Peg Leg Sam - Kickin' It (2000)



01. Who's That Left Here 'While Ago 02. Greasy Greens 03. Reuben 04. Irene, Tell Me, Who Do You Love 05. Skinny Woman Blues 06. Lost John 07. Ode to Bad Bill 08. Ain't But One Thing Give A Man The Blues 09. Easy Ridin' Buggy 10. Peg's Fox Chase 11. Before You Give It All Away 12. Fast Frieght Train 13. Nasty Old Trail 14. Born in Hard Luck
Peg Leg Sam – harmonica, vocals Rufe Johnson – guitar, vocals

Peg Leg Sam was not your typical country-blues performer -- he was in a class all his own. Born in 1911, he naturally embraced the country-blues of his generation, while also maintaining the early medicine show roots he learned as a child. Sam's sometimes humorous and always impassioned monologues, combined with harp virtuosity (he sometimes played two of them at once), came from a life of dedicated showmanship built up after years of passing the hat for crowds of spectators. Since Sam was definitely under-recorded, he has gained status as one of those irreplaceable characters who fell through the cracks, making these sessions fortunate to have available. These tracks were originally released on the Trix label as Medicine Show Man, and are now available as Kickin' It on 32 Blues. Sam is accompanied separately on the disc by guitarists Baby Tate and Rufe Johnson, from two South Carolina sessions recorded in Spartanburg during 1970 and Jonesville two years later. ---Al Campbell, Rovi

Accompanied only by an acoustic guitar and by the thumping sound of his own wooden leg, Peg Leg Sam blends down-home humor and harmonica virtuosity on Kickin' It. A one-time traveling medicine show entertainer from the '30s, Sam recorded these Piedmont and Delta blues classics in 1970 and 1972 for the Trix label. Among the many highlights here are unaccompanied harmonica showcases like "Lost John," "Reuben" and the show-stopping "Peg's Fox Chase." Sam also delivers one rhyming story, "Ode to Bad Bill," in folksy fashion. A

favorite of folklorist Alan Lomax, Peg Leg Sam (born Arthur Jackson in Jonesville, S.C.) was an irrepressible showman from the old school. We may never see the likes of him again. ---Bill Milkowski, jazztimes.com

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