

Live at the Star Club, Hamburg

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Live at the Star Club is a live recording of Jerry Lee Lewis backed by The Nashville Teens playing at the Star-Club, Hamburg, Germany, April 5, 1964. It is regarded by many music journalists as one of the wildest and greatest rock and roll concert albums ever.^{[1][5][6][7][8]} The album appears in the book *1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die*.

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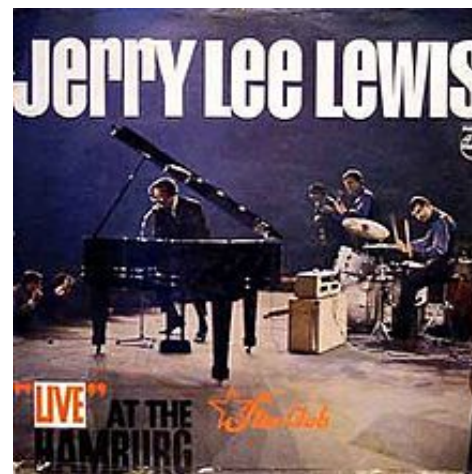
Recording

Live at the Star Club was produced by Siggie Loch, who was head of the jazz department at Philips Records. In Joe Bonomo's book *Lost And Found*, Loch states that "...I realized that there were all of these young, mainly British, bands who were playing Chuck Berry and other white American rock & rollers, their big heroes...And I went to the owner and made a proposal to start recording bands at the Star-Club, which I did." According to Loch the recording setup was uncomplicated, with microphones

placed as close to the instruments as possible with a stereo mike placed in the audience to capture the ambience. The results were sonically astonishing, with Bonomo observing that "Detractors complain of the album's crashing noisiness, the lack of subtlety with which Jerry Lee revisits the songs, the fact that the piano is mixed too loudly, but what is certain is that Siggie Loch on this spring evening captured something brutally honest about the Killer, about the primal and timeless center of the very best rock & roll..."

Sixteen songs were recorded over two sets, the first set comprising "Down The Line," "You Win Again," "High School Confidential," "Your Cheatin' Heart," "Great Balls of Fire," "What'd I Say (Parts 1 & 2), and "Mean Woman Blues." The second set featured "Good Golly Miss Molly," "Matchbox," "Money," "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," "Lewis Boogie," "Hound Dog," "Long Tall Sally" and "I'm On Fire." ^[9] "Down

Live At The Star Club



Live album by Jerry Lee Lewis, backed by The Nashville Teens

Released	1964
Recorded	Star-Club, Hamburg, April 5, 1964
Genre	Rock & Roll
Label	German Philips

Professional ratings

Review scores

Source	Rating
Allmusic	★★★★★ ^[1]
Robert Christgau	(A) ^[2]
<i>Rolling Stone</i>	★★★★★ ^[3]
Stylus Magazine	(favorable) ^[4]

The Line," omitted on the original LP due to a sound fault at the beginning, was released on French Mercury single *Les Rois du Rock, Vol. 8 : Jerry Lee Lewis* and included on later CD and LP releases of Bear Family Records. The tapes for "You Win Again" and "I'm On Fire" are believed to have been lost.

Reception

Live at the Star Club is generally regarded as one of the greatest live rock and roll albums ever made. Recorded during his "wilderness years" following the fallout surrounding his 1958 marriage to his thirteen year old second cousin Myra, the album showcases Lewis's phenomenal skills as a pianist and singer, which had been honed by relentless touring. In a 5 out of 5 stars review, Milo Miles raved in *Rolling Stone* that "Live At The Star Club, Hamburg' is not an album, it's a crime scene: Jerry Lee Lewis slaughters his rivals in a thirteen-song set that feels like one long convulsion. Recorded April 5th, 1964, this is the earliest and most feral of Lewis' concert releases from his wilderness years ...".^[6] *Q Magazine* commented "This might be the most exciting performance ever recorded...".^[7] The album was included in *Mojo's* "The 67 Lost Albums You Must Own!" - "[A]n unbelievably seismic document of rock 'n' roll so demonic and primal it can barely keep its stage suit on.... It's up there with James Brown's great live albums."^[8]

All Music said of the album: "Words cannot describe -- cannot contain -- the performance captured on *Live at the Star Club, Hamburg*, an album that contains the very essence of rock & roll [...] *Live at the Star Club* is extraordinary -- the purest, hardest rock & roll ever committed to record [...] he sounds possessed, hitting the keys so hard it sounds like they'll break, and rocking harder than anybody had before or since. Compared to this, thrash metal sounds tame, the Stooges sound constrained, hardcore punk seems neutered, and the Sex Pistols sound like wimps. Rock & roll is about the fire in the performance, and nothing sounds as fiery as this; nothing hits as hard or sounds as loud, either. It is no stretch to call this the greatest live album ever, nor is it a stretch to call it the greatest rock & roll album ever recorded. Even so, words can't describe the music here — it truly has to be heard to be believed."^[1]

