

= At Fillmore East =

At Fillmore East is the first live album by American rock band the Allman Brothers Band , and their third release overall . Produced by Tom Dowd , the album was released in July 1971 in the United States by Capricorn Records . As the title indicates , the recording took place at the New York City music venue Fillmore East , which was run by concert promoter Bill Graham . It was recorded over the course of three nights in March 1971 and features the band performing extended jam versions of songs such as " Whipping Post " and " In Memory of Elizabeth Reed . " When first commercially released , it was issued as a double LP with just seven songs comprising four vinyl sides .

At Fillmore East was the band 's artistic and commercial breakthrough , and has been considered by some critics to be one of the greatest live albums in rock music . It has also been ranked among the best overall albums by artists and continues to be a top seller in the band 's catalog , becoming their first album to go platinum . In 2004 , the album was selected for preservation in the Library of Congress , deemed to be " culturally , historically , or aesthetically important " by the National Recording Registry .

= = Background = =

Shortly after completing recording of their second album , Idlewild South (1970) , band leader Duane Allman was contacted by guitarist Eric Clapton to contribute to his new project , Derek and the Dominos . Allman was a huge fan of his work with Cream , and Clapton had been blown away by Allman 's session work on Wilson Pickett 's " Hey Jude " some years prior . They met after a show one night in Miami and jammed together until the next afternoon , with the two guitarists regarding one another as " instant soulmates . " Clapton invited Duane to join Derek and the Dominos , and according to band biographer Alan Paul he considered it ; in the end , he declined and rejoined the Allman Brothers Band , returning after missing a string of several shows . The sessions were collected on Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs , issued that November .

In the interim , Idlewild South had yet to achieve strong commercial success , but the band 's popularity and reputation began to increase due to their live performances . The band played continuously in 1970 , performing over 300 dates on the road traveling in a Ford Econoline van and later , a Winnebago , nicknamed the Wind Bag . During this time , the group began struggling with drug addictions . All in the group , with the exception of the brothers , were struggling also to make a living (Gregg received more money from royalty payments and Duane more from session work) . In one incident , tour manager Twiggs Lyndon stabbed and killed a promoter for not paying the band ; he later claimed temporary insanity . Their fortunes began to change over the course of 1971 , where the band 's average earnings doubled . Duane eventually died in the fall of 1971 due to injuries from a motorcycle accident .

The Allman Brothers Band had first played Fillmore East in December 1969 , opening for Blood , Sweat & Tears for three nights . Promoter Bill Graham enjoyed the band and promised to have them back soon . In January 1970 , the band opened for Buddy Guy and B.B. King at San Francisco 's Fillmore West , and one month later at Fillmore East supporting the Grateful Dead . According to biographer Alan Paul , " these shows were crucial in establishing the band and exposing them to a wider , sympathetic audience on both coasts . " Drummer Butch Trucks considered their performances at the Fillmore East to be the launching pad for their success . In 1970 , Duane Allman told disc jockey Ed Shane , " You know , we get kind of frustrated doing the [studio] records , and I think , consequently , our next album will be ... a live recording , to get some of that natural fire on it . " " We were not intentionally trying to buck the system , but keeping each song down to 3 : 14 just didn 't work for us , " remembered vocalist Gregg Allman . " And we realized that the audience was a big part of what we did , which couldn 't be duplicated in a studio . A lightbulb finally went off ; we needed to make a live album . "

= = Recording and production = =

At Fillmore East was recorded over two nights ? March 12 and 13 , 1971 ? for which the band was paid \$ 1250 each show . The shows were typical performances for the band , and regarded as slightly above average by drummer Jai Johanny Johanson . Ads for the shows read : " Bill Graham Presents in New York ? Johnny Winter And , Elvin Bishop Group , Extra Added Attraction : Allman Brothers . " While Winter was billed as headliner , by the third night the Allman Brothers were closing the show .

