

THE FLAMING STARS

Fünf Gentlemen aus London (ehemaligen Mitgliedern der STINGRAYS und GALLON DRUNK) pendeln gekonnt zwischen Garage-Punk, Swamp-Blues und Spaghetti-Western-Themes. "...was einem ernsthaft den Glauben an die Kraft des Rock'n Roll zurückbringen kann".)

Sicher, soetwas haben schon viele Bands erfolglos versucht, aber: Die FLAMING STARS sind absolut echt, authentisch und „sowas von lässig“ (nicht nur wegen ihren ebenso altmodisch wie auch coolen Anzügen), daß selbst im Zeitalter der totalen Digitalisierung die Herzen der „kaltblütigen Musikkritiker“ von Gitarren im warmen Sound der Röhrenverstärker erhitzt werden (Rolling Stone, NME, BBC, Radio 1, etc.). Die schlaksige Erscheinung des Frontmanns Max Décharné mit markanter, dunkler Stimme sowie die „Trashcan Drums“ unterstützt vom unaufhaltsamen Bass erledigen dann den Rest...

Die FLAMING STARS sind eben eine 100%ige Live-Band: sie spielen live im Studio, live auf der Bühne oder live im Radio.

Eine Band die seit Mitte der 90er SIEBEN Peel-Sessions einspielte, deren Veröffentlichungen in diversen Magazinen bei den "10 wichtigsten Platten" genannt werden, Europa, Japan und die USA bereiste, zum Leidwesen der Fans jeweils immer nur eine handvoll Konzerte in jedem Land spielt, deren Sänger Max Decharné ebenso erfolgreich als Autor tätig ist („Straight from the fridge, Dad“, „Hardboiled Hollywood“, „King's Road: The Rise and Fall of the Hippest Street in the World“ u.a.), wo das Kompliment "Trendsetter für derzeit erfolgreiche Garage-Rock Bands" auf völliges Unverständnis stößt, und und und....

Nennt man so eine Band nun Pre-Trendsetter??? Egal! Auf all' ihren Singles und Alben lassen THE FLAMING STARS extrem lässig ihren ur-eigenen Charme spielen. Da bleibt kaum eine Chance vergleichbares zu suchen, was somit einmal mehr bestätigt, dass die STARS eben nur wie die STARS klingen können...

Nach der 2006 auf ACE RECORDS / BIG BEAT veröffentlichten Doppel-CD "London After Midnight – Singles, Rarities & Bar Room Floor Fillers 1995-2005", auf denen die Highlights verschiedener Alben und Singles zu finden sind die innerhalb von 10 Jahren auf dem leider auseinandergebrochenen Label „Vinyl Japan U.K.“ veröffentlicht wurden, kam im Herbst 2006 mit "Born Under A Bad Neon Sign" endlich wieder ein neues Studio-Album.

Aufgenommen in Ed Deegan's Gizzard Studio in East London, enthält "Born Under A Bad Neon Sign" 13 erstklassige FLAMING STARS Songs. Inklusiv eines ganz speziellen Gastauftritts einer alten Freundin der STARS: Holly Golightly singt mit Max Décharné den Titeltrack im Duett. Herzergreifend!

Ed Deegan, der „Born Under A Bad Neon Sign“ aufgenommen und gemixt hat, arbeitete seit 1995 schon mehrfach mit den FLAMING STARS zusammen. Z.B. auch bei diversen Aufnahmen die im TOE RAG Studio entstanden.

Die Arbeitsweise der FLAMING STARS im Studio hat sich seit dem ersten Album kaum geändert. 7 oder 8 Tage lang wird aufgenommen und 2, 3 Tage wird gemischt. Alles mit dem Hintergedanken, die Songs so „live“ wie möglich klingen zu lassen. Was den FLAMING STARS bestens gelingt.

Wie das ganze nun klingt? Eine gute Frage... Max Décharné beantwortet sie so:

There's some 60's garage 'Senator McCarthy's Paranoid Witch Hunt Blues', some kind of Russian/ East German love song 'Treptower Park', a Pinetop Smith meets Martin Rev boogie number 'All The Same To Me', a southern soul-style ballad 'Too late To Turn Back' Too Early To Say Goodbye' and of course the title duet 'Born Under A Bad Neon Sign', a hard-luck romance set to French 60's background. I could go on, but I won't...

Booking / TourInfo:



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Line Up:

Max Decharne – Voclas, organ
Paul Dempsey- Bass
Joe Whitney-Drums
Mark Hosking-Guitar
Huck Whitney-Guitar

www.myspace.com/theflamingstars

Label:



www.acerecords.com

THE FLAMING STARS

DISCOGRAPHY

ALBUMS

Songs From The Bar Room Floor, Vinyl Japan, 1996
Bring Me The Rest Of Alfredo Garcia (Singles 1995-1996), Vinyl Japan, 1997
Sell Your Soul To The Flaming Stars, Vinyl Japan, 1997
Pathway, Vinyl Japan, 1999
The Six John Peel Sessions, Vinyl Japan, 2000
Tijuana Bible, Nippon Columbia (Japan only), 2000
A Walk On The Wired Side, Vinyl Japan, 2001
Ginmill Perfume, Alternative Tentacles (US & Canada only), 2001
Sunset & void, Alternative Tentacles (US & Canada only), 2002
Sunset & void, Vinyl Japan, 2002
Named & shamed, Vinyl Japan, 2004
London After Midnight – Singles, Rarities & Bar Room Floor Fillers 1995-2005, Big Beat / ACE REC. , 2006
Born under a bad neon sign Big Beat / ACE RECORDS , 2006

