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Ian Seagal

Meat & Potatoes

BluesWax Rating: 9 out of 10

The New British Invasion

Reminding me simultaneously of Wolf, Beefheart, and Victor Brox in his prime (vocalist for legendary British Blues band The Aynsley Dunbar Retaliation), Ian Siegal snarls and growls his way through the aptly titled CD *Meat & Potatoes* like a "hongrey man." While that vocal delivery is enhanced on most tunes by Ian's more than adept National Steel slide it is underlined on others by tasteful Matt Schofield lead guitar work.

Bona fide and authentic from the Gospel chorus turned Louisiana stomp that "Drowned My Sorrows (But They Sure Leaned To Swim)" becomes, to the sparse staccato Funk on "Brandy Balloon." The latter includes a couple James Brown hooooooww's and heeeeeeeey's that shouldn't be possible from an Englander, even if he is from their deep south.

Although spare in instrumentation, "Work" and "She Got The Devil In Her/I Got To Try You Baby" clock in over seven minutes each, but never get a bit tiresome. Masterful Blues gems akin to heirloom diamonds that have been polished to a blinding luster then placed in a modern setting.

As if that's not enough, let's throw in some deep soulful R&B (the real R&B, no multi-octave yodeling by females with hair extensions) similar to the best Otis Redding on self-penned "Falling On Down Again" with the venerable Jonny Henderson on soaring Hammond C-3, then stand up straight and pay attention for the up tempo Chicago shuffle, "Bloodshot." "Meat & Potatoes" harkens back to Siegal's busking days in Berlin with just his powerful voice and National Steel guitar.

I learned of Ian from my long time Dutch pal Spinner, who was first smitten by Siegal at a Queen's Day street celebration some years ago in The Hague and has been amazing me ever since with cuts from his 2002 CD, *Standing In The Morning*.

Make way for a new British Blues Invasion spearheaded by Ian Siegal. I for one can't wait!

Beardo is a senior contributing editor at BluesWax

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