

Louisiana Red - Sweet Dreams Sir Minter (2013)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 26 February 2014 16:42 - Last Updated Wednesday, 14 April 2021 15:39

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01. Working Mule 02. The Sky Is Crying 03. Champagne And Reefer 04. What Is That She Got 05. Do You Got Balls 06. Keep On Playin' Dem Blues 07. Locked Up So Long 08. Good Bye Jack Dupree 09. Early In The Morning 10. You Done Quit Me 11. I Wonder Who 12. I Done Woke Up 13. Same Thing 14. Too Poor To Die Louisiana Red - guitar, vocals

Louisiana Red, born Iverson Minter, far more than just played the blues - in essence, he was the blues.

Louisiana Red had been living the blues from his birth, March 23, 1932, struggling to survive in an unfair life of bad habits and ignorance that was spent on dirty streets, factories and country fields. Although he was born with adult obligations, he always carried in his heart the child that he never was.

He lost his mother to pneumonia one week after his birth. Five years later his father was lynched and killed by members of the Ku Klux Klan, leaving Red to endure a six-year period of rotating orphanages. He was mistreated by his family, worked all kinds of heavy jobs, used by most of the women in his life and his so called friends, ripped of by record companies and "expert" fellow musicians. Louisiana Red paid a very expensive price for his dues. But he was bound and determined to survive.

At the age of 11, Red, then living with an aunt, began playing the guitar under the instruction of Crit Walters. While his early playing style mimicked that of Muddy Waters (who would be his mentor) and John Lee Hooker (with whom he would play extensively), he went on to develop an instinctive and creative style all his own. Though he didn't record under the name Louisiana Red

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until 1960, he worked with a number of labels under various aliases, played with every major bluesman of his time and contributed several great blues classics to blues heritage.

In 1976 Red moved to Germany and began avidly touring and recording throughout Europe. He made numerous live recordings with different European bands, which labeled him as "over recorded", unfortunately denying him recording opportunities with major blues record labels.

In 1983 he received the W.C. Handy award for Best Traditional Blues Artist and in 1984 married his third and beloved wife, Dora, who remained by his side for the rest of his life.

More than twenty years after his departure from the United States, Red returned in 1997 for the first of several successful comeback tours.

Louisiana Red was one of the last of the great bluesmen to have learned from and played with the fathers and grandfathers of the blues. He was a vitally important pioneer of blues music, helping set the foundation for the genre during its formative years and kept the all-but-lost Delta Blues' spontaneous composition tradition alive and well until his passing on February 25, 2012.

Louisiana Red was my dearly loved friend and is sorely missed. Sweet dreams Sir Minter. ----
John "Johnny Angel" Angelatos, cdbaby.com

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