

UNCUT

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MITCH RYDER

The Promise

MICHIGAN BROADCASTING
COMPANY

★★★★

Detroit soulman's long-overdue, *Don Was*-produced comeback

Reflecting on his downtrodden Detroit hometown circa 2012, Mitch Ryder here astutely merges heartbreaking social realism with accomplished, funky Motown/James Brown grooves, his first high-profile studio effort in some 28 years. His voice, weathered and emotional, is strong and spot-on throughout, infusing the Stax-drenched "My Heart Belongs To Me" with Joe Tex-style grit, serenading like a preacher on the darkly wrought "Everybody Loses". The funky title cut, which boasts shades of 1971 Curtis Mayfield and is emblematic of Was' enveloping, wide-angle style of production, is the centrepiece of the album, a rich message of life amid decay. *Luke Torn*