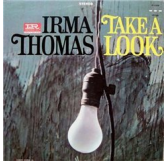


Irma Thomas - Take A Look (1968)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 19 July 2012 15:22 - Last Updated Friday, 19 February 2021 20:59

Irma Thomas - Take A Look (1968)



01. *Take a Look* (2:57) 02. *Teasing, But You're Pleasing* (1:46) 03. *I Haven't Got Time to Cry* (2:43) 04. *You Don't Miss a Good Thing (Until It's Gone)* (2:25) 05. *Some Things You Never Get Used To* (2:45) 06. *Anyone Who Knows What Love Is (Will Understand)* (2:56) 07. *It's Starting to Get to Me Now* (2:22) 08. *Times Have Changed* (2:26) 09. *He's My Guy* (2:39) 10. *Baby Don't Look Down* (2:34) 11. *What Are You Trying to Do* (2:12) 12. *Wait, Wait, Wait* (2:35)

Although it should have been issued the previous year and Imperial Records even had a catalog designation reserved for the project (LP-9275), Irma Thomas' second long-player for the label also turned out to be her last. The vocalist's professional relationship with songwriter/producer Allen Toussaint had been established several years earlier on the R&B hit "It's Raining." Here, he supplies a third of the disc's material beginning with the optimistic and stylishly orchestrated "Take a Look" -- giving the album both its title track and opening selection. The upbeat and sassy "Teasing, But Your Pleasing" is another Toussaint-penned tune and exemplifies the symbiosis between the artist and composer as the catchy melody and Thomas' carefree delivery are a custom fit. That certainly isn't to imply that she has lost any of her emotive capacity, as she so aptly demonstrates throughout the effort, and nowhere more so than "I Haven't Got Time to Cry," or Jerry Ragavoy's "You Don't Miss a Good Thing (Until It's Gone)" -- arguably William Bell's blueprint for "You Don't Miss Your Water." Thomas resonates a similar sensitivity on "It's Starting to Get to Me Now" sounding like a Dionne Warwick protégé thanks to the Burt Bacharach-like chord progressions and writing style of up-and-coming songsmith and producer Van McCoy. Still nearly a decade away from creating his own hits -- most notably the chart-topping dance monster "The Hustle" -- McCoy contributed a total of four selections. While his arrangement of "Some Things You Never Get Used To" could be an homage to the Bacharach/David classic "Walk on By," the edgier "He's My Guy" is an ideal match of singer and song as Thomas' attitude seethes right below the surface of her graceful delivery. Fans of Northern U.K. soul often rank the infectiously buoyant "Baby, Don't Look Down" among their favorite discotheque spins dedicated to preserving the spirit of the music and times. Wrapping up *Take a Look* are a final pair from Toussaint with the cheery and definitely Motown-inspired "What Are You Trying to Do." "Wait, Wait, Wait," on the other hand,

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is unique as it reflects Toussaint's early influence and love of '40s and '50s country and western music. One could easily hear Patsy Cline, Brenda Lee, or Loretta Lynn lending their respective intonations to it. --- Lindsay Planer, allmusic.com

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