Tom Dowd produced At Fillmore East ; he had previously worked on their second studio album , Idlewild South . He had recently returned from Africa from working on Soul to Soul , and stayed in New York several days to oversee the live recording . " It was a good truck , with a 16 @-@ track machine and a great , tough @-@ as @-@ nails staff who took care of business , " recalled Dowd . He gave the staff suggestions and noted the band had two lead guitarists and two drummers , " which was unusual , and it took some foresight to properly capture the dynamics . " Things went smoothly until the band unexpectedly brought out saxophonist Rudolph " Juicy " Carter , an unknown horn player , and Thom Doucette on harmonica . " I was just hoping we could isolate them , so we could wipe them and use the songs , but they started playing and the horns were leaking all over everything , rendering the songs unusable , " said Dowd . He rushed to Duane during the break to tell him to cut the horn players ; while Duane loved the players , he put up no fight with Dowd . The final show was delayed because of a bomb scare , and did not end until 6 am .

Each night following the shows , the musicians and Dowd would " grab some beers and sandwiches " and head to Manhattan 's Atlantic Studios to go over the performances . Set lists for following shows were crafted by listening to the recordings and going over what they could keep and what they would need to capture once more . " We wanted to give ourselves plenty of times to do it because we didn 't want to go back and overdub anything , because then it wouldn 't have been a real live album , " said Gregg Allman , and in the end , the band only edited out Doucette 's harmonica when it didn 't fit . " That was our pinnacle , " said Dickey Betts later . " The Fillmore days are definitely the most cherished memories that I have . If you asked everybody in the band , they would probably say that . "

On June 27 , the Fillmore East closed , and the band were invited to play a final , invitation @-@ only concert , along with Edgar Winter , the Beach Boys and Country Joe McDonald . The Beach Boys initially refused to perform unless they headlined the event , but Graham refused , telling them that the Allman Brothers would be closing the show , and they were free to leave if they disagreed . The Allman Brothers ' performance was used for additional tracks when an expanded version of At Fillmore East , The Fillmore Concerts , was reissued on CD .

= = Composition = =

At Fillmore East showcases the band 's eclectic mixture of blues , Rock , country , and jazz . " Fusion is a term that came later , but if you wanted to look at a fusion album , it would be Fillmore East . Here was a rock ' n ' roll band playing blues in the jazz vernacular . And they tore the place up , " said Dowd .

Announcer Michael Ahern opens At Fillmore East with a simple introduction : " Okay , the Allman Brothers Band . " Duane Allman biographer Randy Poe describes it as " the only low @-@ key moment over the course of the [show] . " The cover of Blind Willie McTell 's " Statesboro Blues " which opens the set showcases Duane Allman 's slide guitar work in open E tuning . " Statesboro Blues " bears close resemblance to Taj Mahal 's 1968 rendition , which had inspired Duane to pick up slide guitar playing . " Done Somebody Wrong " follows , and is introduced by Duane as " an old Elmore James song ... This is an old true story ... " Thom Doucette takes a solo on blues harp , and by the end of the song , the band breaks out of the shuffle and " builds up to a dual @-@ lead guitar , triplet @-@ based crescendo . "

" Stormy Monday " echoes the band 's blues roots , and many guitar parts come from the version cut by Bobby " Blue " Bland in the early 1960s . Allman and Betts trade solos , as does Gregg Allman on the organ as the tempo shifts into a " swinging " beat . " You Don 't Love Me " kicks off the first of the jazz @-@ inspired jams and features a solo from Duane Allman in which the entire

group stops , leaving it just him and his guitar . The song 's conclusion also contains elements of " Joy to the World . " " Hot ' Lanta " is an instrumental , which has elements in common with jazz rock and progressive rock , and is a showcase for Berry Oakley 's bass @-@ playing . " In Memory of Elizabeth Reed " , with its harmonized melody , Latin feel , and burning drive invited comparisons with jazz saxophonist John Coltrane (especially Duane 's solo @-@ ending pull @-@ offs , a direct nod to the musician) . The performance begins with a " long , laconic intro " by Betts employing volume swells , reminiscent of the " dreamy trumpet " used to open songs on Miles Davis ' Kind of Blue (1959) .

