

Johnny W

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## Johnny Winter

**JOHNNY WINTER "Saints & Sinners"** (CBS-U.S. import £2.45). A superior package and presentation to "Still Alive and Well", this is the closest Winter has come to delivering the perfect vehicle-and vehicle is apt for a record that trucks like an Inter-City express. December's child and his aides (which include producer Rick Deringer, brother Edgar, Dan Hartman, Randy Hobbs and Jo Jo Gunne) could teach rock 'n' roll to the bulk of today's hopefuls and a good percentage of the recognised greats, so advanced is their craftsmanship. The layers of wild guitar woven in tight rhythm stretch back into the mix with the depth of a 3D movie, always allowing space for Johnny's own fiery lead work. *Stone County* is a ripping opener for straight rock 'n' roll fans, coupled with Chuck Berry's *Thirty Days* and Larry Williams old *Boney Moroney*. Sore throat followers can go to town

on blues with *Riot In Cell Block 9* and *Hurtin' So Bad*, while driving heavy rock predominates the other five cuts. Production by Rick D. is clear and punchy; organic direction is by manager Steve Paul—and that has to be defined to be believed! Cover photo looks like Kenny Everett used an electric razor in the bath.\*\*\*KG