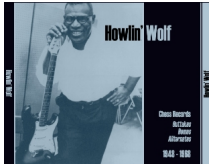


Howlin' Wolf - Chess Records Outtakes, Demos & Alternate Takes 1948 – 1968

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 31 December 2009 22:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 09 February 2021 20:47

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Howlin' Wolf

Chess Records Outtakes, Demos & Alternate Takes 1948 - 1968

Recorded In Chicago And Memphis

Plus Chicago 1972 Live (1 Song)

1948

1. *Bluebird #1*
2. *Dorothy Mae #1*
3. *Sweet Woman*
4. *Saddle My Pony*
5. *Worried All The Time*

1950

6. *Mama Died And Left Me*
7. *I'm Not Joking*

1951

8. *Highway My Friend*
9. *Hold Your Money*
10. *Streamline Woman*
11. *California Blues*
12. *Stay Here Till My Baby Comes Back*
13. *Crazy About You Baby*
14. *C.V. Wine Blues*
15. *Look A Here Baby*

1952

16. *Decoration Day*
17. *Well That's All Right*
18. *My Baby Walked Off*
19. *Smile At Me*
20. *Bluebird #2*
21. *Everybody's In The Mood*
22. *Chocolate Drop*

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- 23. *Come Back Home*
- 24. *Dorothy Mae #2*
- 25. *Highway Man #1*
- 26. *Oh Red*
- 27. *My Last Affair*
- 28. *Howlin' Wolf Boogie*
- 29. *Howlin' For My Baby (Wolf Is At Your Door)*

1953

- 30. *Highway Man #2*
- 31. *Getting Old And Gray*

1955

- 32. *Come To Me Baby*
- 33. *Don't Mess With Me Baby*

1956

- 34. *So Glad*
- 35. *My Life*
- 36. *Going Back Home*
- 37. *I Didn't Know #1*
- 38. *Bluebird #3*
- 39. *You Ought To Know*

1957

- 40. *Nature*
- 41. *Walk To Camp Hall*
- 42. *My Baby Told Me*
- 43. *Somebody In My Home*
- 44. *Midnight Blues #1*
- 45. *Midnight Blues #2*
- 46. *I Didn't Know #2*

1958

- 47. *I Better Go Now #1*
- 48. *I Better Go Now #2*
- 49. *Can't Put Me Out*

1959

- 50. *Getting Late*
- 51. *Howlin' Blues*
- 52. *I've Been Abused*
- 53. *My People's Gone*

1960

- 54. *Long Green Stuff*

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1963

55. *Joy To My Soul*

1966

56. *Poor Wind That Never Change*

1967

57. *Commit A Crime*

1968

58. *Dust My Broom*

59. *Rollin' And Tumblin'*

60. *Tired Of Crying*

Unknown Date

61. *I'm Leaving You*

1972 - Live In Chicago

62. *Big House*

Howlin' Wolf – harmonica, vocals Willie Johnson – guitar Hubert Sumlin - guitar

This chronologically arranged triple-CD set could be considered the bootleg parallel to MCA's Chess Box volume on Howlin' Wolf. Assembled here are 60 tracks by Howlin' Wolf that fall outside the official canon of his work, covering his years in Memphis and Chicago, and intersecting with his work for Sam Phillips, the Bihari Brothers, the Chess brothers, etc. Some of it has been heard before in various contexts, or in other versions, but pulling it all together in one place ends up building a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts -- across 20 years of recording, the voice and the persona blaze away and ring out like a force of nature, on numbers like "Dorothy Mae," "Blackbird," "Midnight Blues," and "I Don't Know." There are some genuine surprises here, too, including a 1968 outtake of "Rollin' and Tumblin'," that doesn't last long enough to have been considered for release -- it adjoins a surging "Tired of Crying" that is one of the highlights of Wolf's late-career work at Chess. The quality of the material varies considerably, as one would expect from the wide-ranging dates represented -- the 1940s material is from disc sources that can be very rough at times, but Wolf's vocals and Willie Johnson's guitar cut through the sonic imperfections in evidence; from 1950 onward, most of the tracks are derived from higher quality sources, mostly audiotape masters, and the fidelity on discs two and three, covering the years 1952-1968, is a match for some legitimate Chess reissues that we've seen. These platters are CD-Rs, but of a very high quality -- they play fine on most DVD players (which aren't supposed to be able to read most CD-Rs). The artwork is ambitious if ultimately a little crude, and there's no annotation to speak of, but the listening experience is beyond criticism, and this set -- which has turned up at the best collectors' shops -- is highly recommended for anyone who can't get enough Howlin' Wolf (which is, mostly,

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anyone who's ever heard him). --- Bruce Eder, allmusic.com

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