

QIK CD & CONCERT REVIEWS



Yo Mama's Big Fat Bootie Band Head for the Hills Festival Quiet Valley Ranch Review by Greg Forest

This was my first trip to the 4th Annual Head for the Hills Festival at Quiet Valley Ranch. I was pleasantly surprised at the variety and high quality of the performers. To some it might look like a throw back to the hippie years of the 60s but to me it reminded me of the golden years of Bay Area Funk in the 70s that spawned some of the best butt bumping funk to date. Bands like Tower of Power were setting the bar high on what a funky horn band could do.

Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band is a case in point. From the moment the band fired up their first tune the room turned into a funkadelic extravaganza. Whereas in the 70s I was in a "shoe gazing" band - we would stand in one place long hair dangling down looking down at our guitars, Yo Mama was animated and was animated and it appeared they were having as much fun as the audience.

Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band formed up in 2002 and after a few different iterations evolved into the present cracker jack A-team of Mary Frances "Mama Funk" on vocals, keyboard and keytar (and yes that was a real Hammond B3 she was playing). The big booty bottom was put down by Al "Sweet Nasty" Ingram on vocals & bass, Derrick "Dr Ock" Johnson on trombone, JP "Smoke Machine" Miller on guitar, and Lee "Insta Funk" Allen drums.

Great musicians with an obvious love for the vehicle of funk, Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band ran through a great set list covering primarily tunes from their "Onward" CD. Even with a few guest stars jumping up to join in on a song now and then, this was an air-tight performance by experts in their trade. The 150 concert dates they average annually obviously keep their chops up and the Hill Country was lucky to have a band like this visit the area. I hope to return to the Head for the Hills Festival again next year and another shot of funk from Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band. If you join me, don't forget your dancin' shoes!



After All These Years Graham Warwick with the Bona Fide Blues Band Review by Greg Forest



Graham Warwick, formerly of West Texas/Lubbock, has been gracing stages here in the Hill Country for a number of years and has built a following and band that are all as big fans of blues as Graham is.

Graham has brought in two A-teams - both musicians and studio wizards on this CD

project. The Fide Blues Band consists of Graham on vocals & guitar, John Sprott on guitar, John Reeve on vocals & upright bass, and John Ike Walton on the drums. On the session side of things the CD was recorded at Loma Studios with John Hill engineering and John Sprott producing and Jerry Tubb at Terra Nova mastering.

Containing nine songs, almost all penned by Warwick, the album delivers a pot of blues gold drilling down into the genre with heart-felt enthusiasm. My personal faves are, "Cool Blues Hat" (of which Graham is an owner), "Running Out of Money" which is a recurring theme most of us can relate to, and "Walkin' My Blues."

If you are a blues fan and want to do your part in helping Hill Country musicians, get out to one of Graham's gigs in the area. With luck, he will pen a new song, "Running out of CDs."