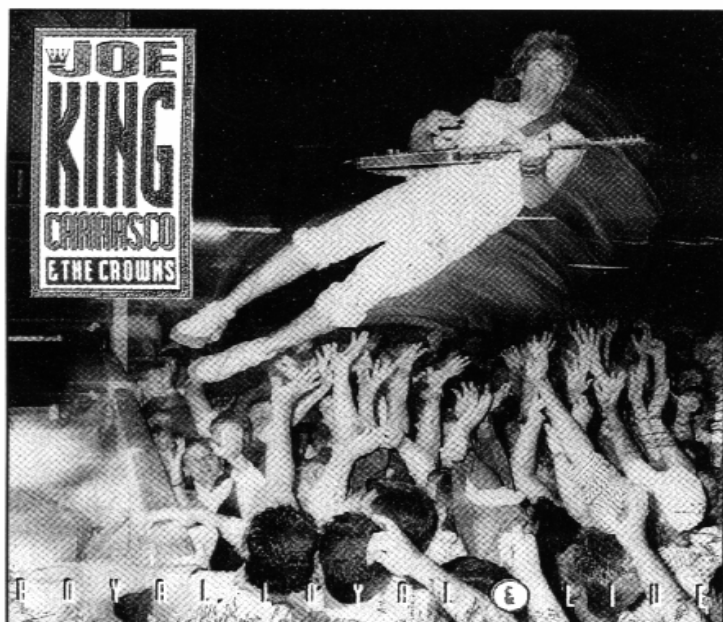


THE MUSIC INDEPENDENT

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Joe "King" Carrasco

RECORDS

JOE "KING" CARRASCO & THE CROWNS

Royal, Loyal and Live

Royal Texacali RTR 001

I have always enjoyed the music of Joe and the Crowns. They use humor, energy and talent to engulf the listener in their Tex-Mex sound. Joe is a talented performer—one of few whose live shows *can* be caught on record. And if one listen to *Royal, Loyal and Live* doesn't convince you of this, I will eat my sombrero with extra hot salsa tossed in on the side. Joe "King" Carrasco is proud of and uses his roots to get you up out of that chair and moving to his very special groove. He's an original and his first record for his own label, Royal Texacali, is a testament to that.

I don't believe that Joe or his longtime band, the Crowns, have ever really received the respect they deserve—whether due to racism or a lack of proper marketing; most likely a combination of the two. They are first-rate musicians who deliver a power-packed set on this more than (count 'em) 76-minute compact disc. From the classic "96 Tears" (appears on the *MI* Sampler) to the sophisticated rhythms of "Manana," this is a straight ahead kick-ass record that absolutely shines and I hope you will support this fine band and their leader by purchasing the record.

Neil Davidson

