

## Release-INFO Tropical Music

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LEGENDS OF THE FAMOUS LIPPMAN + RAU FESTIVALS  
DVD 3 Legends of the American Folk Blues Festivals  
DVD Tropical Music 68.364  
DVD 9; PAL; All Regions; Colour / Black & White;  
Duration 162:10 Min. Screen 4/3, Subtitles in English  
Digipack with Booklet 56 p. in English  
Release-Date: 30.01.2009

More informations on [www.legends-of.com](http://www.legends-of.com)

### American Folk Blues Festival 1967

with **Little Walter**: My Babe / Untitled / Mean Old World

**Koko Taylor**: Will My Man Be Home Tonight / Wang Dang Doodle /  
What Kind Of Man Is This

**Bukka White**: Aberdeen Mississippi Blues

**Skip James**: Hard Times Killing Floor

**Son House**: Death Letter Blues

**Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee**: Born With The Blues / Rock Island Line

**Hound Dog Taylor**: Shake Your Money Maker

**Dillard Crume & Odie Payne Jr.**

Bonus: Interviews with Bruce Jackson, Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee, Horst Lippmann

Duration: 54:00 Min

### American Folk Blues Festival 1968

with **John Lee Hooker**: Serves Me Right To Suffer

**T-Bone Walker with Eddie Taylor Band & John Lee Hooker**: Maudy / Boom Boom / Stormy  
Monday Blues / I Wonder Why / Shake It Baby

**Big Joe Williams**: Cryin' Shame / Baby Please Don't Go

**Big "Shaky" Walter Horton**: Juke

**Jimmy Reed**: Big Boss Man

**Curtis Jones**: Cherie

Bonus: Interviews with Al Smith and Fritz Rau

Duration: 52:00 Min

### American Folk Blues Festival 1969 on tour

Tour-Documentary by Hanno Brühl

mit **John Jackson**: You're The Best Friend / You Ain't No Woman / John Henry

**Earl Hooker**; Off The Hook / Walking The Floor / Rocket 88

**Magic Sam**: All My Love

**Juke Boy Bonner**: Going Back To The Country

**Clifton & Cleveland Chenier**: You Got Me Walking On The Floor / Zydeco Et Pas Sale

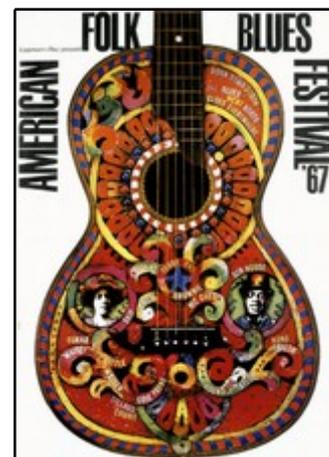
**Alex Moore**; Whistling Blues

**Carey Bell**: Love Ain't A Play Thing

Interviews

Duration: 56:10 Min

Already in 1962 Horst Lippmann and Fritz Rau organized the first American Folk Blues Festival. Legendary is the encounter of Fritz Rau with the 19 year old Mick Jagger who founded the Rolling Stones in the same year. This meeting is symbolic for the great importance the American Folk Blues Festival had for the development of pop and rock music in Europe. Young musicians like Mick Jagger, Eric Burdon and Eric Clapton for the first time saw the old masters of blues live. This experience influenced the musical style of these bands and therefore the taste of music of a whole generation.



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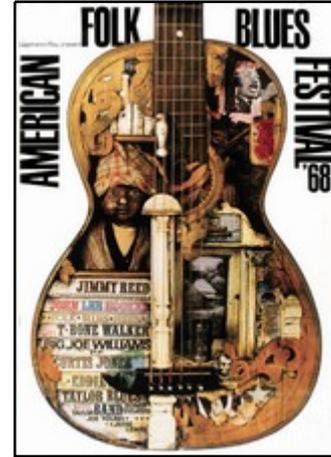


### Legends of the American Folk Blues Festivals

The present recordings of the years from 1967 to 1969 show where young English bands got their inspiration: From American blues musicians, already forgotten in their home country, who celebrated a great comeback in Europe and who for the most part are now members of the Blues Hall of Fame. This reminds of the phenomenon of the Buena

Vista Social Club. What succeeded with Cuban music at the end of the 90s, was already made possible with blues 30 years earlier by Lippmann & Rau.

Most of these musicians are not alive anymore. The solo performance of Little Walter is the only one ever recorded. He died just after the tour in 1967. Some musicians like Curtis Jones stayed in Europe and a few, like John Lee Hooker, showed up in the movie "Blues Brothers" in 1980. All of them are unforgotten stars and the fathers of what came after blues music.



The American Folk Blues Festival continued touring for many years. Our recordings from 1967 to 1969 are a wonderful compilation of the American blues scene of this time.

