
Subject: Re: Down at the vid store-- Gettin' In The Mood

Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 10 Jan 2005 20:48:54 GMT

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Yes Wayne, the title they actually use for this is called "Gettin In The Mood" it includes a 'rap' verse done by one of the band members and is an extended track. I have a problem myself with these pushing 40 and olderfolk trying to feign youth but I excuse it in Setzer's case because the band cooks so hard. Can't say the same about some piece of dreck I saw with David Bowie and Mick Jagger. I saw the two of them in some video clip (once again at the store) and I told the clerk on the way out it made me want to puke. The young clerk said, after looking around not to be overheard, "Me too." BSO does a number of covers including the old Ernie Ford favorite "This Old House" and the first cd released had some Al Jolson on it. But the originals and production by Phil Ramone are all first rate. Not long ago, I also got a chance to see LaVay Smith and the Red Hot Skillet Lickers live at a local performance theatre (The Meyer which I've mentioned here before.) It's too bad that the revival of this music only has a niche audience. While I was out on the net looking for video clips, I saw a piece on Setzer interviewed in which he says what he does with the band is a Kustom Lifestyle like the hot rods used in his videos: combining a stock form with a new and revved up presentation. I was glad I saw that because I wondered how the unique combination of lead guitar and singer fronting a big band could be expressed. Apparently the original concept came about as a happenstance and then Phil Ramone wrote and arranged the Guitar Slinger album. I go into all this detail because the big sound of the music holds up over time. Some (or most of) the swing bands of the post-Gap ad retro fad have faded from view. Some have gone into film scores like The Bill Elliot Swing Orchestra. Others play clubs like LaVay Smith. But here's the knockout: The Kit McClure Band is an all-girl ensemble that plays the songbook of the mixed-race all girl band of the forties called The International Sweethearts of Rhythm. This was the only female band that toured with the USO during World War II. There was a commemorative for the Sweethearts on the NPR program Riverwalk Jazz. Kit McClure and Red Hot records is here: <http://www.redhotrecords.com/>
more about BSO