



DALE HAWKINS

(The Rock & Roll Tornado)

The swamp rock classic "Suzie Q" is the best known product of the massive creativity of Dale Hawkins. It crackles with the manic energy of a restless time and conjures immediate images of steamy Southern nights. To the delight of fans around the world, Hawkins proved his restlessness and creativity intact with the release in April 1999 of "Wildcat Tamer," on Mystic Music - his first all-new album in over 30 years. Without missing a beat - as though the ensuing years never happened - he roars through this collection that reflects the varied sounds of Southern music.

Born in northern Louisiana at a time when exposure to many kinds of music was the norm, he absorbed them all like a sponge. But his distinct preference for black music would always exert the greatest influence, giving his own music a harder edge than that of most of his contemporaries. And he puts all these influences to use on "Wildcat Tamer."

"Suzie Q" featured a 15-year-old James Burton on guitar, the first of many guitar wizards Dale would discover and nurture. Others included Scotty Moore, Joe Osborn, Roy Buchanan, Fred Carter, Jr., and Kenny Paulsen (this tradition continues on "Wildcat Tamer," with hot playing from Kenny Brown, Nick Devlin and Dale Beavers.) His early experiments in production in the studios of Shreveport's KWKH with Merle Kilgore and Johnny Horton developed the skills that would later produce hits for the Uniques, Five Americans, Jon & Robin & the In Crowd, Michael Nesmith, Harry Nilsson, and others. Along the way, he found time to host his own show on WCAU-TV in Philadelphia.

"Wildcat Tamer," which received four stars in Rolling Stone, was produced at Hawkins' Hawk's Nest studio. (He has also turned out the critically-acclaimed "Goin Back to Mississippi" for Kenny Brown - of R. L. Burnside's Band - and an as yet unreleased set from blues harmonica ace Little Cooper.) Its release set off a flurry of activity, coinciding with a performance at the prestigious New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, and followed almost immediately by the Chicago Blues Festival, where Dale took part in a historic reunion of Chess recording artists. Next he was asked by Ripete Records' Marion Carter to reunite with early collaborator James Burton for a song (Dave Alvin's "Fool's Paradise") to be included in Ripete's "Beach Music Volume 2." A video of "Boogie Woogie Country Girl," from "Wildcat Tamer" (Dale's first!) was produced, and two highly acclaimed re-issue projects followed - Ace's "Rock 'N' Roll Tornado," and Beveric Records' (Finland) "Fool's Paradise."

Already a member of the *Rockabilly Hall of Fame*, and the *Louisiana Hall of Fame*, Dale was honored again when Britain's *Now Dig This* readers voted him recipient of their *2000 NDT Awards*, which they dub The Real Rock n Roll Hall of Fame. His most recent triumph is his appearance in acclaimed filmmaker Robert Mugge's "*Rhythm 'n' Bayous: A Road Map to Louisiana Music.*" Dale's performance was so impressive that he was asked to appear at the Mill Valley, Denver and New Orleans Film Festivals when the film was screened.

Never content to rest on his considerable laurels, Hawkins is preparing two new releases to hit the market in the near future. A film documentary is currently in the works, as is a book about his life.