

country rocker with decent piano and guitar. Both the Johnny Carroll cuts are first-rate, especially the quicker of the two, 'You Two Timed Me Two Times Too Often'. 'Roller Coaster' from The Alibis is a throbbing surf-in' guitar instrumental with some unusual effects. My final standout would have to be Bobby Hicks' 'Rockin' The Blues' - basic rockabilly in the Charlie Feathers style. His 'Juke Joint Rock' is fair too but very short.

Inevitably there are a few duds. 'H-Bomb' (artist unknown) is a silly Cold War era song with a poor vocal, 'Over The Wall' from Kooties & Bedbugs isn't much better. The youthful Sue Walloch's pacy version of 'Be-Bop-A-Lula' is dreadful, though to be fair her 'Stupid Cupid' is better. I didn't rate the weak rocker 'Baby I'm Blue' from The Four Friends.

The remainder are a pretty mixed bunch and are generally acceptable. Sonny Burgess' 'Hootchy Kootchy' is fairly restrained by his standards but is decent. Loretta French's 'Mean Mean Daddy' is a good rockabilly number with strong guitar. Striking guitar work also boosts the country duet 'Nobody Knows Where You Go' by Jimmy & Johnny. The rockers from Sammy Salvo, Dusty Crosswhite, Melanie & The Lyrics and Jenny Aquirre are enjoyable. The latter two efforts are reminiscent of Wanda Jackson. The zippy 'Teen Time' (artists unknown) is a better instrumental than the disjointed 'C.K. Rock'. The Runabouts' other offering, Ray Sharpe's 'Linda Lu', has a feeble backing. Ron Davis' 'Down The Line' lacks a piano and is no great shakes. Don's vocal is under-recorded on 'Folsom Prison Blues'. Sunset Lenney's 'Let Me Go Baby' is strong on bar-room piano. The Monarchs' 'Chicago City' is a real pounder but messy and over long.

Despite the uneven sound quality this is an above-average rarities compilation.

Harry Dodds



THE DIMAGGIO BROTHERS

Rockabilly: From The Boots Up
Rockabilly Hall Of Fame RABHOF CD 102

Little Cabin On The Hill / Groupy Baby / King Creole / Long Holiday / Sad And Blue / Every Breath You Take / I'm Counting On You / High Speed Pickin' / In The Groove / Let Me / Wee Folk / I Don't Care If The Sun Don't Shine / Rockabilly Is On My Mind / The Nickname Of The Game / Un Vizioso Come Me / Walk Of Life (Playing time: 51:56)

This really is a very good album. It's on the Rockabilly Hall Of Fame label in the States but was recorded in Italy in January of this year. Strong vocals are combined with some of the best rockabilly guitar work I've heard for some time. The arrangements are imaginative and the sound is excellent.

The set begins with some close harmony work on Bill Monroe's 'Little Cabin On The Hill' and continues to please with fifteen other beauties including excellent versions of The Police's 'Every Breath You Take' and Dire Strait's 'Walk Of Life' - surprising choices, perhaps, but both adapt well

to a rockabilly make-over. Four Presley covers show the group's devotion to The King (they probably got 'Little Cabin On The Hill' from him too) and the remainder were written by the band themselves save 'Long Holiday', an attractive swinger from the pen of Martin Ace. There's a live performance sung in Italian called 'Un Vizioso Come Me', but my favourites have to be 'King Creole' and 'I'm Counting On You' together with the Sting ditty and the sizzling instrumental 'High Speed Pickin'', which speaks for itself.

Featuring DiMaggio brothers Marco on lead guitar and vocals, Massimo on guitar and vocals and Sasso on double bass, these guys are a must for Hemsby! For further information contact the Rockabilly Hall Of Fame's UK / European representative Rod Pyke at PO Box 4326, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 3UF.

Steve Aynsley



JOHNNY EARLE

Jive Time
Maestro CDTs 2003

Jive Time / Bloodshot Eyes / Medley: The Girl Can't Help It - Keep A' Knockin' - Jenny Jenny / Promises, Promises, Promises / Buona Sera / Mona Lisa / Sea Cruise / Honolulu Rock n Roll / Jailhouse Rock / Play The Music / The Wanderer / What Do You Wanna Make Those Eyes At Me For? / Swing Me Baby / Ain't Got No Home / Medley: At The Hop - Rock n Roll Is Here To Stay / Saturday Night At The Movies / Don't Throw Your Love Away / Medley: See You Later, Alligator - R.O.C.K. - Rock Around The Clock (Playing time: 52:33)

With a bit of marketing this CD could do very well indeed - especially with the festive season coming up. Johnny Earle (aka Johnny Dumper) is well known up and down the country for his Elvis act, but on this occasion he has opted for a straight, no frills set of rock n roll standards and one or two originals. He's well supported by an experienced group which includes guitarist Keith Read of The Impalas and Wild Angels and legendary drummer Clem Cattini. Between them they maintain a steady non-stop dancing beat.

