



## Johnny Rivers ★★★

Secret Agent Man: The Ultimate Johnny Rivers Anthology 1964-2006 SHOUTH FACTORY

Everything you'd want from the underappreciated '60s rocker.

If the job of an artist retrospective is to leave no doubt what that artist is about, then this new Johnny Rivers collection – the most comprehensive since Rhino's 1991 survey – should be used as a template. Here are 19 of the major chart hits of the Louisianan-turned-Angeleno in chronological order from the early, live R&B/blues/folk covers done up party-rave style at the Whisky A Go-Go (Memphis, Seventh Son) to

Rivers' mature work as a studio craftsman (Secret Agent Man, Poor Side Of Town, Summer Rain). The set appends the Top 40 run through with a smattering of 17 stray album tracks, recent recordings (a 2004 remake of Midnight Special) and a pair of new, previously unreleased covers (Muddy Waters' Rollin' Stone, Chuck Berry's Let It Rock). The adjective "underrated" is still the one most often attached to his name, and Rivers remains remarkably vital.

Jeff Tamarkin