

Audio Log: mj_interview_gussow_adam_audiolog

Interviewees: Adam Gussow

Audio Log created by William Harris

00:00-04:47

- Introduction, Gussow relates his feelings about interracial and seniority relationships in Blues.

04:48-11:18

- Joseph discusses the current status of the Kimbrough and Burnside families.
- Joseph asks about the characteristics of Northern Mississippi Blues. He discusses the chord and rhythms of the style. He discusses the fife and drum tradition.

11:19-21:16

- Discussion about the extreme subject matter in North Mississippi Blues and how music has stayed so regional. Gussow believes the lifestyle differences between the Hills and the Delta may have been a factor as well as African American migration. Discussion again over the characteristics of Hill Country Blues.

21:17-24:50

- Discussion about similarities between Hill Country Blues and African Music. Gussow thinks that some of that conjecture may be influenced by racial fantasies on the part of researchers, though he does point out similarities that he has found in both.

24:51-31:21

- Discusses *Singing the Master* by Roger Abrahams, and secular work music.
- Discussion on whether North Mississippi is isolated from the rest of the state. They discuss the image of Mississippi that many have in their imagination and the role North Mississippi may or may not have in that imagination.

31:22-46:29

- Questions about why Hill Country Blues continues to thrive after the fading of other styles. Gussow believes that it is a desire by people to have a music that is 'off the grid'.
- Gussow laments the attitudes of purists in Blues exemplified by a Living Blues review of "A Ass Pocket of Whiskey" by R.L. Burnside and how it might be tied into racial aspects.
- He believes that there is a pressure to maintain a supposed "blackness" in Blues for White audiences.

46:30-49:09

- Joseph asks about the differences in the way Blues music is played for certain audiences of specific race.
- Gussow discusses how the careers of Black performers are influenced by where they live and where they perform and visit.

49:10-53:46

- Joseph asks about the usage of potential stereotypes in marketing by labels such as Fat Possum. Gussow explains that it is supposed to be campy and exotic for the target audience, specifically he states that it was meant to be 'ghetto' in appearance.
- Discussion on the reactions of the Burnside family to the cover of "A Ass Pocket of Whiskey."

53:47-56:49

- Joseph asks why the Burnside children are hesitant play music like their father. Gussow says that his own father was an artist and that he understands their reservation, he cites and discusses several examples of this.