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Watermelon Slim: Ringers - Out June 2010 Once & For All Tour feat:
Hubert/Pinetop/Sugar Blue/Willie Big Eyes/Margolin/Stroger Hamilton Loomis: Live In England
Jeff Turmes - Five Horses, Four Riders Beth McKee: I'm That Way Homemade Jamz Blues Band: I
Got Blues for You Samuel James: For Rosa, Maeve and Noreen Jeff Jensen Band: I'm Coming
Home

Watermelon Slim is at it again, twisting, shaping, and reshaping musical genres into one cohesive unit. Not that he hasn't been doing that for years already it's just that he's been making you hip to his actions over the past few releases. His latest release, */Ringers/ (NorthernBlues)* is a worthy successor to his previous country/blues effort */Escape From The Chicken Coop/*, as Slim teams with some of Nashville's finest players for a disc of electric and acoustic numbers.

As stated previously, Slim owes as big a debt to Merle Haggard as he does to Willie Dixon. That has been apparent from the get-go. His own compositions have offered the blues from the perspective of a truck driving man and also provided narratives about everyday people and their trials and travails. That's basically the case here with */Ringers/*, with tracks like **"Good Old Boys Never Change"**, which sounds for all the world like a old Nashville chestnut, but is actually a Watermelon Slim original, and 'End of the Line'.

Slim also tackles a few country standards, ranging from fun recreations of **"Tight Fittin' Jeans"** and **"Truck Drivin' Buddy"**, to a wrenching version of Jimmy Buffett's **"He Went To Paris"**. He hits the honky tonk scene with **"Cowboys Are Common As Sin"** and **"Soft Lights and Hard Country Music"**.

Listening to Slim's craggly vocals and his sweet slide guitar, it's easy to picture him as part of the Grand Old Opry scene of maybe twenty to thirty years ago. Unfortunately, things have probably homogenized a bit too much on the Nashville scene for someone as unconventional as he is. Thankfully, he's got a place in the blues world for as long as he wants it. May he continue to bless the blues world with his talent.