

Release-INFO Tropical Music

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LEGENDS OF THE FAMOUS LIPPMAN + RAU FESTIVALS

DVD 1 Legends of Folklore Argentino, Flamenco and Música do Brasil

DVD 2 Legends of Spiritual & Gospel and Folk & Country

DVD 3 Legends of the American Folk Blues Festivals

DVD Tropical Music 68.362; 68.363; 68.364

DVD 9; PAL; All Regions; Colour / Black & White;

Duration approx 160 Min. each DVD; Screen 4/3, Subtitles in English

Digipack with Booklet 56 p. in English

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The DVD set "LEGENDS OF..." reminds of the Lippmann + Rau festivals between 1965 and 1969. Three years after the first American Folk Blues Festival and its spectacular success in Europe, Horst Lippmann and Fritz Rau presented a further musical discovery with the Festival Flamenco Gitano in 1965. In the same year followed for the first time the Spiritual & Gospel Festival, followed by Brazilian music (Bossa Nova do Brazil, 1966), chanson (Festival Chanson de Paris, 1966) and Argentinian music (Musica Folklorica Argentina, 1967). In 1966 Lippmann and Rau brought American Country & Folk Musik to Germany. Some of these festivals were repeated annually with a different lineup each time, others carved the way for solo tours of the most successful artists.

On the one side Lippmann + Rau aroused avalanche-like storms of enthusiasm with their blues festivals in Great Britain and on the other side they had a fine sense for quality to bring new artists on European stages. Curiosity and contacts played an important role: the jazz impresario and producer Lippmann was a fan of gospel music since his youth and Olaf Hudtwalcker, a flamenco connoisseur and friend of Lippmann and Rau, was president of the German jazz federation in Frankfurt. The jazz producer Joachim E. Berendt called attention to the new music from Brazil which was made famous by American jazz musicians. Elias Canetti and Felix Schmidt made chanson a topic, the catholic priest and schoolmate of Lippman, Lothar Zenetti, gave tips regarding the North American gospel scene, while the boss of the Arhoolie labels, Chris Strachwitz, communicated contacts to the blues and country scene. Argentinian musicians got in touch themselves after the Brazilians were on tour.

The lineups of these festivals consisted invariably of artists which nowadays have a high ranking in their homecountries and sometimes even internationally. Many of them are not alive anymore. The recordings of these festivals which were made by the SWF and the WDR are of highest historical and cultural value. They often contain the only

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available video documentation of artists and music of this time which is even hardly available in the countries of origin like Argentina, Brazil, Spain or the United States. For example we can show the Misa Criolla in almost original orchestration of its world premiere and first European presentation, with the composer himself playing the cembalo. Furthermore we proudly present the only available recording of blues musician Little Walter in which he performs as a soloist. Or the probably last recorded performance of the famous Brazilian bossa nova singer Sylvia Telles who died just after the tour in a car accident. And the first performance of La Singla out of Spain. There are many sensations and curiosities on these three DVDs.

The festivals have not always been commercial successes for Lippmann and Rau. Nevertheless they made an impact. This did not always happen immediately like with blues music but sometimes only years later. Whenever in Europe subsequent consumers and artists speak of music of the Andes, Brazilian music, flamenco, country, gospel or blues, these festivals have been a first enduring encounter with this kind of music and its best interpreters ever.

Lippmann + Rau not only invented the "authentic documentation in concert halls", they also developed an own aesthetic of posters and playbills with graphic designer Günther Kieser.

For this reason the DVD series "Legends of" uses the original posters and playbills, prints the original texts about artists and music and complements these with updates of the biographies of all artists, eyewitness reports and essays about the musical development in the environment of the festivals as well as notes about the most important events in these years. Each booklet contains 56 pages and is richly illustrated. Günther Kieser, of course, contributed the design for the covers.

"LEGENDS OF" is released to the 25th jubilee of the Tropical Music label. Label-boss Claus Schreiner connects the world music focus of Tropical Music with a time in which the Lippmann + Rau festivals have to be seen as the antecedents of the world music movement of the 80s. Schreiner experienced most of the festivals himself, some of them as a student local concert organizer in Marburg's University Hall. For him this edition is a further step "back to the roots" which was already started one year ago with the rediscovery and publication of a 1967 Albert Mangelsdorff Quintett LP. Claus Schreiner worked on "LEGENDS OF" for four years, searched for the trails of all involved musicians and contacted them or their families. The trails often came to a dead end like with blues musician Curtis Jones who seems to have been buried poor and forgotten on a Munich cemetery. The grave was decomposed after nobody paid for the costs. Almost always people could remember the tours. Participants like Ariel Ramirez (Misa Criolla) or Tracy Schwarz of the New Lost City Ramblers sent diary accounts which are printed in the booklet. The American blues scene handed Schreiner's query from one to the next and therefore it was possible to deduce several biographic details.

More informations on www.legends-of.com