" Whipping Post " (opening in 11 / 4 time , unusual territory for a rock band) by this point had become one of the longest jams in the band 's set ; the original album version runs five minutes , while the At Fillmore East version exceeds 23 . Aside from the opening bassline and lyrics , the two versions are completely unlike . Again , Betts and Allman trade long guitar solos , with one of Betts ' solos quoting what would later become the main theme for the song " Les Brers in A Minor , " as featured on the band 's 1972 album Eat a Peach . The song closes with " long , sustained notes " from Allman opposite Trucks ' kettledrum . Applause concludes the album and the song fades out . During the fadeout , Trucks begins playing the tympani intro to " Mountain Jam " which would not be released in its entirety until its inclusion on Eat a Peach .

= = Artwork = =

The band devised the cover idea for At Fillmore East rather than leaving it in the hands of Atlantic executives (Allman was particularly disgusted with the artwork for Sam & Dave 's Hold On , I 'm Comin ' album) . Initially , the album cover was to be shots of the band taken in front of the Fillmore East with their names on the marquee above them , but no one was satisfied with the results . The band 's main purpose for the cover was that it be as " meat and potatoes " as the band 's ethos and performing , and someone suggested the band make it a photograph of the band in an alley waiting with their gear to go onstage .

The image was shot by photographer Jim Marshall one morning in the band 's home of Macon , Georgia . The group were not very happy about being woken up early to shoot (" we figured it didn 't make a damn bit of difference what the cover was or what time we took it , " said guitarist Dickey Betts) . Normally the band hated being photographed ; the cover of later retrospective release The Fillmore Concerts shows them displaying terminal boredom . However , during the session , Duane spotted a dealer friend , raced over and grabbed a bag of contraband , then returned to his seat , discreetly clutching the stash in his lap . This made the whole band laugh , resulting in a memorable image . Marshall stenciled the album title on one of the road cases , which were stacked in front of the wall .

The back cover shows their road crew gathered in the same spot with 16 oz cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer provided by the photographer as a reward to the roadies for lugging out and stacking the band 's heavy equipment for the shoot . Among the crew on the back cover are Joseph " Red Dog " Campbell , Kim Payne , Mike Callahan , Joe Dan Petty and Willie Perkins (the last two the newest additions to the crew at the time) . The idea to have the crew on the back cover was Duane Allman 's idea , as all involved viewed them the " unsung heroes " in the operation . A photo of Lyndon , then in jail awaiting his trial , was superimposed to the wall behind the crew .

= = Release and critical reception = =

At Fillmore East was released in July 1971 by Capricorn Records as a double album , but reduced to the cost of a single LP . Atlantic and Atco initially rejected the idea of issuing a double album , with Jerry Wexler feeling it " ridiculous to preserve all these jams . " Manager Phil Walden explained to executives that the band were less of a studio band and that live performances were most important to them . In all , the album featured seven songs spread over four vinyl sides . The album received strong initial sales . While previous albums by the band had taken months to hit the charts (often near the bottom of the top 200) , the record started to climb the charts after a matter of days .

At Fillmore East peaked at number thirteen on Billboard 's Top Pop Albums chart , and was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America that October . The album was later certified platinum on August 25 , 1992 .

