

Larry Davis - Funny Stuff (1982)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Funny Stuff* 3:38 2 *Teardrops* 6:22 3 *Next Time You See Me* 3:36 4 *Worried Dream* 4:57 5 *Totsy* 3:05 6 *Since I Been Loving You* 3:37 7 *That Will Never Do* 3:04 8 *Walk Out Like A Lady* 4:02 9 *Find 'Em, Fool 'Em & Forget 'Em* 4:07 10 *Got To Be Some Changes Made* 4:11 Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone – Oliver Sain (tracks: 2-4 & 7-9) Bass – Eugene Johnson (tracks: 2 & 7), Jimmy Hint (tracks: 3, 5, 8-10), Phil Westmoreland (tracks: 1, 4 & 6) Drums – Billy Gayles (tracks: 3, 5, 9 & 10), Don Smith (tracks: 2), Jimmy Hint (tracks: 1 & 6-8) Guitar [All Tracks] – Phil Westmoreland Organ – Oliver Sain (tracks: 1-3, 5 & 8-10) Piano – Johnnie Johnson (tracks: 2, 4, 7 & 10), Oliver Sain (tracks: 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 & 9) Vocals, Lead Guitar – Larry Davis + Piano [Left Channel] – Oliver Sain (track 5) Piano [Right Channel] – Johnny Johnson (track 5)

Larry Davis didn't record all that often, but when he did, he certainly made it count. That's the case with this fine St. Louis recording. Produced by Oliver Sain (who handled all sax work) and featuring Billy Gayles on drums and pianist Johnnie Johnson, the set is a ringing endorsement of Davis's slashing, tremolo-enriched guitar and booming vocals. ---Bill Dahl, AllMusic Review

Larry Davis grew up in Arkansas, working with Fenton Robinson in the mid-50s. He started recording for Duke in 1958 with "Texas Flood" (the original version by the way - and likely still the best.) He signed to Duke at the recommendation of Bobby Bland. Larry recorded sporadically over the years and passed away in 1994.

Davis was an extraordinary talent. He had a tremendous voice, with a soft vibrato. He sang in

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the B.B. King, Little Joe Blue, Bobby Bland style. His biting single-note guitar work could be placed somewhere between the sounds of B.B. King and Son Seals. He had more edge in his playing than King, but it wasn't as harsh as Seals. "Funny Stuff" was originally released in 1982, and was re-released on CD by Rooster Blues in 2001. This review is based on the 2001 version of the album. "Funny Stuff" is basically Larry Davis' St. Louis album. All of the musicians on the album were St. Louis stalwarts. The cast of characters was: Oliver Sain on piano, organ and all saxes; Phil Westmoreland on guitar; Johnnie Johnson on piano; Billy Gayles on drums; Jimmy Hinds on bass and drums; Eugene Johnson on bass; and Don Smith on drums. The album has all the features of the St. Louis blues sounds, with a combination of raw emotion mixed with Uptown sensibilities. ---East Side Slim, stlblues.net

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