

Dave Alvin - Eleven Eleven (2011)

Written by bluesever

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01. Harlan County Line (5:11) 02. Johnny Ace Is Dead (4:26) 03. Black Rose Of Texas (4:52) 04. Gary, Indiana 1959 (4:05) 05. Run Conejo Run (4:52) 06. No Worries Mija (3:35)

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07. What's Up With Your Brother (4:43) 08. Murrieta's Dead (5:58) 09. Manzanita (4:08) 10. Dirty Nightgown (5:19) 11. Two Lucky Bums (2:27)

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The "King of California," DAVE ALVIN is back with his all-new album Eleven Eleven. On his latest release, Dave revisits the burning, guitar-centered blues rock that initially defined his career as part of The Blasters. This time around Dave called on some Blasters including his brother Phil, with whom he duets for the first time ever on record. Dave wrote all the songs on Eleven Eleven while on the road touring, a first for the seasoned performer. This new album is a must-have for Dave Alvin fans. ---myspace.com

Yep Roc Records is excited to announce the upcoming release of Dave Alvin's new studio album titled Eleven Eleven on June 21. Eleven Eleven, described as the "King of California's" most driving, electric blues and rock oriented album since 2004's critically acclaimed Ashgrove, includes 11-tracks, for the first time in his career, written and recorded on the road and during breaks while on tour. The album features a host musicians Alvin had not recorded with since his days in The Blasters, and for the first time ever, sings on record with his brother Phil, the lead singer of The Blasters. A full U.S. summer tour in support is to be announced.

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While the backing cast varies with different musicians at sessions separated by weeks of time, the one constant is Alvin's assured guitar-playing. Whether it's finger-picking on an acoustic against an accordion on "No Worries Mija" or blazing riffs on electric over a Bo Diddley beat on "Run Conejo Run," Eleven Eleven casts a consistent gritty, bluesy feel from start to finish. The result is an album with songs rich in vivid stories, taking listeners on a bounty hunt in "Murrietta's Head," a tawdry scene of seduction in "Dirty Nightgown" and a true crime recollection in "Johnny Ace is Dead." Dave's guitar work punctuates each tale, reinforcing moments of urgency, remorse and reflection.

"The songs on Eleven Eleven are all about life, love, death, loss, money, justice, labor, faith, doubt, family and friendship. The usual stuff," said Alvin. "Mortality has been an issue on my mind ever since Ashgrove. Since finishing that album, I lost some great friends - Chris Gaffney, Amy Farris and Buddy Blue of the Beat Farmers. That weighed on me."

The album reunites Dave with pianist Gene Taylor, whose barrelhouse blues sound has not been heard on an Alvin project since the final Blasters album, 1985's "Hard Line," and features three duets: brother Phil Alvin and Dave on the simmering blues "What's Up With Your Brother"; Dave and Christy McWilson from the Guilty Women on the gentle country number "Manzanita" and the whimsical song, "Two Lucky Bums," the final recording of Dave and his best friend, the late Chris Gaffney. The rest of the material, rich in stories that stretch from R&B royalty to labor history to Harlan County in Kentucky, was written over the course of seven months.

Recently, Alvin released the first single from the new album set, "Harlan County Line." The song, now available on iTunes, was written and recorded specifically for the FX television series Justified, fictionally based in Harlan County, KY. Alvin and his band appeared in an episode earlier this season (episode 3 titled "The I of the Storm"), performing during a barroom scene.

Combining elements of blues, folk, R+B, rockabilly, Bakersfield country and garage rock and roll with lyrical inspiration from local writers and poets like Raymond Chandler, Gerald Locklin and Charles Bukowski, Alvin has mixed his varied musical and literary influences into his own unique, updated version of traditional American music. "My songs are just like California," says Alvin. "A big, messy melting pot." --- Yep Roc Records

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