



Epiphone Casino Electric Guitar Formerly Owned by Howlin' Wolf

Date

1965

Primary Maker

Epiphone, Inc.

Medium

mother of pearl; chromium; maple; mahogany, rosewood

Description

Chester Burnett, the Howlin' Wolf, enjoyed playing this 1965 Epiphone Casino electric guitar so much that he had it pictured on his business cards. Wolf (1910-1976) was a towering pioneer of Electric Blues. He acquired his first guitar from his father at the age of 18. He learned from the best: Charlie Patton taught him guitar, Son House showed him how to use a slide, and Sonny Boy Williamson II introduced him to harmonica. While working on his father's farm throughout the late 1920's and 1930s, Wolf built his reputation as a powerful performer by accompanying himself on guitar and harmonica for weekend gigs. Following four years of Army service while stationed in Seattle, he moved to West Memphis, Arkansas, in 1948 and formed his own band. The addition of guitarist Willie Johnson highlighted the ferociousness of Wolf's music, as heard on "Moanin' at Midnight" and "How Many More Years" from his first recording session in 1951. By 1953, Wolf had settled in Chicago and the next year found a new guitarist named Hubert Sumlin. Sumlin's wicked guitar lines were a mainstay of Wolf's down-and-dirty sound for the rest of the Bluesman's career. Wolf's songs, including "Spoonful," "Smokestack Lightning," "Back Door Man," and "Killing Floor," were a primal influence on artists such as the Rolling Stones, the Doors, Eric Clapton, and Jimi Hendrix. He was a large, imposing

presence and drew raucous crowds wherever he performed, with his powerful unique voice, tight band, and wild stage act featuring suggestive hip thrusting, crawling on the floor, and dancing on tables and bars.

Dimensions

Overall (HWD) (overall): 106 1/2 x 7 3/16 x 40 7/8 in. (270.511 x 18.288 x 103.886 cm)