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## **Hill Country Revue**

*Make a Move*

(Razor & Tie)

When the North Mississippi Allstars' guitarist Luther Dickinson joined the Black Crowes on tour in 2008, his bandmates, brother Cody and bassist Chris Chew, hatched up a homespun conspiracy of their own the Hill Country Revue, a midnight blues band with an intense affinity for the sounds of North Mississippi and an appetite for southern rock. On *Make a Move*, the Hill Country Revue cranks out one backwoods boogie after another.

The legacy of hill country blues doesn't stray far from that of the late, great R.L. Burnside, and *Make a Move* makes its first on the bluesman's "Alice Mae." It doesn't take long for the Hill Country Revue to rile things up as they bear down hard on the gritty shuffle. Later, they take on Burnside's blistering shakedown, "Georgia Woman." Gary Burnside, R.L.'s youngest son, wrote seven of *Make a Move*'s eight other tracks.

Early on, it's evident that the Hill Country Revue isn't holding anything back. Each song is like a powder keg, just waiting for the right riff to set it off. When guitarist Kirk Smithhart streaks across Chew's thunderous bass lines in "Dirty Shirt," the droning, hypnotic romp erupts into rowdy, electric uproar. They never let up on the steady, rolling hoedown "Ramblin'," which escalates into a dizzying, psychedelic honky-tonk. The sheer virtuosity of "Hill Country Revue" is sure to shake up a barroom yet it offers little apart from an excuse to jam. The same can be said about the poorly-penned rocker "Growing Up in Mississippi," which closes the album on a forgettable note. What you won't forget is *Make a Move*'s centerpiece, "You Can Make it," a euphoric, uplifting ride that showcases singer Daniel Coburn's soulful, southern rasp and recalls *Eat a Peach*-era Allman Brothers.

—Aaron LaFont