

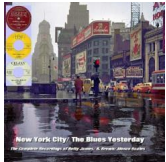
## New York City - The Blues Yesterday Vol.1

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 04 April 2015 13:47 -

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BETTY JAMES (Nadine Renaye), vocals; B. Renaye, guitars; J. Renaye, bass; drums. New York City, 1961 01. *I'm a little mixed up* 02. *Help me to find my love* Betty James (Nadine Renaye), vocals; band. New York City, 1962  
03. *Henry Lee* 04. *I'm not mixed up anymore*  
Betty James (Nadine Renaye), vocals; band. New York City, 1966  
05. *Little Lee* 06. *I like the way you walk n°1* 07. *I like the way you walk n°2* 08. *Salt in your coffee*  
B. BROWN, vocals, drums; Cool Papa Sadler, guitar; band. Los Angeles, Ca. 28 june 1955  
09. *Mambo for dancers* 10. *Good woman blues*  
B. Brown, vocals/harmonica; Charles Walker, guitar; Wild Jimmy Spruill, guitar; bass; drums. New York City, 1960  
11. *My baby left me* 12. *Hard working man* 13. *Fannie Mae is back* 14. *Candied Yams* 15. *Chewing gum* 16. *Rocking with B.*  
B. Brown, vocals/harmonica; Wild Jimmy Spruill, guitar; band. New York City, december 1961  
17. *Standing on the corner*  
ALONZO SCALES, vocals, guitar; Brownie Mc Ghee, guitar; Champion Jack Dupree, piano; drums. New York City, 1948  
18. *My baby don't allow* 19. *Left me home blues*  
Alonzo Scales, vocals, guitar; Sonny Terry, harmonica; Brownie Mc Ghee, guitar; Bob Gaddy, piano; ; bass; George Wood, drums. New York City, august 1955  
20. *Hard luck child* 21. *My baby likes to shuffle* 22. *We just can't agree* 23. *She's gone*

Betty James is the recording name of Nadine Renaye (or maybe Renée) who, born in Louisiana, was singing in Baltimore (Md) backed by her husband and son. She tried her luck for the small Cee Jay label in 1961 and her own penned *I'm a little mixed up* stirred enough local sales to persuade Chess Records to reissue the title with a wider distribution. Koko Taylor, under the tutelage of Willie Dixon, recorded this blues and made a hit from it. After that, Betty would come back twice in the studios with six more top notch rocking blues but without any success. One of her single was also issued under her real name of Nadine Renaye! Her music

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is rooted in the Piedmont blues style with a strong Blind Boy Fuller influence. We don't know what happened to her although her granddaughter wrote some laconic lines on the web about her "wonderful grandmother"! If some US searchers could find and interview her, it would be great.

Almost as obscure is B. Brown (Daniel Brown) who hailed from Los Angeles (where he recorded a first single as a drummer!), resurfacing in New York as a very good harp player under the name of B. Brown, certainly to cash on the success of the much well known Buster Brown who enjoyed at that time a massive hit with his classic Fanny Mae. B. Brown waxed a handful of excellent 45's, generally backed by his friend Charles Walker (see an article about this fine bluesman on this blog) and Wild Jimmy Spruill. After a divorce, B. Brown left New York to resettle in Tennessee.

Alonzo Scales, a singer and guitarist born in North Carolina around the turn of the XXth century came to New York during the 2nd World War, playing with Champion Jack Dupree (and recording with him as early as 1948) and Brownie Mc Ghee and Sonny Terry who backs him on his nice last 1955 session. Scales quit the music scene during the 60's and died in New York City in 1975. --- jukegh.blogspot.com

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