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Blues ART Journal



JO' BUDDY & DOWN HOME KING III

Whole Lotta Things To Do

Ram-Bam RAM0005

www.jobuddy.com

Finnish singer and guitarist Jussi Raulamo a.k.a. Jo'Buddy and his drummer Down Home King III set the blues world alight a couple of years ago with his raw, storming CD 'Grits & Rattles', and this follow-up has been eagerly awaited. Buddy does not disappoint; again this is churning, rough-hewn blues, straight from some mythical juke-joint where the patrons still want to listen and dance to the hypnotic sounds of Doctor Ross, John Lee Hooker, R.L. Burnside, Fred McDowell, early Elmore James, vintage Muddy Waters and James 'Son' Thomas playing Jimmy Reed; or at least that is the impression conjured up by the wonderful music on this album, all done live in the studio and played through Jo'Buddy's customised tuberadio amp. A couple of numbers lean towards a ragtime guitar approach, but with the addition of electricity and over-amplification, they come across as a plugged-in Frank Stokes or Memphis Jug Band, and there is even a nod to classic rock & roll with 'Do My Number'.

Jo'Buddy may have a whole lotta things to do but if they are like this, they will all be well worth hearing

----- **Norman Darwen**