In a contemporary review , George Kimball of Rolling Stone magazine said that " The Allman Brothers had many fine moments at the Fillmores , and this live double album (recorded March 12th and 13th of this year) must surely epitomize all of them . " Kimball cited the band as " the best damn rock and roll band this country has produced in the past five years " and said of comparisons to the Grateful Dead at the time , " The range of their material and the more tenuous fact that they also use two drummers have led to what I suppose are inevitable comparisons to the Dead in its better days . " In a less enthusiastic review for The Village Voice , Robert Christgau gave At Fillmore East a " B ? " grade and said the songs " sure do boogie " , but ultimately found it musically aimless : " even if Duane Allman plus Dickey Betts does equal Jerry Garcia , the Dead know roads are for getting somewhere . That is , Garcia (not to bring in John Coltrane) always takes you someplace unexpected on a long solo . I guess the appeal here is the inevitability of it all . "

In a retrospective review , AllMusic editor Stephen Thomas Erlewine gave the album five out of five stars and stated , " [it] remains the pinnacle of the Allmans and Southern rock at its most elastic , bluesy , and jazzy " . Mark Kemp of Rolling Stone gave it five stars in a 2002 review and commented that " these shows [...] remain the finest live rock performance ever committed to vinyl " , and the album " captures America 's best blues @-@ rock band at its peak " .

At Fillmore East was one of 50 recordings chosen in 2004 by the Library of Congress to be added to the National Recording Registry . Rolling Stone included it at number 49 in their 2003 list of The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time , describing it as " rock 's greatest live double LP . " The album was also included in the books 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die (2005) and 1 @, @ 000 Recordings To Hear Before You Die (2008) . In the latter , author Tom Moon noted that , nearly forty years after its release , " [the album] remains one of the best live albums in rock history . Ornerly and loud , it 's perfect driving music for the road that goes on forever . "

= = Track listing = =

= = Expanded editions = =

Over the years several expanded editions of At Fillmore East have been released .

= = = The Fillmore Concerts = = =

On October 10 , 1992 , The Fillmore Concerts , an expanded version of At Fillmore East , was released as a two @-@ disc CD . It includes all the songs from the original album , plus the live songs from Eat a Peach ? " One Way Out " , " Trouble No More " , and " Mountain Jam " ? which were recorded at the same concerts , and two additional tracks , " Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " and " Drunken Hearted Boy " . All the music was remixed from the concert recordings , and a few of the songs are alternate takes , so the same songs sound somewhat different than on the original album .

Disc one

" Statesboro Blues " (Willie McTell) (March 13 First show) ? 4 : 15

" Trouble No More " (McKinley Morganfield aka Muddy Waters) (March 12 second show) ? 3 : 46

" Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " (Gregg Allman) (March 13 first show) ? 3 : 20

" In Memory of Elizabeth Reed " (Dickey Betts) (March 13 first show) ? 12 : 59

" One Way Out " (Elmore James , Marshall Sehorn , Sonny Boy Williamson) (June 27) ? 4 : 55

" Done Somebody Wrong " (Elmore James , Clarence Lewis , Bobby Robinson) (March 12 second show) ? 4 : 11

" Stormy Monday " (T @-@ Bone Walker) (March 13 second show) ? 10 : 19

" You Don 't Love Me " (Willie Cobbs) (March 13 first show / March 12 second show) ? 19 : 24

Disc two

- " Hot ' Lanta " (Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johanny Johanson) (March 12 second show) ? 5 : 11
- " Whipping Post " (Gregg Allman) (March 13 second show) ? 22 : 37
- " Mountain Jam " (Donovan Leitch , Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johnny Johanson) (March 13 second show) ? 33 : 41
- " Drunken Hearted Boy " (with Elvin Bishop) (Elvin Bishop) (March 13 second show) ? 7 : 33

= = = At Fillmore East Deluxe Edition = = =

The Deluxe Edition was released as a two @-@ disc CD on September 23 , 2003 . It contains the same songs , in a slightly different order , as The Fillmore Concerts , and one additional track , " Midnight Rider " . The Deluxe Edition is based on the master recordings for At Fillmore East and Eat a Peach , and so it sounds more similar to those albums than The Fillmore Concerts does .

