

Creole String Beans pull on their 'Shrimp Boots & Vintage Suits' on new CD

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By Keith Spera, *The Times-Picayune*

Somewhere, Ernie K-Doe is smiling. On their new Threadhead Records release “Shrimp Boots & Vintage Suits,” the Creole String Beans uncork a letter-perfect re-creation of “Here Come the Girls,” a sax-y, Allen Toussaint-penned K-Doe strut. Elsewhere, they ace the swamp pop chestnut “Shirley,” Lloyd Price’s “Just Because” and Fats Domino’s “Be My Guest.”



Rick Olivier

The Creole String Beans intermingle south Louisiana classics and vintage-sounding original material on the new 'Shrimp Boots & Vintage Suits.'

But the Creole String Beans — vocalist/guitarist Rick “Rico” Olivier, bassist Rob Savoy, drummer Bryan Barry, keyboardist Brian Rini, tenor saxophonist Travis Blotsky and baritone saxophonist Derek Huston — are more than a throwback south Louisiana cover band.

More than half of “Shrimp Boots & Vintage Suits” consists of original material written in the classic style. Rini’s “Sally Put a Spell on Me” and “Knock Me Down Again,” with honking saxes and ruminating piano, would not be out of place on a 9th Ward jukebox circa 1959. Olivier celebrates a women’s prison in “St. Gabriel” and Morgus the Magnificent in the sci-fi ’60s camp of “Instant People.”

After a wistful “Louisiana Fairytale,” the final, sing-along title track comes across like a house party with a band that knows how to host one.

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