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BLOWIN NEWS 12/02/2018

RICH YOUNG - UNSEEN VOL ONE

20/12/2017 By Helen Robinson

SHARE F



"Highway Rain" - simply put, it possesses all the hallmarks of the kind of song you would want to keep you company on a road trip. Which in essence is precisely what "Unseen Vol One" is all about, A truly independent artist, Rich Young has spent a lot of time out on the road

One of my favourite new tracks of 2017 comes from this album, It's called

performing, and "Unseen Vol One" documents his tours of upstate New York and Pennsylvania, USA, in which he says: "I took over 2000 photos; discovered semideserted townships ... found summer camps crumbling in low fall sunshine ... visited towns that had been a haven for immigrants from the UK & Europe, built on now defunct mining and railroad industries; now stumbling headlong into the 21st The history of these places - the eccentric visionaries still living there - and the

surrounding areas, is the history of ordinary people struggling through, sometimes with extraordinary courage ... * Rich Young - Unseen Vol One taster

The album provides us with a musical snap shot - 12 road-trip stories soulfully and imaginatively written into some proper grassroots rock and roll, folk, blues, and Americana inspired tunes. It's an album written from the heart and from experience, and that raw emotion is captured pretty effectively throughout.

Glad to have it in my collection. Take a chance on it, then head out on the road ...

Available to buy digitally from Bandcamp Or in it's tangible format from Rich Young Music

We have invited Rich to share with us some of his photographs and diary entries of his recent trip to New York, which will accompany the release of "Unseen Vol Two"

Look out for that, as it happens,





"COSMIC CRYPT" BY MAMMOTH

comprising members of the crossover thrash act Iron Reagan and another hardcore flavoured thrash act, Power Trip, who received many accolades in the music press last year for their



The illusion that a band builds a

HEART OF THE WORLD

Cattandara wattar steam danne cettledara

RICHYOUNG

Rich is singer/songwriter/performer/composer/multi instrumentalist and producer based in E Anglia. He's played live, recorded and worked with a diverse range of acts over the years including Scottish indie folk artist King Creosote, Adrian Smith (Iron Maiden), Steve Marriott, Loudon Wainwright, Nigel Kennedy, Kenney Jones from (Small Faces/The Who), Dave Stewart, Barrie Barlow (Jethro Tull), David Knopfler and many more. He was a member of the Celtic Trio 'Drever McGuire

Young' with whom he toured extensively in the US, Russia, Scandinavia & the UK culminating in a headline show at the prestigious Celtic Connections festival, the band released two well received albums. He also tours the US solo acoustic twice a year and

Records including the latest 'Lamplighter' in 2023. Besides performing his original material he also plays shows of cover versions often with an idiosyncratic twist.

has 7 solo albums released through Northstar

richyoung54@ymail.com

with an enomatopoeic thorus, evoking the sense of distant waters. 'New Hope' imagines the survival of ocean perils.

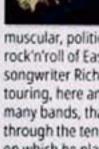
'Travelling Man' plays out a buoyant

SINGER-SONGWRITER

seafarer's journey. 'How You Have Grown' is a tender nurturing mantra. Reflecting darker ocean powers, 'Lighthouse' paints sombre ceremonial images. 'Dream Of You'

brings sweetheart whimsy. 'Have u Ever Felt Awake Like This' evokes sensations of sea swimming, and sundowner 'E in If The Sky Is Burning' sets a tender duet painst the backdrop of a raging horizon. Start To Sing' makes for an upbeat, efferverent finale. Bryc Hegarty RICH YOUNG Psychotropic Blues

(OWN LABEL) www.facebook.com/rich.young.3705157 If you take equal parts Steve Earle and John Mellencamp and sprinkle a dash or two



of Malcolm Holcombe, you're a fair way to the muscular, politically aware rootsy'n'bluesy rock'n'roll of East Anglian singersongwriter Rich Young. A veteran of much touring, here and across the pond, and many bands, that experience oozes through the ten tracks on his latest album

on which he plays and produces He opens Psychotropic Blues with the apocalyptic 'Twenty-Four Hours Of Rain' and then moves on to the dirty groove of 'Criminal Class', an outraged howl at political profiteers, and the sad but no less angry 'Bethlehem Steel', informed by his experiences in the dying working-class

communities of Pennsylvania.

