

## CD Reviews

### Little Joe McLerran *Believe I'll Make a Change*



**Believe I'll Make A Change**  
Little Joe McLerran  
Root Blues Reborn Records

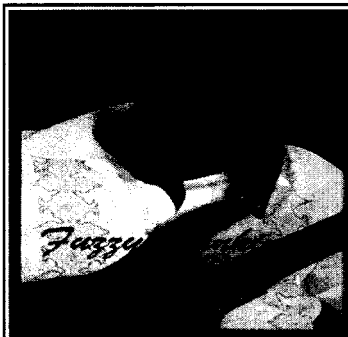
Oklahoma's Little Joe McLerran won the 2009 IBC and listening to the selections on this CD one can understand why.

Here Little Joe's fine Piedmont-style guitar playing is supported by very tasteful accompaniment and recorded with a warm and comfortable pre-war blues sound. Dexter Payne provides harmonica licks as well as some wonderful clarinet playing - a much overlooked and quite expressive instrument more commonly used in Dixieland jazz but works quite well in blues.

The thirteen tracks are a nice mix of traditional and original tunes. Very enjoyable.

- Tim Atkins

### Take A Brotha Home Fuzzy Rankins MoonCook Productions



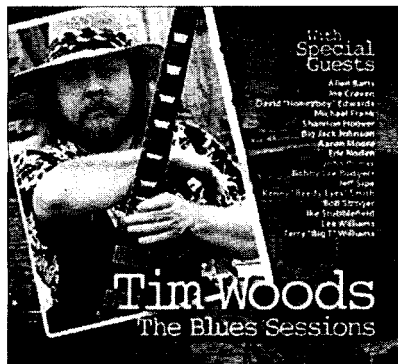
If you like your blues with a lot of funk you need look no further. San Diego's own Lenny "Fuzzy" Rankins showcases his funk sensibility on this disc with his stinging guitar solos and

growly voice, a fine band and subtle backup singers. There are several classic blues songs you've heard before like "Black Cat Bone", "Texas Flood", "Little Red Rooster" and "Crawlin' King Snake" but you haven't heard them done like this unless you've seen Fuzzy and his band live.

This music will get you moving!

Leonard H. Rankins Senior, Fuzzy's late father, appears on the CD on keyboards.

- Tim Atkins



### The Blues Sessions Tim Woods Earwig Records

"The Blues Sessions," consists of twelve traditional blues covers that span the early days of the Delta masters up through the postwar, amplified era. This release is Tim Wood's musical tribute

to the great artists of early Delta, boogie and Chicago-style blues.

Delta Bluesmen David "Honey Boy" Edwards, Big Jack Johnson, Bob Stroger and others are featured guest artists on this debut release. The album kicks off with an acoustic tune called "Deep Ellum Blues," which features Willie Smith's son, Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith, on drums. This album shows off Tim Wood's unique style, where he plays and picks with his thumb, allowing him to play both lead and rhythm. "Do the Do" features pianist Aaron Moore and another Muddy alumnus, guitarist John Primer. Big Jack Johnson joins Tim on a funky rendition of "Built For Comfort." Two songs were written by Honey Boy. On "Bad Whiskey & Cocaine," Honey Boy takes lead vocal and guitar, then duets with Tim on "Wind Howlin' Blues," a song that has not been recorded since 1942. The album closes with an energetic and rollicking "World Comes Tumblin' Down."

Tim Wood's effort and dedication to preserving the past and keeping this music alive is commendable. A great selection of songs and superb musicianship make this enjoyable CD a keeper.

- Jack Naughton



### He Said She Said Sue Foley & Peter Karp Blind Pig Records

From the first bar this is an album of contrasts. The first we hear is delta-style resonator juxtaposed against a modern, distorted electric guitar. Immediately following the intro, we're

treated to Sue's clear, unaffected vocal twang contrasting with Peter's gravelly growl.

This collection of original songs is full of the Venus & Mars contrasts of the duo, while focusing on the growing relationship between the two. The theme carries right through the disc, with titles like "Treat Me Right", "Rules of Engagement", "Hold On Baby", "Ready for Your Love" and "Dear Girl". Skillfully produced by Foley, Karp and Dae Bennett (who also contributes drums and vocals to the disc), rising star Jason Ricci (harmonica) also appears.

"He Said, She Said" released in March 2010 on Blind Pig Records hit #1 on the Blues Chart, Top 5 in the House of Blues Chart and Top 10 on the Billboard Blues Chart!

- Dane Terry