

Soundtrack of my life

Danny Bryant

As UK blues booms once more, we ask one of its leading exponents what records get him all fired up

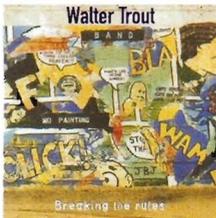
The UK blues scene has seen many young guitar prodigies burn brightly and then fade, but Danny Bryant's fretwork just gets more explosive with every passing year. Now 31 years old, he's clocked up thousands of gigs across the country, and the blues rock fraternity are beginning to whisper that he might just be 'the British Bonamassa'. To bring these powerful performances to your living room Danny and his Red Eye Band have made a live DVD entitled *Night Life*. 'We wanted to capture a regular gig - the kind that we do around 100 nights a year,' Bryant says. Well, if he's on this form every night we'll be seeing you down at the front when he hits town.



Walter Trout

BREAKING THE RULES

This was the album that first made me want to play guitar. In the beginning you tend to find one influence and go mad on it, so really it shaped my sound. I still use it as a kind of map today. I was 15 and I wrote Walter a letter, so he rang me up! He was so encouraging... he became a mentor and a great friend.



Stevie Ray Vaughan

IN STEP

Guys coming up now probably all have a Bonamassa album that's special to them, but for anyone of my age in blues rock, SRV has to be an influence. People say Stevie was at his best when he was on the booze and drugs but I think as they were all in rehab this one is a bit more focused. I just love *Crossfire*.



Eric Clapton

FROM THE CRADLE

I always liked the poppy Clapton stuff my parents played, but this was when I realised what all the fuss around Eric was really about. Tracks like *Five Long Years* are incredible... just ferocious guitar. It was brave, too. People wanted the hits and were walking out of gigs. I don't think he ever played better.



BB King

LIVE IN JAPAN

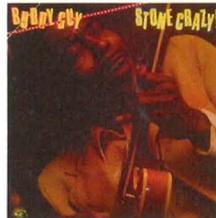
This was made in '71 when BB was riding high. *The Thrill Has Gone* had come out in 1970 and he was feeling his success. He's more restrained these days, but back then with his 335 going into a cranked Twin, he was devastating - the best ambassador for the blues. I've never heard another guitar with such a lyrical voice.



Buddy Guy

STONE CRAZY!

People said you couldn't capture the live power of Buddy in the studio but Walter Trout pointed me in the direction of this album and it's phenomenal. It was made in 1981, a dark period for him - his daughter had died and bankruptcy loomed. They recorded it in one night, and Buddy just went for it. Brilliant!



John Hiatt

DIRTY JEANS AND MUDSLIDE HYMNS

This was my favourite of last year but it's now on my best-ever list. Kevin Shirley produced it, and it's sonically one of the best-sounding albums I've ever heard. John is usually more of a country ballads man, but he shook it all up with a rock edge and it's absolutely fantastic. It hasn't been off the CD player.

