

Slackjaw - It's Always Something (2015)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 11 January 2016 17:05 -

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01. *Carried By Six* (4:21) 02. *Commit A Crime* (3:34) 03. *It's Always Something* (3:09) 04. *New Addiction* (4:28) 05. *Don't Give Me No Jive* (5:12) 06. *Whiskey Lane* (3:47) 07. *Soul's Up For Sale* (5:12) 08. *If You Ever Leave* (3:45) 09. *Cold Day In Hell* (4:06) 10. *Bottle Of Whiskey* (3:27) John Thompson – vocals, guitar Carl Capodice – bass, backing vocals Randy Marinelli – drums, harp

If people consult a thorough dictionary, one that lists a word's etymology as well as its definition, they'll find out something interesting about the word "ambivalent". It was coined in 1910 by Swiss psychologist Eugen Bleuler, from the prefix "ambi-" (meaning "both"), and "valentia" (meaning "strength"). Therefore, both conflicting feelings that constitute ambivalence are equally strong. In terms of Bridgewater, New Jersey's Slackjaw band, and their second album *It's Always Something*, blues purists might well be ambivalent about its ten original songs. On the one hand, there's lots of electric guitar razzle-dazzle, and songs that'll excite partygoers. On the other hand, only one sole track is traditional blues. The rest are either amalgamations of blues and rock ("*Carried by Six*", "*New Addiction*") or straight up rock-and-roll ("*Cold Day in Hell*", "*Whiskey Lane*"). Slackjaw's sound is likable, and the band has good flow and chemistry when it comes to their musicianship. The ambivalence comes in when one wants Muddy Waters' sound and hears tunes that resemble John Mellencamp's and Blues Traveler's.

Their promotional info sheet reveals: "Slackjaw has managed to turn quite a few heads in the past couple years, after their debut self-titled CD was released in 2011...John Thompson, Randy Marinelli, and Carl Capodice have been weekend warrior veterans of the local music scene for years, and have joined forces to create a sound that is all their own. These guys have gone beyond their 'local legend' status, performing and sharing the stage with such artists as Johnny Winter, the Edgar Winter Group, Billy Cox from the original Band of Gypsys [no, that's not a typo, merely artistic license], The Pat Travers Band, Rick Derringer, Bernie Worrell, Vinnie Lopez from the E Street Band, Samantha Fish, Eric Steckel, John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band, Indigenous, and more. The airwaves are also starting to get a taste of Slackjaw,

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especially Centenary College Radio WNTI, and WDVR in Sergeantsville. The stations want more, and so do the listeners. Slackjaw is cultivating a fast-growing popular demand!" --- bluesblastmagazine.com

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