SPIN

April 2011

## Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybears

### Scandalous

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*LOST HIGHWAY*

**Steamy Austin axeman still seeking spiritual release**

For the follow-up to their 2009 debut, *Tell 'Em What Your Name Is!*, Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybears again team with Spoon drummer Jim Eno, who as producer brings the stripped-down, punchy minimalism of his main gig. Though indebted to the brassy blasts and pleading yelps of James Brown, as well as the riffs of the MCS and Stooges, Lewis and Co. avoid sounding either self-consciously retro or awkwardly modern on *Scandalous*. Instead, they simply howl, turning songs like "Booty City" and "Mus-tang Ranch" (named for a famous Nevada brothel) into gloriously hedonistic, Saturday-night gospel stan-dards. *MICHAEL TEDDER*