

Jimi Hendrix – Hendrix In The West (2011)

Written by bluesever

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1. *The Queen* 2:59 2. *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart Club Band* 0:52 3. *Little Wing* 3:53 4. *Fire* 3:58 [play](#) 5. *I Don't Live Today* 7:21 6. *Spanish Castle Magic* 10:14 7. *Red House* 13:13 8. *Johnny B. Goode* 4:43 9. *Lover Man* 3:01 10. *Blue Suede Shoes* 4:27

[play](#)

11. *Voodoo Child (Slight Return)* 10:40

Jimi Hendrix – guitar, vocals Mitch Mitchell – drums Billy Cox – bass guitar Noel Redding – bass guitar

Every posthumous Hendrix release fleshes out the tale of his genius and changes the way you hear his music - changes the way you hear music, period. These two reissued (and beefed-up) live collections are no exception. The four-CD box *Winterland* is culled from six Jimi Hendrix Experience shows at San Francisco's Winterland Ballroom, recorded over three days in October 1968; *Hendrix in the West* (an expanded version of a 1974 release) gathers 11 gripping performances from West Coast shows in 1969 and 1970, the year of his death. They're essential listening: the sound of the greatest electric guitarist ever in glorious flight; the sound of psychedelic rock being invented, perfected and playfully taken apart; the sound of a world, and worldview, coming into being.

The *Winterland* box is the more transfixing of the two, if only for the sheer amount of music (nearly five hours' worth) and the torrid force of Hendrix's soloing on songs like "Manic Depression" and the 15-minute-long "Tax Free," which tilts from acid rock toward the stormy grandeur of free jazz. *Hendrix in the West* isn't quite as overpowering, but there are mind-blowing moments: His "Johnny B. Goode" is a ripping tribute to (or is it a parody of?) early rock & roll, and "Little Wing" is Hendrix at his most lovely and lyrical. Not to be missed: the backstage interview on Disc Four of the *Winterland* set, a rare up-close-and-personal glimpse of Hendrix's intelligence, thirst for musical adventure and hippie-dippie charm. "What we're into now is history," Hendrix tells the interviewer. "We want to advance it." Mission accomplished. ---Jody Rosen, rollingstone.com

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