

Mp3 Lefty Williams - Big Plans

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Jason Lefty Williams sounds like he could be the next link in the chain of legendary Georgia guitarists after Duane Allman and Robert Cray -Simeon Cohen Jambase.com 13 MP3 Songs ROCK: Classic Rock, BLUES: Texas Style Details: Lefty Williams Not just a great one-armed guitar player, a great guitar player. A skilled guitarist with over two decades of experience, Lefty Williams holds songcraft and musicianship at a premium. By emphasizing each equally on his ironically titled sophomore album Snake Oil, he engages and enlightens the listener. In turn, we fall for Williams powerful guitar licks and candid songs, often long before the origin of his nickname he was born without a right hand is clear. And by then, it's just another dimension to his talent. I definitely don't want to shy away from my arm, says the Atlanta born-and-bred songwriter/musician, who's been playing guitar since age 4. He started out strumming with the end of his nub, and fashioned his first prosthetic pick at 6. I was just using the skin on my arm the same way a fingerstyle player would use his thumb. Then I wanted to play faster. On his grandfather's hunch, Lefty approached his prosthetician who devised a sock-like leather wrap. It didn't work at all, he laughs, saying he finally tore apart my prosthetic arm, using the strap and part of the harness to fashion something that worked. Henceforth a self-taught musician, Lefty refined his skills by listening. After my dad taught me basic chords, he showed me how to figure it out on my own. I remember we were listening to the guitar solo part of Stairway to Heaven and my dad pointing out all the guitar parts that were going on in the background and saying, That's the kinda stuff you gotta listen for. If you can figure all those out and how to play em at the same time, you can make it sound like the record. Soon Lefty was transcribing songs by Steppenwolf, Led Zeppelin and Yes before moving on to more difficult material. By 11, he was playing in bands. Death metal! he laughs. While playing upright bass in the school orchestra he learned how to read music, and in 1998 he made his way to the Atlanta Institute of Music to hone his guitar skills. There he found that his condition put him on equal if not higher footing than his peers and instructors at the Atlanta Institute of Music, who envied his perfect picking technique. A lot of guitar players change between moving their wrists and their elbow and their fingers, he says. Mine never really changes. After graduating with honors, Lefty was offered a teaching position at AIM. During that time, he gravitated from

metal to grunge bands learning valuable lessons from each. I can shred if I want to, he says, but I get really bored with that. The one thing I took from grunge music was not soloing, just taking your time and making your songs as good as you can possibly make them. This knowledge served him well as he grew into the bluesy, jazzy style he plays today, which nods to Jimi Hendrix, Albert King, Aquarium Rescue Unit, Miles Davis, Stevie Ray Vaughn and early Led Zeppelin all artists that understand the importance of a great song. Lefty also heeded their performances, and worked to construct a combustible live show with the Lefty Williams Band, which quickly became a big draw at local and regional clubs like Smiths Olde Bar (Atlanta), Murphys (Boone, North Carolina) and The Dunedin Brewery (Dunedin, Florida). The LWB has also opened for the likes of Govt Mule, Tim Reynolds, Little Feat, Jimbo Mathus, Col. Bruce and the Quark Alliance and the Chris Duarte Group. In 2006, Lefty recorded his debut album, *Big Plans*, produced by John Keane (REM, Widespread Panic). It brought a dynamic range of music to the table, from high energy like *Shine Begins to Fade* to soulful tracks like *Sunny*, in which Lefty's innate sense of groove and melody, coupled with an expressive, visceral guitar sound, coalesce. *Big Plans* received raves from Relix, Hittin the Note, and Jambase.com, and Williams toured for 18 months behind it, all the while writing like a fiend. By the end of 2007, he got the itch to return to the studio. Once again teaming with Keane, who says "Lefty's sound is a compelling combination of honest, heartfelt lyrics and masterful rhythm and blues muscle," Lefty reaches deep into personal experience on *Snake Oil*. There's a lot more honesty in these songs, Lefty says. The dirty, groovin' title track refers to two-faced industry types, specifically a guy who promised me the world and then kinda hosed me. His divorce fuels the funky *Thank You*, where he acknowledges the silver lining, and thanks his ex for kicking him out. Were both better off now. And the sweet, tender *A Little Bit of Faith* (featured on the Relix CD sampler for June 2008) is written for my current wife. It's just a promise to her that I'm not gonna goof around on her. Musically, Lefty soars on *Snake Oil*, ratcheting up the earthy yet sophisticated sound of *Big Plans*. He achieves a coolly smoldering burnmerging Kings world with Davis with *On the Prowl*; suffers through his slide guitar on the gospel-tinged *In the Valley*; channels playful lust on the jumpin' *Hey Mama*; and creates a taut, stinging three-minute guitar feast with *Salt Stained Moment*. The LWB's taut grooves are augmented by two guests: Todd Smallie (The Derek Trucks Band) plays bass on *Why Didn't You Call*, and *On the Prowl* and *Hey Mama* feature blues luminary and fellow Atlanta resident Tinsley Ellis. Says Ellis, I was knocked out by Lefty the first time I heard his music on MySpace. I just knew that I had to seek him out and hear more

