

## **TAP INTO THE NATURAL BORN HARD ROCK BOOGIE WITH THE BEST OF HUMBLE PIE**

For fans of bluesy, hard-charging boogie rock, the legendary band Humble Pie is an icon. Current artists such as the Black Crowes invoke its name and that of its leader Steve Marriott with nothing less than reverence. That Humble Pie was co-founded by Peter Frampton, enjoying a notable renaissance of late, provides even greater impetus for a new retrospective of the band's most important and influential recordings.

**The Best Of Humble Pie** (A&M/UME) edition of the **20<sup>th</sup> Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** series, released October 10, 2000, gathers 12 classic selections from 1969 to 1974, tracks which defined “power chords” and elevated hard rock to an art form. Along with tracks from five of the band's albums, including the gold Performance – Rockin’ The Fillmore (1971) and Smokin’ (1972), **The Best Of Humble Pie** also features the rare single “Big Black Dog,” previously available only on 1994's double-disc Hot N’ Nasty: The Anthology.

In 1969, Marriott, who had left Small Faces, and Frampton, formerly of the Herd, joined with ex-Spooky Tooth bassist Greg Ridley and drummer Jerry Shirley. Humble Pie's first single, “Natural Born Woman” (aka “Natural Born Boogie”) hit the U.K. Top 10 and led to its debut album, As Safe As Yesterday Is. But label difficulties and Frampton's out-of-favor melodic acoustic rock hampered the band from breaking through in America.

Humble Pie live, however, was explosive, loud and raucous. After Rock On (1971), which included “Stone Cold Fever,” “Shine On” and “Rollin’ Stone,” the band hit the road in the U.S. and the result, Performance – Rockin’ The Fillmore, recorded at New York's Fillmore East, with “Four Day Creep” and “I Don't Need No Doctor,” went gold.

Frampton left after the tour, replaced by Dave “Clem” Clempson, and Smokin’, with “C'mon Everybody,” “Hot N’ Nasty” and “30 Days In The Hole,” hit the Top 10. 1973's double studio/live set Eat It (with “Black Coffee”) fell just short of Top 10. Thunderbox (1974) included “Ninety-Nine Pounds.” A year later, Humble Pie disbanded. Marriott and Shirley briefly reformed the group in the '80s but accidents and ill health plagued Marriott and the band. Later, he and Frampton planned to reunite. But then Marriott died in a 1991 house fire.

Today, the name Humble Pie remains a touchstone for the greatness of hard rock boogie.

The series **20<sup>th</sup> Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** features new “best of” albums from the most significant music artists of the past century.

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