

THE JOHNNY OTIS SHOW CUTTIN' UP



STEREO
CAN ALSO BE PLAYED
ON MONO EQUIPMENT



BN 26524

THE JOHNNY OTIS SHOW CUTTIN' UP

Produced by Johnny Otis
Arranged by Johnny Otis and Tank Jernigan
Engineering: Alex Kazanegras, Raphael O. Valentin

Side 1

THE WATTS BREAKAWAY

Vocal by DELMAR EVANS

MO-JO WOMAN

Vocal by JOHNNY OTIS AND DELMAR EVANS

BARRELHOUSEBLUES

INSTRUMENTAL (SHUGGIE OTIS GUITAR FEATURE)

EVIL GAL BLUES

Vocal by MARGIE EVANS

IT'S GOOD TO BE FREE

Vocal by DELMAR EVANS

I CAN STAND TO SEE YOU DIE

Vocal by SUGARCANE HARRIS

Side 2

DON'T STRETCH THIS GOOD THING TOO FAR

Vocal by DELMAR AND MARGIE

ELIM STOLE MY BABY

Vocal by SUGARCANE HARRIS

I GOT THE WALKIN' BLUES

Vocal by JOHNNY OTIS AND SUGARCANE HARRIS

YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME

Vocal by DELMAR EVANS

DOUBLE CROSSING BLUES

Vocal by DELMAR AND MARGIE

CUTTIN' UP

INSTRUMENTAL

The selections are BMI.

In its unpredictability, the music business occasionally tosses us an unexpected bonus: a strikingly new, original artist who extends or finds new things to say in an already well-defined idiom, a veteran performer whose music has been revitalized through contact with newer disciplines, or perhaps an advanced, innovative musician with whom time has finally caught up. This exciting LP gives us more than a taste of all three in one deliciously satisfying package—The Johnny Otis Show. Like the proverbially well-planned wedding, the album has something old, something new, something borrowed and, emphatically, quite a few things blue.

What animates everything here is the sure, guiding hand of Johnny Otis, whose welcome return to activity at the helm of one of the most imaginative, provocative musical repertoire groups now going has to be among the most gratifying musical events of recent years. Otis, after all, is one of the protean R&B performers, with a rich and varied background rooted in his years of jazz-band drumming. Before forming his first band in 1945, Johnny had worked with a number of the leading West Coast orchestras, as well as those of Count Basie and Harlan Leonard. He scored his first national success with his band's recording of "Harlem Nocturne," and since the mid-1940's he has been one of the most popular and prolific entertainer-musicians working the demanding R&B circuit.

As composer, arranger, bandleader, instrumentalist, impresario, promoter, talent manager and, most recently, author (*Listen to the Lambs*, W.W. Norton, 1968),

Johnny has crammed more activity into one life than any ten men. And despite the ups-and-downs of the music business, he has retained his enthusiastic belief in the power and beauty of the music he performs so well. There's never been any question about his total command of the form and expressive nuance of blues and earthy R&B music; just give a listen to the compelling performances on this LP for proof positive of that.

Though Johnny's direction and participation are the fulcrum of the proceedings here, the album's success is due to the impressive skills of the company he has gathered around him. The nucleus of this group—yeasty, powerhouse singer Delmar "Mighty Mouth" Evans, Johnny's prodigiously gifted 16-year-old multi-instrumentalist son Shuggie Otis, and vocalist-violinist Don "Sugarcane" Harris—comprises one of the tightest, most creative and deeply satisfying R&B performing groups around.

The vocals are parcelled out among Otis Sr., Mighty Mouth, Sugarcane and Margie Evans. Shuggie's multiple instrumental contributions on guitar, bass, harmonica, organ and piano are scattered liberally throughout the album, and are most extensively displayed on the instrumental tracks *Barrelhouse Blues* and *Cuttin' Up*. Shuggie's solid mastery of so many instruments—and musical idioms as well—is phenomenal in one so young and invites speculation as to where his great expressive gifts eventually will lead him. Sire Otis typically dons several hats here, being heard as vocalist, pianist, vibraharpist, auxiliary percussionist and arranger. Pete Welding



EPIC
STEREO

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SIDE 1
XSB 151414

1. **THE WATTS BREAKAWAY** -J. Otis- Vocal by **DELMAR EVANS**
2. **MO-JO WOMAN** -J. Otis - S. Otis - D. Evans-
Vocal by **JOHNNY OTIS & DELMAR EVANS**
3. **BARRELHOUSE BLUES** -J. Otis - S. Otis-
INSTRUMENTAL (SHUGGIE OTIS GUITAR FEATURE)
4. **EVIL GAL BLUES** -L. Feather - L. Hampton-
Vocal by **MARGIE EVANS**
5. **IT'S GOOD TO BE FREE** -J. Otis-
Vocal by **DELMAR EVANS**
6. **I CAN STAND TO SEE YOU DIE**
-J. Otis - S. Otis - D. Harris-
Vocal by **SUGARCANE HARRIS**

"EPIC," MARCAS REG T M. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

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SIDE 2
XSB 151415

1. **DON'T STRETCH THIS GOOD THING TOO FAR** -J. Otis -
S. Otis - D. Evans- Vocal by **DELMAR AND MARGIE**
2. **ELIM STOLE MY BABY** -J. Otis -D. Harris-
Vocal by **SUGARCANE HARRIS**
3. **I GOT THE WALKIN' BLUES** -J. Otis - D. Harris - S. Otis-
Vocal by **JOHNNY OTIS & SUGARCANE HARRIS**
4. **YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME** -D. Evans - J. Otis -
D. Harris - S. Otis- Vocal by **DELMAR EVANS**
5. **DOUBLE CROSSING BLUES** -J. M. Robinson-
Vocal by **DELMAR AND MARGIE**
6. **CUTTIN' UP**
-J. Otis - S. Otis - M. Jernigan-
INSTRUMENTAL

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