The festival of 1967 which had the slogan "Born Down South the Blues Went North" presented original country-blues by Skip James and others as well as modern city-blues by Hound Dog Taylor and others. In the booklet was written: "Even though artists like Little Walter and Hound Dog Taylor originally are from the South, their music is decisively influenced by the hectic city life." With artists like John Lee Hooker, Jimmy Reed and T-Bone Walker, the festival of 1968 again emphasized these two types of Blues.

Hanno Brühl presents the festival of 1969 in the context of a tour documentation. Here the musicians can be seen on stage as well as in small jam sessions backstage. Furthermore this film contains interviews in the bus or plane with the musicians and the tourmanager and former boss of the Arhoolie label Chris Strachwitz. The playbills and the nowadays as collector's items desired posters designed by Günther Kieser are displayed in the booklet.

Claus Schreiner about these festivals:

Horst Lippmann presented blues with Big Bill Broonzy for the first time on his first tour in 1953. Cannonball Adderly brokered the contact with musician and manager Willie Dixon in Chicago who was to become an important partner for the blues festivals that Horst Lippmann wanted to call "American Folk Blues Festival". "American", because after all they're all American musicians, "folk" because the authentic blues in the broadest sense is the folk music of the American blacks. "Festival" because we have to try to present as many different musicians as possible and a broad spectrum of blues music in general." The Südwestfunk radio producer Joachim Ernst Berendt gave the initial start-up at the first blues festival. He had come back from a trip to the USA and wanted at all costs to get a selection of blues artists into the television studio. A tour would be a better way to redeem the high travel costs.

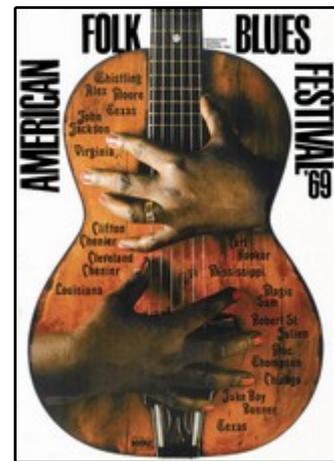
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### Legends of the American Folk Blues Festivals

The first blues festival went off in 1962 and then on an annual basis until 1970 and then again from 1980 to 1983 and in 1985. The American Folk Blues Festivals have been without a doubt the most enduring of all the Lippmann + Rau festivals. The beat music and rock scene in Europe of the time profited from their encounters with blues musicians of different styles. The friendship that emerged between the Rolling Stones and Fritz Rau began at a blues concert in Manchester. In 1963 Lippmann produced in cooperation with blues-festival-participant Sonnyboy Williamson a legendary LP with the Yardbirds, whose guitarist at the time was the 17-year old Eric Clapton.



Almost all the blues festivals have been released on LP by Lippmann and are still available. In 2004 a DVD series appeared in the USA with extracts (not authorized by Lippmann + Rau) from the SWF programmes of 1962-1966. In 2002 the department of cultural affairs in Eisenach in former Eastern Germany organized a concert "40 Years American Folk Blues Festival" to which two blues artists from the USA traveled with Hubert Sumlin and Carey Bell. Eisenach is Horst Lippmann's place of birth, the head office of the Lippmann + Rau foundation and holds, among other things, Horst Lippmann's archive.

Our film selection is from the years 1967 to 1969. After the recordings at SWR in Baden Baden, Westdeutscher Rundfunk presented the blues festivals on the television series "Swing In" hosted by Siegfried Schmidt-Joos. In 1967 it was still without an audience in the studio, to its partial reparation, however, the show was graced with a rare appearance by Horst Lippmann as interview partner. One year later it was directed by the 27-year old Dutchman Bob Rooyens who later became famous as director of T.V. entertainment shows. Remarkably enough, though from today's perspective not exactly compelling, were the early blue box and cross-fade techniques that were further developed by producer Mike Leckebusch in Beat-Club having been broadcasted by Radio Bremen since 1965.

The zeitgeist of 1968 tried to wring out of the blues festival any critical undertones. Siegfried Schmidt-Joos, accompanied by "Die Welt"-critic Werner Burkhardt, in a studio-discussion with Fritz Rau questioned the true message of blues and its producers. Has, for example, the festival idea gotten stuck in the commercial aspect of the enterprise while the blues musicians themselves still eke out an existence in the economic offside of society? 40 years later we know that even the 1968 festival was of great importance and that the festivals were of great benefit to the musicians for their ensuing careers in the USA.

In 1969 author and producer Hanno Brühl (born 1937) accompanied the AFBF with a film team on a few stations of their German tour. Brühl had two years before directed the show at WDR studios in Cologne. After the short interviews with members of the audience at the WDR studio in the previous year Brühl's film offers us a glance at the concert audience, the backstage area and the everyday life of a music tour. The then 38-year old Chris Strachwitz, who in 1960 established his label Arhoolie for blues and folk music and had put together the festival with Horst Lippmann accompanied the tour as presenter.

Claus Schreiner

The other two DVDs of the series:

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

DVD 2 Legends of Spiritual & Gospel and Folk & Country