

BIG JACK REYNOLDS:**That's A Good Way To Get To Heaven****Third Street Cigar Records 106 cd / dvd****(www.thirdstreetcigarrecords.com)**

The singer / harmonica player Big Jack Reynolds, who died in December 1993, hardly enjoyed a reputation. In the early 1960s he worked in the Detroit club circuit, where he recorded singles for Hi-Q and Mah's and also contributed a song to the Fortune LP 'Blues Sounds Of The Hastings Street Era'. In the mid-1970s he moved to Toledo, Ohio and formed the band Two Aces And A Jack with Art and Roman Griswald. During performances they sold their LP 'Hot As You Got' (Blue Suit, 1986), after which Jack realized the cassette 'Broke And Disgusted' (Highball, 1990) under his own name.

A quarter of a century after Jack's death, John Henry releases this CD / DVD, packed in black and white, on his label Third Street Cigar. The CD contains the early recordings from Detroit and the Highball recordings including outtakes. Urban, mostly self-written club blues from the seventies / eighties.

On the DVD for almost an hour and a half perfectly restored film and photo material: Jack in action with his band The Haircuts, shreds of interviews with him and former band members, including guitarist Larry Gold, photographer John Rockwood, who plays almost continuously in the band Eddie Shaw and producer John Henry. Reynolds brought pure blues, with Jimmy Reed and Muddy Waters as sources of inspiration. *"It was big blues and it hit me like a freight train"*, Larry Gold expressed the solid vocals, the intensive harmonica game and the act of Reynolds.

Despite an image of poor living conditions and a broken relationship, the personal life of Reynolds remains a mystery for all involved. The initiative of John Henry and his crew to save time and effort for this beautiful portrait long after that, however, deserves a big compliment.

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