

LICK OF THE WEEK

Otis Rush *I Wonder Why*

Otis Rush is all too often overlooked in the arena of blues guitarists, but he is formidable, and is not to be ignored. Counted among his admirers are Stevie Ray Vaughan, Johnny Winter, Robben Ford and Eric Clapton.

Many people feel that his Cobra Records releases, from the late 1950s, contained his best work, and there's no denying that those sides were great, but this week's lick comes from an album that is every bit as good. Originally in the Capital catalog, **Right Place, Wrong Time**, (1985 Hightone Records, HCD 8007) was recorded in 1971, with a more mature Rush, along with a great band. The tune selected for the current lick of the week is *I Wonder Why*.

The lick is the intro, and is very simple. It consists of short, 4-note riffs followed by the chords in the tune. Only one note in the riff changes, according to the chord it proceeds. To begin, the 2nd note is an F# - the 3rd of the D7 chord. Then it changes to an F natural – the ^b7th of the G9 chord. It changes back to fit the D7 chord again, and ends with a half-step drop from a Bb9 to an A9 (V chord). You should have no trouble with it.

Enjoy.

JG