

Willie Walker & The Butanes

SHORT QUOTES

Memphisapolis

It's another slab of classic gritty Southern soul, the stuff that's as tough as it is romantic...**"What's It Take?"** gets the album off to a great start, and **"Real Love"** is easily the best Al Green song of the year

Tom Surowicz - *StarTribune* (US)

A slice of absolutely timeless soul music to gladden the heart...2006 or 1966, this is what soul music is all about for me and I rather suspect you too. - a **'star pick'**

David Cole - *In The Basement* magazine (UK)

Walker has a voice of pure wool, scratchy and warm, and he rubs it over a set of all-original songs by guitarist Curtis Obeda. **"Exactly Like Me"** is an especial standout

Peter Scholtes - *City Pages* (US)

KNOCKOUT album! one of the very best "southern-soul" album in new millennium, super deep vocals with tight back band! This is **"must"** if old "Goldwax" sound is your kind.

Keisuke Yamada - *soul-treasures.com* (JP)

Soul like it used to be done, one part church, one part barbecue, one part groove-dripping sweat.

Mike Elias - *Chord* magazine (US)

Memphisapolis has to be in the running for my pick of 2006. Yes indeed, I never thought that soul records of this quality were being cut nowadays, I though the magic touch had been lost somewhere back in the 1960s along with Beatle wigs, black and white television and real leather footballs with laces. It contains elements of all the great Memphis studios, and summons up the spirit of Otis Redding, Al Green and all those other giants who recorded in the Bluff City in the heyday of real soul music. A sure fire winner for Messrs Walker and Obeda...

Phil Wight - *Blues & Rhythm* (UK)

If you love Stax and the golden age of soul, this is a can't live without release. Visit the band at www.thebutanes.com and enjoy, enjoy, enjoy. It will not get any better than this. - a **'pick hit'**

Alan Shutro - *bluesbytes.com* (US)

Curt and Willie have once more come up with an impressive rootsy record. There are many songs that should put a party in full swing and fill dance floors.

Heikki Suosalo - *Soul Express* (FIN)

100% organic, natural Deep Soul music...[a] gritty slab of raw, sweaty aural pleasure.

Dylann DeAnna - www.bluescritic.com (US)

2 things which drew me to investing in the last CD are here again - Willie's voice and Curt's songs both of which make this CD album of the year already - no one surpassed them in 2004 and they are back in 2006 with an album which is going to be hard for anyone to beat again.

Colin Dilnot - *In Dangerous Rhythm* Blog (UK)

The best classic soul record of 2005 was Willie Walker & The Butanes' stunning **Right Where I Belong** - hands down, no contest. Now Walker returns with **"Memphisapolis"** a record that is somehow even better and will floor fans of vintage soul who thought records like this just aren't made anymore.

Jeff Harris - *baddogblues.com* (US)

The approach of Walker, now intense, now tortured, and the same voice, raucous, strict and intense like certain ghetto preachers, places it by the side of many champions of an epoch not yet ended.

Edoardo Fassio - *Il Blues* magazine (IT)

This is modern Southern soul outing with traditional leanings of the highest calibre and, as such, comes highly recommended.

Ray Ellis - *Juke Blues* (UK)

His voice has all the earthy grit of the great soul singers, a sound connected to the hard living of the streets crossed with the joyous celebration of the church, where so many of that style's artists started. Backed by the Butanes, a punchy bunch led by guitarist Curtis Obeda (who also happened to write all the songs here), Walker has found his dream team of players. So much of rhythm & blues is the perfect marriage of singer and band (think Stax, Duke, Seasaint, Muscle Shoals or any other celebrated studio group), and it's clear Willie Walker is in the middle of a very sweet scene indeed. So for those who once upon a time might have scoured record stores for O.V. Wright singles, or prided themselves on their Goldwax 45s collection, have faith, because this is a disc to keep that spirit alive. Get it while you can.

Bill Bentley - *Studio City/Sherman Oaks/Encino Sun* (US)

The follow-up [to 2004's **Right Where I Belong**] is even better. Horn-blazing, hard-grooving tracks such as **"Sweet (The Yeah, Yeah Song)"** and **"The Last Time"** offer pure Stax voltage. Ballads such as **"Real Love"** and **"I Won't Be Lonely"** -- all written by Butanes frontman Curt Obeda -- will nail your heart to the floor. The guys also branched out on a couple of country-soul gems, including **"The Dream for Me,"** which rivals Solomon Burke's great new CD, **Nashville**.

