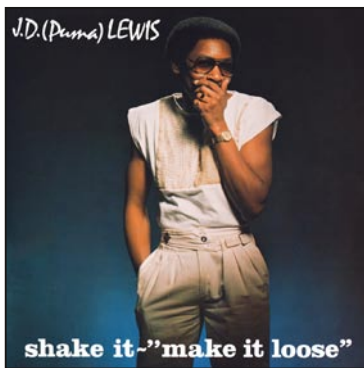




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J. D. (Puma) Lewis – Shake It – Make It Loose

We are proud to present a true gem on our label: the first-ever vinyl reissue of the highly collectible Shake It – Make It Loose LP by J.D. (Puma) Lewis. Originally released on the infamous Metrovynil label in 1984, it stands as the best and most authentic boogie/80s funk album ever produced in Germany.

However, little is known about this legendary release, and the credits are sparse and often confusing. In reality, Shake It – Make It Loose was a collaboration between just two musicians: John Davis (R.I.P., later one of the real voices behind Milli Vanilli for producer Frank Farian) and Reginald Hudson (of Hudson People). Both were first-class, highly talented musicians and composers from the U.S., who spent most of their lives living and working in Southern Germany.

Hudson describes their creative process: „It was just me and Johnny, playing all the instruments. Johnny handled the bass, guitar, and vocals, and we programmed the drum machine together. Most everything else was keyboards.“ He recalls that they spent only six or seven days recording the album at Hartmann Digital Studio.

The combination of their musicianship and the cutting-edge technology at the studio resulted in a masterpiece of pure, state-of-the-art funk and boogie. The album features all the hallmarks of great 80s music: fresh synths, drum machines, and powerful lead vocals from John Davis. Upbeat tracks like „The Cat (Puma)“ and the title track sit comfortably alongside more soulful songs like „Tears“ and „Hearts of Gold,“ while „Dancing Shoes“ remains one of the era’s catchiest dance tracks.

Still, Shake It – Make It Loose holds a few mysteries. Why was it released under the unusual name J.D. (Puma) Lewis? And what’s the story behind tracks like „The Cat“? While J.D. Lewis stood for John Davis Lewis’s full legal name, Hudson sheds light on the „Puma“ connection: “At the time, I was working as a promotions manager for Puma sportswear. Jörg Dassler, son of Puma founder Rudolf Dassler, was a friend of mine and financed our studio sessions.” As said, these sessions took place at Hartmann Digital, a state-of-the-art studio in Untertrubach, Bavaria, where iconic artists like Nena, Yello, Visage, DAF, and Soft Cell recorded.

The use of such an expensive studio would have been out of reach for the two musicians without Puma’s backing, which also explains why there is a title like “Dancing Shoes.” When we had licensed the track for the Boogie On The Mainline compilation in 2018, we had the chance to speak with John Davis (who sadly passed away in May 2021 due to COVID-19). Davis revealed that there were plans to make

Artist: J.D. Puma Lewis
Title: Shake It - Make It Loose
Label: The Outer Edge
Cat.Nr.: EDGE-026
Format: LP / Digital
Digital Release: January 17, 2025
Vinyl Release: January 17, 20253
EAN: tba
File Under: Electro Funk / Boogie

Tracklist VINYL:

Vinyl
Side A
The Cat (Puma)
Dancing Shoes
Tears
Life’s A Party*

17:01

Side B
Shake It “Make It Loose”
Hearts Of Gold
Automatic Woman
Walk Out On Me*

*Previously unissued

Tracklist DIGITAL EP:
as above

more info about artist and label:

<https://theouteredge.bandcamp.com/>
<https://www.instagram.com/the.outer.edge>
<https://www.facebook.com/theouteredgeofficial>