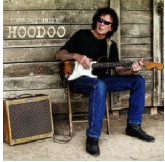


Tony Joe White – Hoodoo (2013)

Wpisany przez bluesever

Wtorek, 22 Październik 2013 15:50 -

Tony Joe White – Hoodoo (2013)



01 – *The Gift* 02 – *Holed Up* 03 – *Who You Gonna Hoodoo Now* 04 – *9 Foot Sack* 05 – *Alligator, Mississippi* 06 – *The Flood* 07 – *Storm Comin'* 08 – *Gypsy Epilogue* 09 – *Sweet Tooth* Musicians: Tony Joe White - Guitar, Harmonica, Vocals John Catchings - Cello Steve Forrest - Bass Bryan Owings - Drums, Percussion Tyson Rogers - Organ, Piano Brady Surface - Bass Nc Thurman - Keyboards, Organ

There's no mistaking Tony Joe White's signature swamp boogie. Patented in the late '60s, White has been working that same low-down blues grind ever since, taking a long sojourn from recording in the '80s before settling into a regular groove sometime around the time of the new millennium. Usually, these collections of new songs were on tiny labels -- including his aptly named Swamp imprint -- but 2013's *Hoodoo* appeared on Yep Roc and received an appropriately larger push than its recent predecessors. Apart from that publicity, not much has changed in White's world. He favors thick, laid-back Bayou blues heavy on atmosphere even when the production is bright and clean. He's there, supported by a lanky, languid rhythm section and colored by another guitar and organ or harmonica, sometimes working up a head of boogie but usually settling so far back into the groove it feels like they can't be roused. Some dread creeps at the edges of *Hoodoo* -- it surfaces on "The Flood" and "Storm Comin'," references to the storm that washed away large portions of Nashville in 2010, also damaging White's own home -- but White's fondness for spontaneous takes dilutes these ominous undertones and, sometimes, his own groove. As appealing as the lived-in, swampy jams are, there's a laziness that drifts throughout *Hoodoo*, apparent in the sauntering rhythms and Tony Joe's mush-mouthed vocals. If he were issuing warnings, they'd be hard to hear through his grumble, and the band doesn't work for your attention -- they expect you to either be on board or not. And while they do their voodoo well on *Hoodoo*, that nonchalant attitude keeps the record from being compelling. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine

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