Joe Bonomo calls "Mean Woman Blues", the opening number on the album, as "nothing short of a concert in itself". Author Colin Escott describes Lewis's performance of the Hank Williams classic "Your Cheatin' Heart" as a one man tour-de-force, "a stunning fusion of everything that was Jerry Lee Lewis. The bluesy piano licks thrown into the middle of the stone hillbilly classic and a vocal of scorching intensity." ^[9]

Track listing

Side one

1. "Mean Woman Blues" (Claude Demetrius) 4:01
2. "High School Confidential" (Hargrave, Lewis) 2:25
3. "Money (That's What I Want)" (Janie Bradford, Berry Gordy) 4:35
4. "Matchbox" (Carl Perkins) 2:46
5. "What'd I Say, Part 1" (Ray Charles) 2:18
6. "What'd I Say, Part 2" 3:08

Side two

1. "Great Balls of Fire" (Otis Blackwell, Jack Hammer) 1:48
2. "Good Golly, Miss Molly" (Bumps Blackwell, John Marascalco) 2:19
3. "Lewis' Boogie" (Lewis) 1:55
4. "Your Cheatin' Heart" (Hank Williams) 3:03
5. "Hound Dog" (Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller) 2:28
6. "Long Tall Sally" (Enotris Johnson, Little Richard) 1:52
7. "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On" (Sunny David, Dave Williams) 4:24

Personnel

Credits for *Live at the Star Club, Hamburg* adapted from Allmusic.^[10]

- Johnny Allen – guitar
- Robert "Bumps" Blackwell – composer
- Janie Bradford – composer
- Ingrid Buhring – photography
- Sunny David – composer
- Berry Gordy, Jr. – composer
- Barry Jenkins – drums
- Ron Hargrave – composer
- Enotris Johnson – composer
- Bob Jones – mastering
- Jerry Leiber – composer
- Jerry Lee Lewis – composer, piano, vocals
- Little Richard – composer
- Sigfried Loch – producer
- John Marascalco – composer
- Pete Shannon Harris – bass
- Mike Stoller – composer
- Peter Van Raay – photography
- Richard Weize – photography, reissue producer
- Dave Williams – composer

References

1. [^] ^{*a b c*} Erlewine, Stephen Thomas (2009). Live at the Star Club, Hamburg [Rhino] - Jerry Lee Lewis: Review (<http://www.allmusic.com/album/live-at-the-star-club-hamburg-rhino-main-entry-r78332>). Allmusic. Retrieved on 2011-06-27.
2. [^] Christgau, Robert (June 24, 2011). Jerry Lee Lewis/Wire (<http://social.entertainment.msn.com/music/blogs/expert-witness-blogpost.aspx?post=0e414854-be9c-4403-852c-256c73a5b14e>). MSN Music. Retrieved on 2011-06-27.
3. [^] Jerry Lee Lewis - Live At The Star Club, Hamburg CD Album (<http://www.cduniverse.com/search/xx/music/pid/1051393/a/Live+At+The+Star+Club,+Hamburg.htm>). Muze. CD Universe. Retrieved on 2011-06-27.
4. [^] Faust, Edwin C. (September 19, 2003). Jerry Lee Lewis - Live At The Star-Club Hamburg - On Second Thought (http://www.stylusmagazine.com/articles/on_second_thought/jerry-lee-lewis-live-at-the-star-club-hamburg.htm). Stylus Magazine. Retrieved on 2011-06-27.

- [^] Peter Checksfield, "Jerry Lee Lewis. The Greatest Live Show on Earth", *Record Collector*, #188 - April 1995, p. 79.
- [^] ^{*a*} ^{*b*} Miles, Milo (June 6, 2002). Live at the Star Club, Hamburg [Bear Family] by Jerry Lee Lewis | Music Reviews (<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/albumreviews/live-at-the-star-club-hamburg-bear-family-20020606>). *Rolling Stone*. Retrieved on 2011-06-27.
- [^] ^{*a*} ^{*b*} *Q Magazine*, #1, 2002, p. 59.
- [^] ^{*a*} ^{*b*} *Mojo*, 3/01/2004, p. 52.
- [^] ^{*a*} ^{*b*} Joe Bonomo, *Jerry Lee Lewis: Lost and Found* (Continuum Books, 2009), by Joe Bonomo.
- [^] Live at the Star Club, Hamburg [Rhino] - Jerry Lee Lewis: Credits (<http://www.allmusic.com/album/live-at-the-star-club-hamburg-rhino-r78332/credits>). Allmusic. Retrieved on 2011-06-27.

Bibliography

- Joe Bonomo, *Jerry Lee Lewis: Lost and Found*, Continuum Books, 2009.

External links

- *Live at the Star Club, Hamburg* (<http://www.radio3net.ro/dbartists/supersearch/TG12ZSBhdCB0aGUgU3RhciBDbHViLCBIYW1idXJn/Live%20at%20the%20Star%20Club,%20Hamburg>) (Adobe Flash) at Radio3Net (streamed copy where licensed)
- *Live at the Star Club, Hamburg* (<http://www.discogs.com/Jerry-Lee-Lewis-Live-At-The-Star-Club-Hamburg/master/93910>) at Discogs

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Categories: Jerry Lee Lewis albums | 1964 live albums | English-language live albums | Philips Records live albums

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