

In the early fifties my aunt lived a couple of doors down from a DJ, in Cleveland, Ohio named Alan Freed. They say he invented the term rock and roll, but it was really invented by a guy named Leo Mintz who owned Record Rendezvous., one of the largest record stores in Cleveland. Mintz was interested in increasing Rhythm and blues record sales to white kid. So he employed Freed to create a radio show where Rhythm and Blues was played to white kids. Freed actually loved the music. He would sit in a screened in porch at the back of his house and listen to the music in the evening. I would sometimes chase fireflies at night over at my aunt's house and would hear him play this music. I was about 8 years old but it had this fantastic appeal to me. Freed asked me what I thought of the music when he caught me in his back yard listening. I told him I really liked it and he invited me in to listen. It turned out the songs I liked best were from New Orleans. They relied more on piano and horn then guitar. He played me Fats Domino, Clarence Frog Man Henry, Dave Bartholomew and Paul Gayten, also a guy named Archibald who played the first version of Stager Lee I ever heard and a guy named James Sugar Boy Crawford who recorded a song called Jockomo, later called Iko Iko a hit by the Dixie Cups, also from New Orleans. Others recording at that time in New Orleans were Little Richard, Lloyd Price and Huey Piano Smith and the Clowns. They all seem to have taken the piano stylings of a man named Professor Longhair as well as other piano men like Kid Stormy Weather, Sullivan Rock, Archibald, and especially Tuts Washington. Later came another piano genius, James Booker. Many of these artists recorded at a studio owned by Cosimo Matasa who acted as sound engineer and producer in some cases, later managing an artist named Jimmy Clanton. One of his piano players was a young Allen Toussaint. Toussaint would later team up with his partner Marshal Seahorn. Together they created Sea Saint Studios where they recorded and produced Ernie K Doe Chris Kenner, Lee Dorsey, The Neville Brothers, the Meters and many more artists. Some of the Neville brothers were in the meters, which was the house band for Sea Saint Studios. They had an uncle named Big Chief Jolly who was the head of a Mardi Gras Indian tribe called the Wild Tchoupitoulas. The Neville brothers played in the Tchoupitoulas band. There were other Mardi Gras Indian Bands such as the Wild Magnolias. This leads to one of New Orleans great traditions. The Mardi Gras Indians

Allyn Rosenberg

Record Producer/Sound Engineer/ Song Writer

For more reading on New Orleans Rhythm and Blues I recommend. "I hear You Knockin The Sound of New Orleans Rhythm and Blues" By Jeff Hannuch (Swallow Books) and "Rhythm and Blues in New Orleans" by John Broven (Pelican Books)



Archibald and Tuts Washington





1988



JOHN THOMAS KING



JOHN WILLIAMS



JOHN WILLIAMS



JOHN WILLIAMS



JOHN WILLIAMS



JOHN WILLIAMS

THE COSIMO MATASSA STORY



Produced by [unreadable] Directed by [unreadable] Screenplay by [unreadable] Music by [unreadable] Cast [unreadable]



Tuts Washington

Live at Tipitina's '78



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