



Various Artists **"Live! At The Krush"** Jackalope Records

Once upon a time, there used to be an Austin, Texas based label that went by the name of Jackalope Records. That was a couple of decades ago. The 'jackalope' is to North America, what the 'haggis' is to Scotland - a creature of truly mythical proportions. Helmed by the amazing Joe Gracey, the Texas label did not so much expire as mutate into Sunbird Records. Another Jackalope has now sprung up in Santa Rosa, California. As for Krush 95.9 that's the call sign of a radio station that has been broadcasting to Sonoma County for the past decade and a half. **"Live! At The Krush,"** the [erroneous] sub-title **"Volume 1"** appears on the spine of eco-card gatefold case, delivers seventeen 'live in the studio' cuts from touring musicians of various musical hues, dating from 2003 through 2008. This, however [sic. **"Volume 1"**], isn't the first release to feature 'live in the studio' recordings made at the station. Back in 2003, 33rd Street Records issued a fourteen track disc **"The Krush Collection 2003: KRSH 95.9 / 95.5 FM."**

James McMurtry launches the disc with a voice and acoustic guitar rendition of his 'big top celebration' **"See The Elephant,"** the opening track on **"Childish Things"** [2005]. From **"Lost Men And Angry Girls"** [2006], a collection that roundly failed to impress this scribe, Australian folk/country import Audrey Auld Mezera, augmented by guitarist extraordinaire Nina Gerber, performs **"Last Seen In Gainesville."** Supported by his wife Stephanie Finch [accordion, vocal] and Todd Roper [drums], Chuck Prophet reprises **"Would You Love Me?"** from **"Soap And Water"** [2007]. Recorded in late November 2007, country rock combo New Riders Of The Purple Stage recall their **"Louisiana Lady,"** a tune that back in 1971 closed the self-titled debut album by the band.

The bluesy **"Since The Gas Station Left Town,"** penned by Nick Gravenites and performed by Gravenites [guitar, vocal], John Allair [piano] and Roy Rogers [slide guitar] explores a similar theme to Fred Eaglesmith's **"White Rose,"** while Bill Kirchin, a veteran of Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen, reprises **"Hot Rod Lincoln"** one of the band's rockabilly classics. Taken from the Cody N' Crew debut **"Lost In The Ozone"** [1971] it became the band's second single, and on this occasion Kirchin's almost ten-minute long version includes impressionistic musical nods to Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash, Earl Scruggs and 'thousands' more. Accompanied by her mentor Chip Taylor, Carrie Rodriguez tackles **"Seven Angels On A Bicycle"** a tune they co-wrote and also the title cut of the Texan's 2006 debut solo recording.

Eric Lindell is signed to the Chicago based blues imprint Alligator Records and accompanied by his band performs **"Give It Time"** from his album **"Change In The Weather"** [2006], while David Grisman & The Gypsy Kidz [a trio] add some goodtime 'grass' to the foregoing 'blues' in their performance of **"Limehouse Blues."** During his early twenties, circa 1986, Heidelberg, Germany born blues exponent Volker Striffler relocated to the United States and subsequently joined the Ford Blues Band. **"In Your Arms"** appeared on his 2002 album **"The Volker Striffler Band."** A musical chameleon, it's hard to precisely define Alejandro Escovedo's music. Here he performs **"Evita's Lullaby"** from **"The Boxing Mirror"** [2006], and is followed by **"You Got To Change"** a cut from Johnny Rawls 2002 Deep South Sound Records release **"Lucky Man."**

The least said about Paul Thorn's predictable **"Viagra"** the better. Accompanied his voice with acoustic guitar - and 'trademark' tapping foot - blues aficionado Chris Smither performs **"Seems So Real"** from **"Leave The Light On"** [2006]. A Sonoma County based band, The Ruminators were founded some two decades ago by Greg Scherer. Here, vocalist Jennifer Goudeau takes the lead on a 2005 rendition of the haunting [and as yet unrecorded?] folk/rock flavoured **"Ghost Town."** On the penultimate cut blues artist Seth Walker sings **"Miss Ann"** from his 2005 self-titled album on Hyena Records. Sat at the piano [and

aided midway through by an unaccredited harmonica player?] Bay Area songwriter Jesse DeNatale closes the collection with a performance of the pop/folk sounding “Dreamer’s Holiday” from his sophomore release “**Soul Parade.**”

There’s not a lot more to say other than, at over seventy-six plus minutes duration, “**Live! At The Krush**” delivers a rich spectrum of roots music. In terms of specific content, The Ruminators warrant further investigation.

Folkwax Score 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood.

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