

## Zola Moon - Eartquakes,Thunder & Smiling Lightning (2000)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 02 October 2011 18:25 - Last Updated Wednesday, 24 July 2013 20:14

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1 Meatgrinder 2 Doll House [play](#) 3 Camel Cash 4 Lucky Me 5 What's Left [play](#)  
6 I Don't Think So 7 Lover Man 8 Same Old Story 9 Bottom

Musicians: Zola Moon (vocals/harmonica); Kim Allison (guitar); Jerry Olsen (drums); Ron Battle (bass); + Ted Jenkins (bass); Joe Kennedy (piano); Vince Joy (guitar); Cynthia Manley (co-lead vocal).

Wow! This gal has a great set of powerful pipes. Zola kicks off the set with a candid blues titled "Meatgrinder" and the lyrics are anything but pretty but they certainly make you think. The Los Angeles based blues singer pulls no punches and it seems little wonder that she is among the top ten female blues performers in the nation according to several polls.

Influenced by a wide variety of blues and rock legends, Zola Moon treats a song with the tenderness of a road grader. Just get out of the way and listen. There is a real echo of Big Mama Thornton and Janis Joplin and I'd be the last to complain about that.

All kidding aside, Zola is a truly honest talent and fills a very bright spot on the blues scene today. She performs much of her own material and is accompanied by a fine bunch of West Coast blues musicians. I loved "I Don't Think So" and "Doll House". On "Lover Man", Zola shares the vocal lead with Cynthia Manley, another fine talent. The duet of powerful voices cannot be ignored. As a storyteller, Zola reaches new heights on "Same Old Story", a touching tale of sorrow and pain accompanied by the young pianist Joe Kennedy.

The set ends appropriately with a blues titled "The Bottom." Zola blows a little harp on this one and fills the five-minute track with her gutsy vocal style. This is a hell of a refreshing blues

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album. --- jazzreview.com

Zola Moon is the powerhouse and the queen of present-day Americana-roots-music and blues/blues-rock. Her no-holds-barred, incendiary live performances are renowned. She is a prolific songwriter and her CDs are made up almost wholly of her own original compositions. Her song writing and singing have received rave reviews from magazines, newspapers, radio DJs, and web sites around the world. Both the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Daily News have called Zola "the South Bay Legend," and the Los Angeles Weekly has called her "one of the Southland's best-kept musical secrets".

Zola is the recipient of a South Bay Music Award for Blues Artist of the Year, has been chosen Pick of the Year for Best Female Blues by Musicdish.com, has been named one of the Top 10 Artists of the Year by Femmusic.com, and is the recipient of an Elite Artist Award from TheGlobalMuse.com. Her CDs are played on the internet and on the radio in the United States and internationally.

Zola has appeared and performed with Albert Collins, Etta James, Linda Hopkins, Albert King, Big Mama Thornton, Al Kooper, and Eric Burdon, among others, and has appeared and been interviewed on the House of Blues Radio Hour. Her recordings of her own original songs can be heard in the soundtracks of a number of movies.

Zola is one of the very few blues artists to have ever been asked to perform at the Playboy Jazz Festival (where her reception by the crowd was nothing short of phenomenal), and she has performed at numerous other festivals and concerts. Zola has been performing for 25 years and she recently released her 7th CD. --- daz.com

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