Offsetting these is the good-time stomp of the instrumental 'Cabernet Shuffle' on which Young plays great barrelhouse piano and fiery mouth organ, and lays down a rhythm that defies you not to dance, while the closing 'The Spirit Lives On' is a slower and more reflective piece that could be described as New Age Americana except that it's much better than that. Young is a powerful and charismatic

live performer and that energy and drive

Jeremy Searle

The titular Regency Cafe.

place. A popular greasy

Blackwell, is a real

spoon in London's

shines through what is a fine album.

TOM BLACKWELL Regency Cafe

which inspired this latest album by Tom

Pimlico area, it's where Tom Blackwell

would retreat to watch the world go by and seek inspiration for his music. This was the best part of a decade ago and it did indeed spark a number of tunes. However, as with many songwriters, most compositions never make it onto stage or magnetic tape. For the last eight years those Pimlico

poems have whiled away the days in long-forgotten notebooks. However, late last year, Blackwell decided to revisit these old songs and document them in their raw form. A microphone, a voice and minimal overdubs, all recorded at home. The result is a collection of songs of remarkable honesty and vulnerability. The styles vary between folk, blues and country across the 86 RNR

the bluesy electric guita ... esn't always entirely mesh with the acoustic but the occasional sloppiess of the delivery doesn't detract om the songs themselves enough to kack off many points. Overall, it an enjoyable snapshot of the songw: er's history. Trevor Roggatt ********************* ZN McELROY Beacons Of The Wilderness www.penmcelray.co.uk Ben McElroy is an ambient folk musician

album – an authentic vehicle for the lyrics.

The primitive nature of the recording

example, on 'The Bee Back To le Hive'

process is sometimes betrayed. For

based in Nottingham who takes an experimental

approach to creating soundscapes. He plays guitar, viola, clarinet, whistle, and on some tracks adds low-key vocals, both sung and spoken. McElroy has made albums before but never with the intention of performing the material live. The title track is very dreamy, underpinned by a drone with snatches

of spoken word, fiddle and whistle. 'We Wandered Through The Memory' is a more conventional song in a Nick Drake vibe with hushed vocals and gentle guitar, all inspired by McElroy's work in residential homes. 'Bleating' is a more discordant soundscape about sheep and the view that there are too many of them. 'Where We Don't Go' is an interesting

take on how we can't enjoy things for

what they are anymore. 'A Lore Unto

Herself' is a filmic piece, containing an extract from a documentary about a folk song collector. 'Hitherto Cadaver' has a pleasant little tune under more spoken word, and then goes a bit Incredible String Band for 'Seeds' The ambient atmosphere is the key element of Beacons Of The Wilderness, which intentionally avoids any great musical structure. I'm sure some people will love it.

I confess that I hadn't heard of Jack Hardy until now. Jack was a singer-songwriter based in Greenwich

JACK HARDY

Live On Stage In Italy

(NEW SHOT) www.jackhardy.com

Village where he was an influential figure although in the middle part of his career he was more popular in Europe than in the USA. Hence this album, recorded in 1993. Hardy died in 2011 leaving a huge legacy On this set Jack is supported by David Hamburger on Dobro, Jeff Hardy on

bass and Wendy Beckerman providing backing vocals across its seventeen tracks. The opening 'Night Train To Paris' has a between-the-wars feel and 'The Tailor' is a sort of parable that reminds me of 'The Queen And The Soldier' - not too much of a surprise since Suzanne Vega claims him as an influence. Jack doesn't say much by way of introductions but his songs say all he needs to. 'Houston Street', for example, ends with a wickedly accurate Bob Dylan

and I almost prefer the tracks on which the band takes a back seat but a track like 'May Day' really does benefit from having everything thrown at it. There are

two tracks that everyone should hear: 'The Zephyr' and 'The Creation'. I'll say no more. Dai Jeffries ************************* **LAURA VEIRS** *** Phone Orphans (RAVEN MARCHING BAND) www.lauraveirs.com

