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James Luther Dickinson

Free Beer Tomorrow

THE ROLLING STONE REVIEW

★★★★★

Producer, keyboardist and Memphis music legend Jim Dickinson's *Free Beer Tomorrow* comes a mere thirty years after its predecessor, *Dixie Fried*, a slab of soulful Southern rock & roll so rare it costs a cnote or so to acquire a copy. No need -- Dickinson's second studio album offers the same sort of kaleidoscopic weirdness delivered via handpicked covers, a slippery slope of barroom rock, Delta blues, jug band honking, prewar jazz and gospel. In the last three decades, Dickinson has been sought out by everyone from Bob Dylan to Aretha Franklin to the Replacements, and he's put his stamp on some of rock's more idiosyncratic moments (documenting the unraveling of Alex Chilton on Big Star's third album, and his own band, Mudboy and the Neutrons). He's also created fine progeny, sons Luther (guitar) and Cody (drums), better known as the North Mississippi Allstars; they are the crux of his band here. Hilarity ensues on songs like "Asshole," with its demon-possessed fiddling and vibes that mock instead of chime. If the devil has a sense of humor, this could be hell's soundtrack.

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demohouse writes:

Rating: ★★★★★

Totally Agreed with the RS Review

I got first dibs on this one at Ardent Studios in Memphis back in December of 2001 since I did the transfer on it. It was the first time I had heard Jim's work and I was mystified by the music and the man. The album sets you in a different world that seems to guide you through the trails of the West in a mythological American roller coaster (Billy and Oscar). Jim's vocals carry a sense of voodoo honesty if there ever was such a thing, one that would make even Tom Waits drop his larynx. The musicians play as if they are the loyal servants of the wicked, the quick and the dead, oh yea, and Jim, with rolling drum patterns and stabbing strings. Humor and human nature are the driving force of the theme here. Hail to the impeccably simplified engineering of John Hampton, this self produced timepiece is a must have for every collection.

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