of his stuff. He is a veritable triple threat on certainly guitar but also as a soulful vocalist and clever songwriter. The fact that he is out there winning over fans one at a time with his nonstop touring schedule is definitely something that I can relate to. I was thrilled when he asked me to guest on his new album. Having already given many of the songs on Snake Oil a live test drive, Lefty looks forward to presenting them fully realized on another lengthy tour in 2008. Mostly, though, hes chomping at the bit to play live, electrifying audiences with his musical virtuosity and heartworn songs. Lets just make some cool music, he says. Thats all Ive ever really cared about. Relix Magazine October 2007 Issue Jason Lefty Williams sounds like he could be the next link in the chain of legendary Georgia guitarists after Duane Allman and Robert Cray -Simeon Cohen JambaseBig Plans CD Review March 27, 2007 "His music is intricate in composition and delivery. His blues-based rock roll is mature and completely developed, his solos are confident and controlled, and his vocals clear and natural. He was born with immense talent, and did I mention that all of this greatness comes from a man that has only one hand?" "Williams has mastered his six-string in a way that most two-handed guitarists could only dream of. But, one-handed, two-handed, or five-handed, it doesn't matter at all. The only thing that matters is that Jason Williams is one damn good guitar player, " -Kerry Heffernan Hittin' The Note Issue #51 "The Jason "Lefty" Williams Band's debut, Big Plans, is a stunning blues offering, melding silver-toned guitar and warm orchestration."..."While he is able to step out with warranted leads, it is clear that Lefty's finely-tuned ear is aimed at composition first. "...Lefty's innate skill on the guitar is nothing less than miraculous." -Jamie Lee Southeasten Performer Magazine November 2006 "Jason 'Lefty' Williams can play"..."Williams plays as if he has two, sometimes three hands"..."Williams will probably have a long career" -William Cane Knoxville Daily Times October 5, 2007 No doubt, youll have to open and close your eyes a few times just to make sure that youre really seeing what you think you are a one-armed guitar player, a pick-like contraption strapped to the stump that constitutes his upper right appendage, playing with all the passion and fury of the blues gods he worshipped as a child. -Steve Wildsmith Folio Weekly March 27, 2007 Jacksonville, FL "As his Jamsocietyprofile says 'Jason "Lefty" Williams [is] not just a great one armed guitar player, [he's] a great guitar player.' And it's true, the virtuoso musical styling wouldn't be any less impressive if he had another--or three--full limbs to work with." Athens Banner Herald 7-13-2006 "Hearing Jason "Lefty" Williams play guitar is a treat, as the 31-year-old Atlanta native posseses and inventive sound that pulls together his interests in blues, rock, funk, and jazz. To see Williams play, however, is a revelation." -Chris

J. Starrs Radio Show host WRFG 89.3 FM Atlanta, GA "Big Plans" is indeed a necessary breath of fresh air to the blues/rock/Americana genre. From the meditative opening instrumental to the southern rock inspired "Still This Goes On", to the well-treated Hendrix penned, "Manic Depression", it's obvious Jason's tastes are as vast as the musical landscapes he paints." -Lee Henzel Radio Show host WQNR 99.9 FM THE ROCK "Jason "Lefty" Williams new album is one every music lover should own. "Room With A View (Reprise)" is generating great phones here on WQNR" - Wildman Steve, Program Director Morning Show host. People who are interested in Led Zeppelin The Black Crowes Derek Trucks should consider this download.

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