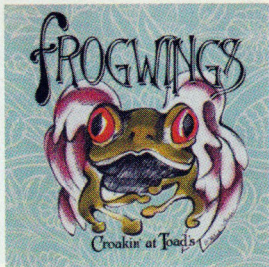


FROGWINGS

Croakin' At Toad's Flying Frog

Allman Brothers Band drummer Butch Trucks's side project is a genuine jam-circuit powerhouse made up of some of the players closest to him: his nephew (and Allman associate) Derek Trucks, Allman percussionist Marc Quinones, Allman/Aquarium Rescue Unit bassist Oteil Burbridge and his brother Kofi Burbridge (Aquarium Rescue Unit's flutist and keyboardist). Edwin McCain provided vocals until 1998, when Blues Traveler frontman John Popper took over. The band sounds more or less like you'd expect given the personnel on the group's first official release, a live recording culled from gigs at the New Haven club Toad's Place and the Manhattan hippie haven the Wetlands Preserve. There are plenty of Allman-style percussive trips and bluesy guitar workouts, a good dose of Oteil's scat singing and fretwork, and enough of Popper's signature harp-blowing and sweat-soaked vocals to keep Blues Traveler fans happy. The playing is air-tight, and if there's fault to be found on *Croakin' At Toad's*, it's that despite the setting, it doesn't really convey a realistic live experience. Veteran jammers, for example, wouldn't dare take a 10-second set break 30 minutes into a show, and 75 minutes counts as half a show for fans who'll dance ferociously for hours. So consider this a sampler platter of sorts—something to whet your appetite for the real live deal. >>>ROBIN ROTHMAN



Out

October 3

File Under

Southern-fried jam

R.I.Y.L.

**The Allman Brothers Band,
Aquarium Rescue Unit,
Blues Traveler**