

HOT HARMONICA HOKUM

Mad Dog Blues

Self-Produced

"Hokum" is a particular kind of Blues song that dates back to the very early Blues recordings. The songs use humor, sexual innuendo, gags and bawdy wordplay. Mad Dog Friedman takes a deep dive into the country Blues with "Hot Harmonica Hokum". This is a one man tour-de-force by Mad Dog: harmonica and vocal, period. No overdubs, raw and uncut humorous songs in true Mad Dog fashion.

Friedman has been a mainstay of the Colorado Blues scene for a number of years. This latest effort is a living, breathing throwback to an earlier time when humor and innuendo were in short supply. "Ain't Nobody Own The Blues" touches on a few topics that drive everyone crazy in 2026. Hate, rage and intolerance rule the day. The storytelling here is stark, and it is easy to understand Mad Dog's message with just harp and vocal as your guide.

"Grandma" is a playful song about Grandma looking so good she makes Grandpa come alive. Is it that lowcut dress? I'll bet you never thought of your Grandma that way! It's a perfect segue into "Delivery Man" - and you know what he's delivering. These songs are stories wrapped around a Blues melody, having fun with a wink and a nod.

Mad Dog has managed to capture a different feel and tempo with each song on "Hot Harmonica Hokum". Sadness, love and speed ("Harmonica Cadillac" - very well done), and the grind of being a musician driving home "The Long Drive Home After A Gig at 3am". This music is almost poetic. I can see and feel what he's singing and talking about it, as if I'm right there with Grandma or in the back of that Harmonica Cadillac.

Give it a spin. Two thumbs up on "Hot Harmonica Hokum" from Mad Dog Friedman.

maddogharp.com

- JACK HADLEY



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