As well as being a fine songwriter, Jack

is an accomplished acoustic guitarist

Family matters have long been a theme in Laura Veirs's songwriting. Phone Orphans sounds like a

title inspired by

modern parenting, but actually refers to recordings sung into her mobile that were overlooked for previous albums. These austere tracks chronicle Veirs's exquisite relationship with language and learning. With far less reverb than normal studio production, we get close up to her nurturing vocals. Comforting

melodies and lyrical vignettes are the order here, many written with great poetic clarity. On opener 'Creatures Of A Day' Veirs sings of digging deep in troubled times, over intricate acoustics. 'If You Could Hold Someone' sounds fragile to the point of collapse, while 'Next One, Maybe' is a sparky and lovesick paean to some

musical hero. The sweet woodland tune

'Rocks Of Time' is one of several numbers about Veirs's relatives, as is 'Tree Climber', a lilting homage to childhood with heartmelting imagery. 'Valentine' is a deeply touching elegy for an ageing mind no longer in control, just as the snuggly 'Beautiful Dreams' has the loss of a departed father to contend with. 'The Archers' makes for a sleepy and visionary piece, but it's on 'Smoke Song'

that Veirs conjures expressive poetry

beyond the reach of most mortals.

ELINA **** Whatever Happens Now (NETTWERK) www.nettwerk.com Swedish-born Ivor Novello nominee Elina (Stridh) has raised recognition of her

music through hard

work and songwriting talent. Whotever Hoppens Now opens with a beautifully powerful but short piece of piano playing entitled 'Silver Lining', Elina's voice is expressive and the crystal-clear nature of her diction helps to articulate her lyrics. This is evident on tracks like 'Before We Fall Asleep Again' and 'You Make Me

Think Of Fire'. As the record progresses, an engaging pop artistry emerges. On 'Sweet Night' the relaxed nature of the melody makes it a prospective radio hit. A personal highlight is the moving, breathtaking 'I Should've Danced More', a thoughtful rumination on a potential end-of-life regret. Accompaniment is largely a mix

of piano and acoustic guitars and the tracks are rendered in a streamlined yet

The songwriting prowess on display

and the confident performances are

resourceful way.

(NEW SHOT) www.newshotreconds.com Though rightly have rated by those in the know, seven years

throughout. 'Apologize' has an essential

uplifting pre-chorus melody The

displayed on Whatever Happens

remarkable.

Live On Stage

death Guthrie Trans probably is 12 m known as he should be. A company

GUTHRIE THOMAS

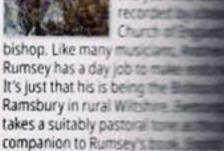
teller of tales in his prolific sono nonetheless kept a low profile. rarely and releasing only occasional albums in the last thirty years of the This excellent quality recording him with his guitar in what sounds a very small venue in early 1999 the scattered applause suggesting people were in to experience the

performance. Live On Stage range the early "You Can't Buy No Low Some to 'Sweet Virginia' from thenrelease The Writer, and You are seen wouldn't gain a release until 1999 Towns. It's all delivered with Games trademark world-weary emmana depth and unobtrusively introduced accompaniment. A protege of Ramblin' Jack Elect at the tail end of the 60s. Gumes oeuvre retained the air of the man

rambler, slightly out of joint was melancholy city, beyond the some such things stopped being learners I've a feeling his work's due a mean and this archive recording process good place to start. ANDREW RUMSEY ****

Evensongs

(GARE DE NORD)



Grounds - A Pastoral Journal The instrumentation is a manual songs evoke the English The album was recorded the man church in deep rural to the vintage microphones to comme performances and the national of the room, Rumsey provide

approach that feels authentic context of the lyrics The tunes are steeped in the landscape, nature and his adopted environs. When do stray into the life of the strain is in a documentary follows: than a religious one - me contemplating on his role at any member and leader of hear The result is a hauming a man

slowly disappearing access to

quitar and vocals when

delicate harmonies Transmit

adds subtle guitar embellion

