

Mp3 Papa Grows Funk - Doin' It

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Chunk. Chop. Thump. Slyncopate. These are the titles to the four interludes on Papa Grows Funk's debut album, each interlude featuring the guitar, organ, bass, and drums respectively. These four short tracks represent the four components of the band. The 14 MP3 Songs ROCK: Funk Rock, ROCK: Jam-band Details: Gleefully crowning itself with the New Orleans funk crown last worn by the legendary Meters, Papa Grows Funk achieves what appeared to be impossible prior to this debut album. With notable Crescent City players such as drummer Russell Batiste and Wild Magnolias guitarist June Yamagishi, its no surprise that this band can play the tight, syncopated and disciplined funk that has made New Orleans famous. But what bandleader, writer, and singer John Gros manages to accomplish is to integrate looser jam-band elements into the primal New Orleans mix of R&B, jazz, and blues without upsetting the tightly wound, often repetitive rhythms and vamps that make this style distinctive. Its a feat no other pretender to the crown has achieved, and one that makes the self-released Doin It. (available at papagrowsfunk.com) not just funky, but fresh. -Boston Globe The intangibles that make a band more than the sum of its parts are not developed overnight. Years of woodshedding are usually required. On rare occasions, this processed is bypassed, and the connection is immediate. So it was with Los Hombres Calientes, the local Afro-Cuban jazz band that was wowing audiences from their very first gig. Like Los Hombres Calientes, Papa Grows Funk is stocked with veteran local players. Keyboardist John Gros is an alumnus of MuleBone and one of George Porter Jr.s Runnin Pardners. Drummer Russell Batiste powers the funky Meters. June Yamagishi is a valued member of the Wild Magnolias tribe. Bassists Marc Pero and Peter V have traded licks with various bands as has saxophonist Jason Mingledorff. Thrown together for a Monday night residency at the Old Point Bar, they quickly found their way. And so it is that next week Papa Grows Funk celebrates both its one year anniversary and release of its debut CD, Doin It, as informed a primer on Big Easy funk as this city has produced in years. The influence of the players associations are apparent. Gros singsong organ on Pass It and Dimples recalls Art Nevilles Meters riff circa 69. Junker Man could have been lifted from the Runnin Pardners songbook and theres a bit of Dr. John hoodoo sprinkled over Whos Knockin at Your Door. But Papa Gros and company have embraced

these sounds as their own. Throughout 10 full-length tracks and four brief interludes- most of them instrumental, all of them written by the band and produced by Tracey Freeman- they take their time, lay back and let the collective groove guide them. Experience begat their patience, and their patience pays off in spades. - New Orleans Times Picayune

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