Disc one

- " Statesboro Blues " (Blind Willie McTell) ? 4 : 17
- " Trouble No More " (McKinley Morganfield aka Muddy Waters) ? 3 : 43
- " Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " (Gregg Allman) ? 3 : 27
- " Done Somebody Wrong " (Elmore James , Clarence Lewis , Bobby Robinson) ? 4 : 33
- " Stormy Monday " (T @-@ Bone Walker) ? 8 : 48
- " One Way Out " (Elmore James , Marshall Sehorn , Sonny Boy Williamson II) (June 27) ? 4 : 56
- " In Memory of Elizabeth Reed " (Dickey Betts) ? 13 : 04
- " You Don 't Love Me " (Willie Cobbs) ? 19 : 24
- " Midnight Rider " (Gregg Allman , Robert Payne) (June 27) ? 2 : 55

Disc two

- " Hot ' Lanta " (Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johanny Johanson) ? 5 : 20
- " Whipping Post " (Gregg Allman) ? 22 : 53
- " Mountain Jam " (Donovan Leitch , Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johnny Johnson) - 33 : 41
- " Drunken Hearted Boy " (with Elvin Bishop) (Elvin Bishop) - 6 : 54

= = = The 1971 Fillmore East Recordings = = =

The 1971 Fillmore East Recordings was released on July 29 , 2014 . This six @-@ CD boxed set contains the four complete concerts ? the early and late shows from March 12 and March 13 , 1971 ? from which the songs included on At Fillmore East were selected , plus the Allman Brothers ' performance at the Fillmore East closing show on June 27 , 1971 . A three Blu @-@ ray edition was also released which contains a multi @-@ channel mix .

Disc one

March 12 , 1971 - first show

- " Statesboro Blues " (Blind Willie McTell) ? 4 : 08 *
- " Trouble No More " (McKinley Morganfield aka Muddy Waters) ? 3 : 48 *
- " Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " (Gregg Allman) ? 3 : 19 *
- " Done Somebody Wrong " (Elmore James , Clarence Lewis , Bobby Robinson) ? 4 : 01 *
- " In Memory of Elizabeth Reed " (Dickey Betts) ? 17 : 05 *
- " You Don 't Love Me " (Willie Cobbs) - 14 : 58 *

Disc two

March 12 , 1971 ? second show

- " Statesboro Blues " (Blind Willie McTell) ? 4 : 12 *
- " Trouble No More " (McKinley Morganfield aka Muddy Waters) ? 3 : 50
- " Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " (Gregg Allman) ? 3 : 28 *
- " Done Somebody Wrong " (Elmore James , Clarence Lewis , Bobby Robinson) ? 4 : 30

" In Memory of Elizabeth Reed " (Dickey Betts) ? 19 : 50 *

" You Don 't Love Me " (Willie Cobbs) ? 19 : 10

" Whipping Post " (Gregg Allman) ? 20 : 00 *

" Hot ' Lanta " (Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johanny Johanson) ? 5 : 09

Disc three

March 13 , 1971 ? first show

" Statesboro Blues " (Blind Willie McTell) ? 4 : 20

" Trouble No More " (McKinley Morganfield aka Muddy Waters) ? 3 : 48

" Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " (Gregg Allman) ? 3 : 47

" Done Somebody Wrong " (Elmore James , Clarence Lewis , Bobby Robinson) ? 3 : 55 *

" In Memory of Elizabeth Reed " (Dickey Betts) ? 13 : 00

" You Don 't Love Me " (Willie Cobbs) ? 19 : 10

" Whipping Post " (Gregg Allman) ? 17 : 15 *

Disc four

March 13 , 1971 ? second show - part 1

" Statesboro Blues " (Blind Willie McTell) ? 4 : 19 *

" One Way Out " (Elmore James , Marshall Sehorn , Sonny Boy Williamson II) ? 4 : 30 *

" Stormy Monday " (T @-@ Bone Walker) ? 10 : 14

" Hot ' Lanta " (Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johnny Johanson) ? 5 : 00

