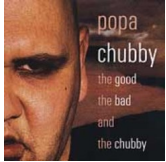


Popa Chubby - The Good The Bad And The Chubby (2002)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 29 October 2009 20:10 - Last Updated Friday, 14 June 2013 22:06

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01. *Somebody Let The Devil Out* (4:21)
02. *If The Diesel Don't Get You Then The Jet Fuel Will* (4:03)
03. *I Can't See The Light Of Day* (4:52)
04. *I'll Be There For You* (5:15)
05. *Stress Will Kill You Every Time* (5:34)
06. *No Trouble No More* (4:16)
07. *Bad Connection* (4:18)
08. *Strange Way Of Saying I Love You* (4:20)
09. *P-O-P-A* (6:42)
10. *Already Stoned* (5:19)
11. *Dirty Lie* (6:00)
12. *Passion* (5:46)
13. *Play It From The Heart* (8:25)

Personnel: Popa Chubby (vocals, electric guitar, dobro, harmonica); Ian Spliffy (soprano saxophone); Mike Lattrell (piano, Wurlitzer piano, Hammond B-3 organ, keyboards); Kris Jefferson (bass, shaker); Steve Holley (drums).

Against all odds, Popa Chubby has turned into a distinctive, strong modern bluesman. He's still saddled with that ridiculous name, which makes it hard to take him seriously, and he has a tendency to indulge in easy, vulgar jokes, but that's just part of who he is. If that annoys you, look past it and concentrate on the music on *The Good, the Bad and the Chubby*, which is lean and adventurous, solidly within the postmodern blues-rock tradition, but breaking free of the Stevie Ray fixations that distinguished his earlier work by adding bits of jazz and an ever-so-subtle hip-hop underpinning. Plus, there's Chubby's insistence on relying on original material -- a welcome turn of events, since it gives his album character even when the songs aren't first rate. Fortunately, through much of *The Good*, the music is good and he tackles a number of different kinds of songs, from topical tunes about 9-11 to joke songs, knowing relationship songs, and much more. Perhaps there are a couple of songs that stretch out a little bit too long, and maybe the album could use a little more grit in the production, but these,

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overall, are minor quibbles, since The Good, the Bad and the Chubby is one of the strongest, most distinctive modern blues albums of 2002, proving that Popa has come a long way in his decade of recording. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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