Chicago - The Blues Yesterday Volume 11



01. Someday Bobby Rush (Emmett Ellis Jr) – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1964 02. Much too much 03. Sock boogaloo

Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar Monk Higgins – piano Wayne Bennett – guitar Luther Johnson – guitar, horns Cornelius Boyson – bass, drums Chicago, 1967

04. Gotta have money 05. Camel walk

Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1968

06. Wake up 07. Just be yourself 08. Let it all hang out

Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar Sonny Thompson – piano + band Chicago, 1969

09. Chicken heads 10. Mary Jane

Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1971

11. Bowlegged woman knock kneed man I & II

Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1972

12. Get out of here

Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1974

13. Cryin' for my baby 14. Shake it baby 15. I ain't doing too bad 16. Ain't no time for fussing 17. Somebody walking in my home 18. Highway 49 19. Out in Virginia 20. Smokestack lightnin' 21. Help me baby 22. New Orleans blues

Little Wolf (Jessie Sanders) – vocals, guitar Bobby Rush – harmonica, guitar, bass Micky Rogers – guitar Mike Rushell – guitar Dell Marris – organ John Alford – keyboards Jackson State Horn Section – horns Willie James Hatten – bass Forest Gordon – drums Jackson, Ms. prob. 1992

23. Ain't gonna tell nobody 24. Feel like a King

L.C. Roby (Lee Charles Holland) – vocals, guitar Eddie Shaw – tenor saxophone Detroit Jr – organ Marylin Love - bass Ben Sanders – drums Chicago, September 1979

Bobby Rush (born Emmett Ellis Jr on November, 10th 1940 at Homer, La) is a major name of the Soul blues and one of the true master of the so-called chitlin' circuit (cf his breathtaking performances behind his audience in the Richard Pearce's film TheRoad to Memphis). He has a large discography of very often excellent albums with many Hits, mainly in the Southern States. He knows better than anyone how to mix a gritty down home Funk with strong blues overtones

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(he learned the blues with people like Elmore James and Boyd Gilmore!) and Soul elements and his music is highly personal and very exciting. But his first 45s recorded in Chicago (where his family settled in 1953) are not well known outside his major Hit Chicken heads. We have tried to gather them but five titles are still missing (any .mp3 copy through my mail would be welcome!). Becoming a big name, mainly in the South, Bobby went to live to Jackson, Ms in 1980, near his favourite audience.

We have already featured Little Wolf and the records he made for Willie Dixon (see Chicago/ The Blues Yesterday Vol. 2). Born Jesse Sanders on June, 26th 1930 in Florence, Ms, our man has made a career as a Chicago police officer for 47 years while singing the blues in the Windy City clubs. Married to Howlin' Wolf's niece Diane, Jesse brought the attention of Willie Dixon who recorded him on an excellent aforementioned album. After his retirement from the Chicago Police Department, Jesse Sanders relocated in Memphis where he made some public appearances. He met again his old friend Bobby Rush and while Bobby bought to him a Greyhound bus Jesse had reshaped himself, he decided to record Sanders (this time as Little Howlin' Wolf) for his short lived JayLo label. The album is so rare that it was long thought it was never issued. Thanks to the detective talents of our friend Pierre Monnery, we have been able to get a copy of it and the entire session is on this post. But mind you: extremely rare doesn't mean extremely successful! Although there are good moments, we are here quite far from the sessions Little Wolf made for Dixon in Chicago!

To round off this new volume, we have included the only but excellent 45 made by L.C. Roby (Lee Charles Holland, son of William Holland, himself a Howlin' Wolf impersonator!) in 1979. Roby was, at that time, leading a very good Chicago outfit that backed many bluesmen in the clubs and the studios. On his own record, L.C. demonstrates his skills as a singer and as a guitarist, strongly influenced by Albert King. --- Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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