

POWERPLAY REVIEWS

THE IDLE HANDS – All Night Sinnin’

Blues Rock
(Independent)

One of the UK’s best kept secrets, blues rockers The Idle Hands. have been kicking around the North Midlands for years now, steadfastly refusing to bow to the latest trends by sticking to what they know and love ... classic blues rock. Three quarters of the band – guitarist Dave Robinson, bassist Jamie Burns and vocalist Phil Allen – have been together as a unit since ’94, with drummer Paul Heydon being drafted in early in 2009.

‘All Night Sinnin’ is The Idle Hands’ fifth independently release CD to date, coming after their last effort ‘A Touch of The Blues’ this latest album is by far the most contemporary sounding release the band have yet recorded.

Characterised as ever by some gritty, soul fuelled vocals from front man Phil Allen (a name some of you may recall from 80’s hopefuls Stateline), the real revelation for me this time around (aside from the quality of the songs of course) is the guitar playing of Dave Robinson. Always highly regarded locally, but on this release he’s really pulled out all the stops. Imagine a mixture of Jimmy Page, Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Frank Marino, Rory Gallagher, Gary Moore and BB King, and that’s exactly the sort of vibe and standard he maintains with ease throughout!

Moving on to the songs, whilst they maintain a healthy respect and affection for the greats of yesteryear; thanks to a brash, largely upbeat production, they have a presence which makes them sound relevant today. From simple guitar / vocal only tracks like ‘I Don’t Mind’, to full blooded slow burning monsters such as ‘Mississippi’ or ‘40 Nights’ (the album’s real standout track for me), it’s clear the band have found the next level, and quite frankly they’ve never sounded leaner or meaner! But that’s just for starters; immerse yourself in the delights of ‘I Ain’t Broken’, ‘Things Move On’, ‘Testify’, ‘Bad Situation’, ‘All Night Sinnin’ and the like, and you’ll soon see what you’ve been missing all these years.

Just why none of the labels have picked up on ‘All Night Sinnin’ as yet is a complete mystery to me because it’s every bit as good (and in most cases better) than a lot of stuff masquerading as blues rock these days. Indeed, with albums of this quality, the name of The Idle Hands should soon be reverberating throughout the scene.

Powerpoints 9/10

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DAVE COCKETT

To grab yourself a copy of the album, visit the band website at www.the-idle-hands.co.uk