

Hugh Laurie - Didn't It Rain (2013)

Written by bluesever

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01 – *The St. Louis Blues* 02 – *Junkers Blues* 03 – *Kiss Of Fire* 04 – *Vicksburg Blues* 05 – *The Weed Smoker's Dream* 06 – *Wild Honey* 07 – *Send Me To The 'Lectric Chair* 08 – *Evenin'* 09 – *Didn't It Rain* 10 – *Careless Love* 11 – *One For My Baby* 12 – *I Hate a Man Like You* 13 – *Changes* 14 – *Unchain My Heart* 15 – *Yeh Yeh (Live)* Accordion, Organ, Keyboards – Patrick Warren Acoustic Bass [Upright], Electric Bass – David Piltch Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Lap Steel Guitar, Mandolin, Mandola, Mandocello, Tenor Banjo, Backing Vocals – Kevin Breit Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet – Robby Marshall Backing Vocals – Gaby Moreno, Jean McClain Drums, Percussion – Jay Bellerose Lead Vocals – Gaby Moreno (tracks: 3, 5, 9), Jean McClain (tracks: 7, 9, 12), Taj Mahal (tracks: 4) Mandolin, Mandola, Lap Steel Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar – Greg Leisz Organ [Hammond B3] – Larry Goldings Piano, Acoustic Guitar, Vocals – Hugh Laurie Saxophones, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Harmonica, Vocals – Vincent Henry Trombone – Elizabeth Lea

His blues bona fides buttressed by his 2011 debut album *Let Them Talk*, Hugh Laurie returns with *Didn't It Rain*, another collection of jazz and blues standards, usually of the New Orleans variety but not always (his heart will sometimes stray to Kansas City), produced by Joe Henry. If *Let Them Talk* had a slightly burnished, rich veneer, *Didn't It Rain* is a bit lighter, with Laurie content to let himself slip into the background as both pianist and vocalist, which is odd as he has considerably fewer guests here than he did on his debut. Apart from Taj Mahal, this is pretty self-contained, Laurie playing the boogie with his band, sometimes lying back and letting his backing singers steal the spotlight, which they do with ease. Nobody is concerned with reinterpreting the songs or surprising a listener, they just want to enjoy re-creating sounds and tunes they've loved, an attitude that's rarely alienating although it's never quite infectious, either. All involved love the boogie and love the swing, happy to hit the accents hard and draw out the eighth notes, and if there's never a compelling reason to listen to Laurie and crew tackle these well-loved tunes, nobody involved embarrasses themselves, and it's a pretty enjoyable way to while away a lazy Sunday afternoon. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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Druga porcja fantastycznego klasycznego bluesa od Hugh Lauriego, odtwórcy roli genialnego diagnosty Gregory'ego House'a w serialu "Doktor House"! Płyta "Didn't It Rain" to kilkanaście piosenek, tym razem nie inspirowanych Nowym Orleanem.

Nowoorleańskim bluesem Hugh Laurie, który jest wspaniałym wokalistą, pianistą, a potrafi zagrać również na gitarze, perkusji i saksofonie, oczarował fanów na debiutanckiej płycie "Let Them Talk" z 2011 roku, która sprzedała się w blisko milionie kopii na całym świecie, w kilku krajach pokrywając się platyną i złotem. Talentem wspomogli go wówczas między innymi Sir Tom Jones, Dr. John, Irma Thomas.

Na drugim krążku słynny Anglik wybrał się w podróż ku sercu Ameryki, odkrywa na nowo pionierów amerykańskiego bluesa. Sięga do takich twórców jak W.C. Handy ("St Louis. Blues"), Jelly Roll Morton ("I Hate A Man Like You") czy Little Brother Montgomery ("Vicksburg Blues"). Nie zapomina jednak również o bardziej współczesnych artystach. Jak choćby wspomniany Dr. John ("Wild Honey") czy znany z The Animals Alan Price ("Changes"). W "Vicksburg Blues" Lauriego wspiera wokalnie legenda bluesa, laureat Grammy Taj Mahal. Są też w gościach na płycie pochodząca z Gwatemali wokalistka i gitarzystka Gaby Moreno, a także soulowa piosenkarka Jean McClain (m.in. Sheryl Crow).

Produkcję albumu "Didn't It Rain" Hugh Laurie powierzył Joe Henry'emu, który odpowiadał też za brzmienie "Let Them Talk". Kilkanaście piosenek nagrano w styczniu 2013 roku w Ocean Way Studio w Los Angeles. Słynnemu Anglikowi towarzyszyli w studiu muzycy The Copper Bottom Band (Jay Bellerose, Kevin Breit, Vincent Henry, Greg Leisz, Robby Marshall, David Piltch, Patrick Warren, Elizabeth Lea, Larry Goldings). "Didn't It Rain" przygotowano w kilku formatach – jako standardowe, pojedyncze CD, deluxe edition book CD, na krążku winylowym oraz w formie plików cyfrowych. Drugi album Hugh Lauriego to porcja fantastycznego klasycznego bluesa. Robiąca jeszcze większe wrażenie niż na "Let Them Talk". Fani bluesa nie powinni się zastanawiać ani chwili! ---warnermusic.pl

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