

# Summergarden The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 67

RELEASE AT WILL before Aug. 7, 76

PRESS PREVIEW: 9 AM - NOON  
August 4, 1976

## "ONE-MAN" JOHNSON SINGS COUNTRY-RAGS AND BLUES ALL BY HIMSELF IN SUMMERGARDEN

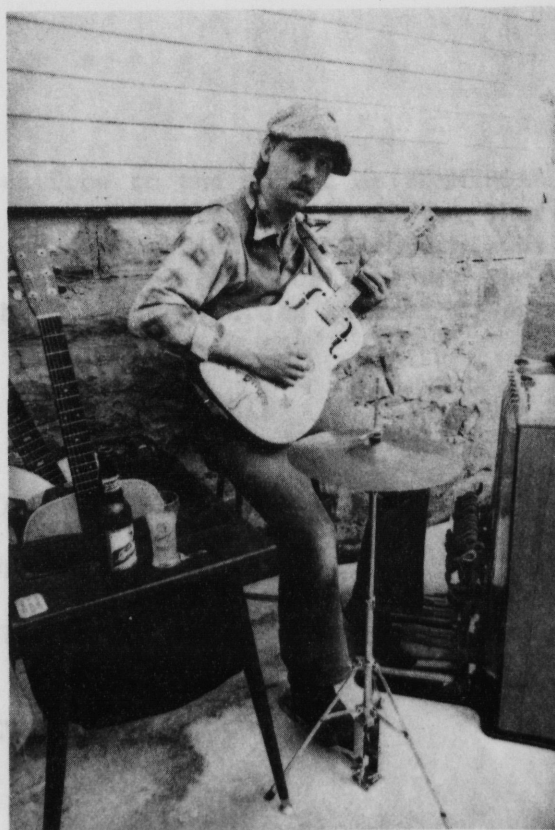
SUMMERGARDEN introduces SWEET JANE recording artist ROBERT "ONE-MAN" JOHNSON in his first New York appearances at 8 PM, Friday and Saturday, August 6 and 7 in The Museum of Modern Art's Sculpture Garden. Free admission is through the Garden gate at 8 West 54th Street.

"One-Man" JOHNSON, who accompanies his country-rag and classic blues vocals with six and twelve string guitars, bottle neck national steel guitar and electric guitar; foot pedal bass, hi-hat cymbals, harmonica and kazoo, will present his unique stylings of songs from the 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's by LEADBELLY, HANK WILLIAMS, WILLIE DIXON, JELLY ROLL MORTON, JIMMIE RODGERS, CHARLEY PATTON and ROBERT JOHNSON, among others.

Johnson worked his way through high school in a rock band, weathered the folk revival in a college trio, "turned on" to blues and country standards during a stint as owner of a coffee house where he sponsored appearances by Jesse "Lone-Cat" Fuller and other country blues performers, spent several years teaching art, working with retarded children and making and selling pots in his own ceramics studio before he finally hit the road to play his music.

During ten years on the road, from Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota to Louisiana, and from the Great Plains to Vermont and Connecticut, he assessed his instrumentation and material. Gradually he began to fill out his sound, first with "hi-hats" and then adding foot pedal bass. He alternately expanded and weeded-out his bag of classic songs.

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Concentrating his appearances in the Chicago and Minneapolis areas as a college-concert opener for Corky Segal, Leon Redbone and Mose Allison, among others, he frequently received standing ovations and encores. A mid-western professional music publication proclaimed him the best of the (as yet) unknown performers.

Now, with a large hand-crafted acoustic foot pedal bass, an efficient and sparse set-up of instruments, a solid pack of tightly self-styled classics, and his first album on Dave Ray's Sweet Jane Records, ROBERT "ONE-MAN" JOHNSON has arrived for a "country-size " bite of The Big Apple.

A native of Wisconsin, Johnson opens three weeks of SUMMERGARDEN "country" which feature THE BLUEGRASS ALL-STARS, THE MICHAEL SIMMONS SHOW and THE WALT CONKLIN SHOW who appear by courtesy of The Metropolitan Friends of Country, Inc.

The Metropolitan Friends of Country, Inc., a non-profit group organized to promote free performances of country music in the New York Metropolitan Area, presents THE BLUEGRASS ALL-STARS on August 13 and 14; THE MICHAEL SIMMONS SHOW on August 20 and THE WALT CONKLIN SHOW on August 21.

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The Museum of Modern Art's Sculpture Garden is open free to the public as SUMMERGARDEN every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 6 PM to 10 PM, through September 19, 1976. Short informal performances of music are presented at 8 PM every Friday and Saturday, while Sundays are exclusively reserved for enjoying the sculpture, the moonlight and the splashing fountains. Free admission is through the Sculpture Garden gate at 8 West 54th Street.

SUMMERGARDEN IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM MOBIL

- August 27 and 28 -- HIT TUNES FROM FLOP SHOWS with The Atlantic Players
- September 3 and 4 -- HIT TUNES FROM FLOP SHOWS
- September 10 and 11 -- HIT TUNES FROM FLOP SHOWS
- SEPTEMBER 17 and 18 -- JAZZ PIANIST STEVE KUHN

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Review copies of album, photos, bio available from Earl Hatleberg, Project Director, SUMMERGARDEN. Additional information also available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7298; 956-7501; public inquiry: 956-7541