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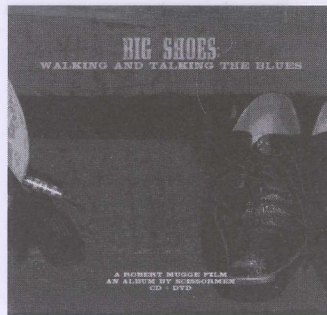
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SCISSORMEN

Big Shoes: Walking And Talking The Blues

DOLLY SEZ WOOF/HILLGRASS
BLUEBILLY/VIZZTONE DVD/CD

FILMMAKER ROBERT MUGGE'S famous camera—the same one which tracked down *Deep Sea Blues*, *Last Of The Mississippi Jukes*, and the gold standard of all time, *Deep Blues*—now focuses its documentary lens on a new blue target: Scissormen. Nashville's own juke-joint duo began when acclaimed blues journalist Ted Drozdowski swapped pen and paper for a loud-mouthed guitar and a drummer. His impetus was a north Mississippi epiphany which originally struck four albums prior to this *Big Shoes* DVD+CD combo pack. Through concert performance, road trip interviews, and even a whistle stop visit at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Mugge trails them through barrooms and theaters dotting the snowy Midwest on a rowdy bender to spread the good word about hill-country revelators like Fred McDowell, Jessie Mae Hemphill, and R.L. Burnside. And as they then put that good word into action, loudly. Yet inspiration—not duplication—is what enables such originals as “Tupelo” to freely



modulate off into far rockier wildness. With its grimy ferocity and sheer volume, Drozdowski's slide guitar supplies all the dirt and force his singing may lack. Matching the drama of his vocal delivery to the drama of “The Devil Is Laughing” and “Delta Train,” his talking blues typically smolder for a bit first. Then manically flare up into the bar-walking showmanship which grabs tip jars and patrons' beer cans to do its sliding atop R.L. Hulsman's cymbal-hazed drumbeats.

DENNIS ROZANSKI