

A kick-ass set from the Oklahoma “truck driver by occupation and blues-singer by vocation”.

Fresh from being nominated in six categories at the 2007 Blues Awards in Memphis and incredibly winning in none of them, Watermelon Slim shrugged, drove to Clarksdale and played a full-on gig, supported by his hardworking trio, with harmonica cameos by Big George Brock and Charlie Musselwhite. He had two lauded albums behind him, and half of the tracks, including Hard Labor, Devil's Cadillac and Dumpster Blues, come from them.

He lets loose a couple of hollers, plays local blues standards like Fred McDowell's 61 Highway and Muddy Waters' Long Distance Call, and passes on lore from the road. Extras include an interview, front-porch solos, and Slim telling John Mayall that the first time he came to Clarksdale he had his jaw broken by muggers, but “I've done much better there since then.” In a world of homogenized blues, the magnificently battered Slim is a one-off.

Tony Russell, MOJO Magazine, Issue 210, May 2011