

**This interview with
JERRY LEE LEWIS
was conducted by the Library of Congress on
October 27, 2015.**



Jerry Lee Lewis

LOC: How do you define “rockabilly”?

JLL: Elvis Presley.

LOC: “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On” was first recorded by Big Maybelle. From the first time you heard it, did you know you could and wanted to bring something to it?

JLL: I knew it was ROCK AND ROLL and I knew I could rock it with the piano.

LOC: Before you recorded the song, you performed it live at shows. What was audience reaction to it at the time, especially compared to other songs in your repertoire?

JLL: My audience always rocked to all my songs...but they really ADDED SHAKING TO THIS ONE.

LOC: Much was said at the time—and ever since—about the song’s alleged risqué-ness. Did you ever face problems with censorship related to the recording or the release of the song?

JLL: I did face lots of talk and press on it [for] being risqué...but it did not take too long for my audience to overrule and win out...and it was not risqué...it was PURE ROCK AND ROLL.

LOC: To what do you ascribe the incredible endurance of this particular recording?

JLL: THAT it is original. ROCK AND ROLL FROM BEGINNING TO END.... Never be another.