Downsides from an NDT point of view are an overall 'Hooked On Rock n Roll' uniformity and the lack of inventiveness. However, as popular party records go, it's better than most.

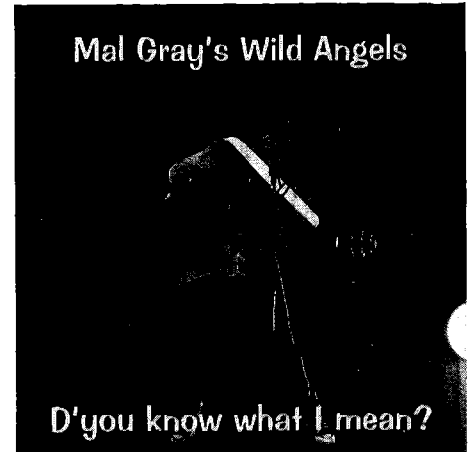
Chris Woodford

MAL GRAY'S WILD ANGELS

D'You Know What I Mean?
American Music Connection MGCD001

Pretty Girl / You Know What I Mean / Be My Guest / Believe What You Say / Skinny Dippin' / It'll Be Me / One Good Reason / The Shape I'm In / Cincinnati Fireball / Twenty Flight Rock / I'm On Fire / Jeannie, Jeannie, Jeannie / I'm Walkin' / Rock With Me Baby (Playing time: 35:59)

The contrast with the previous Johnny Earle CD couldn't be sharper. Though the content is similar - a set of mainly rock n roll standards - the outcome is very different indeed. For his first



album since the 1970s, Mal has surrounded himself with some of the UK's finest, including Pete Wingfield (piano), Pete Thomas (sax) and David Briggs (guitar), but this group of musicians clearly had the freedom to express themselves both individually and collectively to the full. The results are stunning. This is still 1950s rock n roll - but totally appropriate for the 1990s. It's great to hear the tradition being maintained and developed. The future looks good. This is a party CD for the real fans of rock n roll.

Chris Woodford

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Rock n Roll Festival

K-Tel 330208-2

Rock The Joint (The Comets) / Sexy And Seventeen (The Rockabats) / Susie Q (The Thunder Jets) / Gee Jolly Lee (Terry & The Hot Sox) / Let's Have A Party (Wanda Jackson) / Rockabilly Rebel (Matchbox) / Sincerely (The Extraordinaires) / Kosak (The Four Windows) / Jail Breakers (Earl Jackson & The Jailbreakers) / I've Got Love For You Baby (The Comets) / Heartbreak Hotel (Alis Peters) / Pasquale Americano (Ray Gelato & The Good Fellas) / No No No (Hot Stuff) / When You Ask About Love (Matchbox) / Walk The Be-Bop Walk (Terry & The Hot Sox) / Rock With You (The Extraordinaires) / Please Mama Please (The Rockabats) / Right Or Wrong (Wanda Jackson) / Lulu (Red Boots) / Try Me (Earl Jackson & The Jailbreakers) / Midnite Dynamos (Matchbox) / Hot Sixties (The Four Windows) (Playing time: 63:14)

Issued by K-Tel in Switzerland to coincide with the big rock n roll festival held there last month, this brings together selections from most of the performers on the bill. Headed by The Comets and Wanda Jackson, the rest of the collection casts a wide net to take in groups from all over Europe. Many will be familiar, others less so, but it offers a good variety ranging from straight rock n roll (Earl Jackson & The Jailbreakers, Terry & The Hot Sox) to rockabilly (Hot Stuff, Matchbox, The Rockabats), doo-wop (The Extraordinaires), jumpin' jive (Ray Gelato & The Good Fellas) and early '60s-style instrumentals (The Four Windows).

A good sampler displaying some of the talent - both old and new - that's currently working the European rock n roll circuit.

Trevor Cajiao

MATT HOLE & THE HOT ROD GANG

Rockabilly Express
Terra Nova (no catalogue number)

Crazy Mixed-Up Kid / \$100 Headache / Rockabilly Express / Real Kool Kat / Baby Cadillac / Lonesome Hound / Gold Digger / Broken Pompadour / Rock Mobster / Big Blue Flame / Temple Of Doom / Hoodoo Lounge / Desert Sun / Kat Daddy / We're From Texas (Playing time: 51:49)

Based in Corpus Christi, Texas, this is the second CD from the trio: Matt (29) guitar / vocals; Mike Jones (26) drums; Keith Herrada (21) 'dog-house' bass. With well-oiled ducktails, sideburns,