

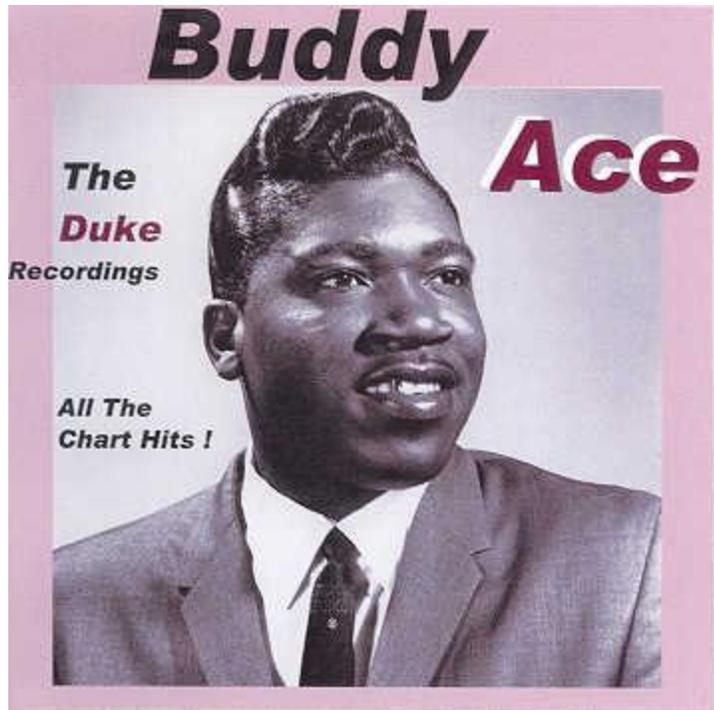
Buddy Ace

Buddy Ace: Blues singer Buddy Ace, also known as “The Silver Fox of the Blues,” was born Johnny Lee Land in Jasper, Texas, on November 11, 1937. Ace grew up in Baytown, Texas, and moved to Houston when he was fourteen. He showed musical talent from an early age and performed as Johnny Lee Land with a number of blues, gospel, and R&B artists, including Texas soul singer, Joe Tex.

Ace’s career took an important turn in 1955, when he signed with Houston-based Duke Records under the name “Buddy Ace.” It was a year earlier, on Christmas Day 1954, that singer, pianist, and Duke recording star Johnny

Ace killed himself while playing Russian roulette backstage between performances at Houston’s City Auditorium. In an effort to capitalize on the late singer’s popularity, the Duke label first recruited Johnny Ace’s brother, St. Clair Alexander, to perform as “Buddy Ace.” When that failed, Duke Records owner, Don Robey, turned to Johnny Lee Land, who agreed to perform under the name Buddy Ace.

Buddy Ace recorded several songs during the 1950s, including the popular “Angelboy,” but his biggest hits came in the 1960s. “Nothing in the World Can Hurt Me (Except You)” and “Hold On (To This Fool)” proved the most successful of his R&B hits. In 1970s, Ace moved to California, where he lived in Los Angeles, Oakland, and Sacramento. It was during the 1970s, as Ace entered his forties, that his hair and beard turned white, earning him the nickname, “The Silver Fox of the Blues.” Ace performed regularly throughout California, releasing “Don’t Hurt No More” in 1990 and “Silver Fox” in 1994, but he never again had the level of success he had enjoyed during the 1960s. He died of a heart attack on December 26, 1994 while performing onstage at a club in Waco, Texas, and is buried at Magnolia Springs Cemetery in Magnolia Springs, Texas.



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