Chris Riemenschneider - *StarTribune* (US)

Willie Walker and the Butanes, **Memphisapolis** (Haute): Much has been made about the Rev. Al Green's return to secular music but even though I'm a huge Green fan, this CD by the ex-Memphis, now-Minneapolis soul singer tops either of Green's recent comebacks. In fact, this is a solid-gold soul collection, with crisp horns, passionate vocals and a sweatily delectable vintage sound. Dig the determination in **"I'll Get to You,"** one of the many highlights.

Jon Bream - *StarTribune* (US)

Currently breezing in as my album of the year...the perfect blend of simmering Slow deep plus punchy 'Stax/Hi' hybrid style mid to uptempo beaters.

Rod Dearlove - www.voicesfromtheshadows.com (UK)

This CD contains nothing else than 'goodies'

Alfons Maes - *Keys & Chords* (NL)

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Right Where I Belong

Stunning: rarely does a record not only successfully reproduce a beloved style without sounding dated, but actually adds to the genre that has influenced it. This record is so top notch that no purist will be able to tell the difference between it and a long lost reel of Goldwax tape. Amen.

Michael Hurtt - Living Blues magazine (US)

This is it! The real deal. The goods. You will hardly believe your ears as your own personal laser beam converts those little digital signals into music. Yes, music. Real soul music.

Steve Armitage - Blues & Rhythm magazine (UK)

An album of smoldering, Memphis style soul that could comfortably stand alongside the classic works of artists such as Syl Johnson and O.V. Wright.

Blake Thompson - Offbeat (US)

Cet album est vraiment merveilleux, peut-être la meilleure sortie soul de l'année !!! Achetez-le !!! - Le Pied.

Translation: This album is truly marvelous, perhaps the best soul release of the year !!! Buy it !!! - The highest rating.

Florent Mazzoleni of Soul Bag (FR)

It's the kind of album the worst nit-picker can't find one thing wrong with. Except that eventually it's over. Curt Obeda wrote everything, coming up with cold-blooded killer material -- sharp lyrics, fresh melodies and chord structures rich in dynamics. Combine this with Willie Walker and The Butanes performance, then talk about chained lightning. Trust me: if you can't feel this music from the top of your head to bottom of the toes, someone should notify your next of kin, 'cause you're already dead and just don't know it.

Dwight Hobbes - Insight (US)

The finest new release (new recording) I've heard in many a year. All new songs by a true cult artist supported by a sh*t hot band who could have just emerged from being locked away since the heydays of classic soul music in the 60's.

Dave Porter - Vivid Sound (UK)

I would have been proud to release this recording.

Quinton Claunch, co-owner of Goldwax Records (US)

The Willie Walker CD hasn't been off my deck. I didn't think I'd hear real soul music like this in 2004! Brilliant! This CD will blow everyone away. An absolute 24-carat gem.

Ray Ellis of Juke Blues (UK)

Believe me folks, this is the real thing.

Mike Elias - Chord magazine (US)

It's bloody marvellous! It's one of those cds that no one [with a love for Southern Soul] ought to be without. - a 'star pick'

David Cole of In The Basement magazine (UK)

A languid, loving blast of classic blues that often recalls Al Green's more carnal incarnations.

James Walsh - City Pages (US)

This is as good as it gets. A must...

Heikki Suosalo - Soul Express (FIN)

I'm delighted to say I was completely knocked out!!!! It's all that [others] said it is and more. Great songs, and a real soulful band behind him, Willie sounds as good as ever, maybe even better.

Martin Goggin of Juke Blues (IRE)

Find this CD at any cost. You will listen to it for years to come. A gem.

Alan Shutro - bluesbytes.com (US)

The most brilliant piece of music I have heard in ages. Now this is a CD you HAVE to listen to from start to end, because it's impossible not to. Almost brings tears to my eyes, so good this is.

Hans Diepstraten - Hans & Harry's Fingerpoppin' Soul (NL)

A Top 10 Soul Blues CD of 2004.

Dylann DeAnna - www.bluescritic.com (US)

Well done Willie! well done The Butanes! and well done Colin (producer)! this reminds me of the golden days of "deep soul", one of the very best newly recording "southern soul" album!

Keisuke Yamada - soul-treasures.com (JP)

The year's best deep-soul album...Howard Tate, your comeback ass has just been kicked.

Dylan Hicks - Village Voice (US)