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KANSAS
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NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE KANSAS CITY BLUES SOCIETY — THREE MONTHS REQUIRED FOR RECEIVING THE BLUES & VOLT

the the Mighty Flyers, Charlie Musselwhite, Big Mama Thornton and Kim Wilson before joining Canned Heat 10 years ago.

Quite an impressive array of musicians and quite an impressive CD to take you back!

Rx Blues Mississippi Moses Kode Blue records

Reviewed by Bill "Sassy Boy" Williams

Walk into Mike and Min's in the Souldard District of St. Louis on a weekend night and your senses will feel two things — barbecue and blues. The kitchen makes killer ribs, and last October the manager realized he should name the RX Blues his house band.

The band's newest and second CD is Mississippi Moses. Cut one, dubbed "Creole Rockin'," sounds like swamp rock blues and features the gritty lead vocals of keyboardist Randy Albert who also manages an electronics store. He's backed by group leader Dr. Jose Diaz on a solid sounding slide guitar.

The "Dr." is for real. Jose is a surgeon by day. There used to be two docs in the band, hence the RX. The drummer doctor was replaced by a St. Louis judge who wants to remain nameless.

"Lonely Will Turn You Inside Out" is a ballad which appears to be an outlet for the fabulous female vocals of Gwyddon Kelly and for Randy's solid piano playing.

Jose has had a tough life, which inspired him to write a few ballads, as witnessed by "Three Wives/Three Knives" — the kind that are stuck deep within his chest. You see, Jose is on his fourth wife. According to the lyrics, Jose had a weakness — honey blondes. The best slow blues cut is "Six String Blues" where Gwyddon sings as though she is making love to a guitar, "He's always there, he don't care if I'm right or wrong, he always plays my favorite tunes, and when I feel like I got nothin', nothin' left to lose, he brings me back with those six strings blues."

Some blues lovers might prefer the bal-

lads were skipped, looking for the upbeat energy of the other divorce problems turned songs of Jose: "Wall to Wall Walks," a tribute to one of the wives taking everything out of the house before he got home from work, or "No Money This Time," or the very hot "Livin' in a Bubble," a hard driving, boogie funk blues which could make any of us dance.

"We've got a little soul but a lot of deep down blues," says Gwyddon, whose sister Cnreada sings backup vocals with the other Triple X singers. "I think we study Little Feat for inspiration," says Kevin Kelly, a workman bass player whose regular job is being a Russian interpreter.

The most creative song is "Big Head Franklin," starting with staccato drums, then into upbeat harmonica and on to the lyrics about those oversized faces of Ben on the hundred dollar bill. According to Randy's lyrics, those big head Franklins can solve any problem — girlfriend needs cash, take care of a speeding ticket, or even lube your libido. The tune appears on an Elite Entertainment compilation CD with such notables as Little Charlie and the Night Cats and Roomful of Blues. RX has opened for Little Charlie, Chuck Berry and Kokoi Taylor.

All the cuts are original tunes, and if you hear them live on July 16 at Blayney's or July 17 at Winslow's in Kansas City, they will rock you with a version of "Strokin'," as told and sung by Al Winkler, who backs the group with rhythm guitar and harmonica.

This group's primary prescription is their chemistry. They play a lot of tight riffs. They're strong on vocals and guitar. The disc may not be bound for the top forty, but their live performances are solid gold. We can only hope they're together for a long time. You can see their photos and listen to their music at www.rxblues.com.