody's Fool 7:04 11. One Way Ticket To The Blues 8:30 12. Million Dollar Blues (Radio Edit) [play](#)
Gwyn Ashton - Arranger, Composer, Guitar, Harmonica, Producer, Vocals David Small - Drums, Percussion

'Two-Man Blues Army' has to be Gwyn Ashton's best work to date. I LOVE this crossover psychedelic blues-rock album, its huge feel-good factor and its live gig vibe. How two guys manage to whip up such an infectious musical frenzy I can't imagine. The two-man army format leaves plenty of room for these modern-day blues soldiers to explore new sonic territories without the restrictions that come with a three-piece combo. The slide guitar is monstrously awesome, the vocals wonderfully gritty, deep-reaching and heartfelt. This album belongs most definitely to the 21st century, but also pays its dues to the traditional end of the blues genre (exemplified by 'Junior Got a Blade', a mean acoustic track on resonator guitar and a social commentary on teenage knife crime). It's all original materials apart from two covers #`Crossroads Blues' and `Outside Woman Blues'#, which have both been given the very distinctive Ashton treatment and brilliantly transformed in the process. `Outside Woman Blues' has simply been turned into the most danceable blues track EVER in my opinion! Overall, I'd be hard pushed to choose a favourite track, but I'll give a very special mention to `One Way Ticket to the Blues', a haunting, wailing killer number with plenty of goose-pimple quality, which grabs you by the soul.

Two-Man Blues Army provides such a welcome, refreshingly invigorating contrast to albums released by too many dreary would-be Stevie Ray Vaughan clones out there purporting to represent modern blues "no wonder that SRV is a source of inspiration to many guitarists, but the point in attempting to copy him note for note, I'll never begin to fathom."

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Gwyn Ashton doesn't sound like anyone else. He has developed his own identity with plenty of light and shade, and is not afraid of playing outside the mould. If you don't like predictable blues, this is your guaranteed antidote! And I'm delighted to read that Guitarist magazine #Oct issue# shares my opinion about Two-Man Blues Army! ("It's a raucous sounding album that has plenty of credibility in a modern blues market full of mediocrity - one army we'd be happy to join") ---Pixiebells, amazon.com

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