" Whipping Post " (Gregg Allman) ? 22 : 00

Disc five

March 13 , 1971 ? second show - part 2

" Mountain Jam " (Donovan Leitch , Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johnny Johanson) ? 33 : 00

" Drunken Hearted Boy " (with Elvin Bishop) (Elvin Bishop) ? 7 : 30

Disc six

June 27 , 1971 ? Fillmore East closing show

Introduction by Bill Graham * / " Statesboro Blues " (Blind Willie McTell) ? 5 : 52

" Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " (Gregg Allman) ? 3 : 34

" Done Somebody Wrong " (Elmore James , Clarence Lewis , Bobby Robinson) ? 3 : 37

" One Way Out " (Elmore James , Marshall Sehorn , Sonny Boy Williamson II) ? 5 : 01

" In Memory of Elizabeth Reed " (Dickey Betts) ? 12 : 44

" Midnight Rider " (Gregg Allman , Robert Payne) ? 3 : 01

" Hot ' Lanta " (Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johnny Johanson) ? 5 : 41

" Whipping Post " (Gregg Allman) ? 19 : 17

" You Don 't Love Me " (Willie Cobbs) ? 17 : 56

* Previously unreleased track

= = Other Fillmore East recordings = =

Eat a Peach ? contains " Trouble No More " from March 13 , 1971 (Show 1) and " Mountain Jam " from March 13 , 1971 (Show 2) and " One Way Out " from June 27 , 1971

Duane Allman : An Anthology contains " Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " from March 13 , 1971 (Show 1)

Duane Allman Anthology , Vol . 2 contains " Midnight Rider " from June 27 , 1971

Dreams contains " Drunken Hearted Boy " from March 13 , 1971 (Show 2)

Eat a Peach , Deluxe Edition ? second CD (the final Fillmore East concert) also contains " Statesboro Blues " , " Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " , " Done Somebody Wrong " , " One Way Out " , " In Memory of Elizabeth Reed " , " Midnight Rider " , " Hot ' Lanta " , " Whipping Post " , and " You Don 't Love Me " from June 27 , 1971

The Road Goes On Forever contains " Statesboro Blues " from March 12 , 1971 (Disc 1) .

= = Credits = =

The Allman Brothers Band

Duane Allman ? lead guitar , slide guitar

Gregg Allman ? organ , piano , vocals

Dickey Betts ? lead guitar

Berry Oakley ? bass guitar

Jai Johanny Johanson ? drums , congas , timbales

Butch Trucks ? drums , tympani

Guest musicians

Thom Doucette ? Harmonica on " Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " , " Done Somebody Wrong " , " Stormy Monday " and " You Don 't Love Me "

Jim Santi ? Tambourine

Guest musicians (The Fillmore Concerts and The 1971 Fillmore East Recordings)

Bobby Caldwell ? Percussion on " Drunken Hearted Boy " and on March 12 shows starting with " In Memory of Elizabeth Reed "

Rudolph (Juicy) Carter ? Soprano saxophone on (only) both March 12 shows , starting with " In Memory of Elizabeth Reed "

Elvin Bishop ? Vocals on " Drunken Hearted Boy "

Steve Miller ? Piano on " Drunken Hearted Boy "

Production (At Fillmore East)

Tom Dowd ? Producer , Liner Notes

Bruce Malamut ? Assistant Producer

Aaron Baron ? Engineer

Larry Dahlstrom ? Assistant Engineer

Dennis M. Drake ? Mastering

Jim Marshall ? Photography

Production (The Fillmore Concerts)

Tom Dowd ? Producer

Jay Mark ? Mixer

Dan Kincaid ? Digital Mastering

Bill Levenson ? Executive Producer

Kirk West ? Associate Producer

Terri Tierney ? Project Coordination

Richard Bauer ? Art Direction

Jim Marshall ? Graphic Concept

Jimmy Guterman ? Liner Notes

John Perkins ? Best Boy