SINGLES

Hospital, Heaven or Hell EP, Vinyl Japan, 1995
The Face On The Bar Room Floor, Vinyl Japan, 1995
Money To Burn EP, Vinyl Japan, 1995
Downhill Without Brakes EP, Vinyl Japan, 1996
Ten Feet Tall, Vinyl Japan, 1996
Bury My Heart At Pier 13, Vinyl Japan, 1997
New Hope For The Dead, Vinyl Japan, 1997
The Day The Earth Caught Fire / Sweet Smell Of Success, Vinyl Japan, 1998
Only Tonight, Vinyl Japan, 1999
You Don't Always Want What You Get, Vinyl Japan, 2001
Some Things You Don't Forget / Only Tonight, Vinyl Japan, 2001
One Lonely Night / Days Like This, Alternative Tentacles (US & Canada only),
Spilled your Pint, Vinyl Japan, 2004

Videoclip „You Don't Always Get What You Want“

Videoclip „Spilled you pint“

“Yes, believers, you can play raucous garage blues, feel the devil-dogs of rockan-RAAHHWWLL nibbling at your parts and still have tunes... Top class.” **NME (UK)**

“Forget the Kray Twins, it doesn't get much more suave than this. The Flaming Stars combine searing melodic guitar, trashy drums, and smooth crooning that'll work you over like a good batch of martinis at an after-hours pad; the band can sound as evil as Nick Cave's Birthday Party or as tragic as the Tindersticks.” **chicago.citysearch.com (USA)**

“L'ambiance 3V (Velvets / Vega / Vegas)” **Dig It (France)** “Simply cool” **Rolling Stone (Germany)**

„Hier trifft sich der hektische Nick Cave mit dem abgebrannten Elvis in einer Vorstadt-Garage zum Whiskeysaufen nach dem Surfen. Später stößt Dean Martin noch hinzu... Bis man den Fußboden der Bar küsst“

“Like a fistfight between Jerry Lee Lewis and the Voidoids” **Melody Maker (UK)**

“In their native England, The Flaming Stars are garage rock royalty with a six-year string of albums, singles and Peel sessions beloved of folks as far away as Japan's Michelle Gun Elephant.” **The Boston Phoenix (USA)**

“Fuses garage punk and spaghetti western twang with a bit of Tom Waits thrown in for good measure – a mix which has gained them a sizeable cult following both at home and in Europe.” **Music Week (UK)**

“The singer gives the impression of being drunk” Isaac Hayes,(guest singles reviewer), **Time Out (UK)**

THE FLAMING STARS

London after midnight – Singles 1995 – 2005
Do-CD Album 2005

In January 1995, five of us in a North London band called the Flaming Stars showed up at the original Toe-Rag Studios in Shoreditch to record our debut EP for a small label called Vinyl Japan UK. We'd been gigging for all of two months, and had no great plans for the future. Fast-forward to 2005, and after ten years, seven albums and fourteen singles – about 120 studio tracks in all, not counting the seven sessions for John Peel – our relationship with the label ended when they went out of business. Right now, as we're about to start recording a new studio album for Ace Records (due out in September), it's a real pleasure to have the chance to round up a representative selection of the now-deleted Vinyl Japan stuff in a double CD compilation to mark our first ten years as a recording outfit.

In a decade of touring, we've had a fair few memorable nights in many different countries... looking out of the dressing-room windows at the Liquid Room in Tokyo before our shows with Thee Headcoats and Headcoatees, and seeing the whole of the Shinjuku district spread out below us like a scene from *Bladerunner* because the 1,000-capacity venue was on the top floor of a skyscraper... playing in Boston alongside JJ Ressler's Downbeat 5 at The Abbey Lounge, a no-nonsense rock'n'roll gin joint with underwear nailed to the walls... opening for the full original lineup of the Pogues at Brixton Academy a couple of days before Christmas, then watching fake snow pour down from the ceiling during *Fairytale Of New York*... a show in a converted slaughterhouse in Pau in the French Pyrenees where they'd even built their own Tiki Bar specially for the occasion... supporting Jello Biafra in San Francisco in a former burlesque hall... numerous tours of Germany, seeing how many people we could pack into Wild At Heart in Berlin and still have room to breathe, or playing at the Molotov on the Reeperbahn in Hamburg on a stage allegedly made from bits of the old one at the Star Club.

Just in case you're running away with the idea that every gig's been a blinder and every promoter a diamond geezer, let's pause a while and shudder as we remember Newport in South Wales, where the support band at the soundcheck said 'No-one's gonna be here tonight, cause it's way too expensive for our mates to get in (it was all of £3.00), and no-one's ever bloody heard of you lot'. They were right.

All in all, it's been a hell of an enjoyable ride so far. LONDON AFTER MIDNIGHT rounds up all the singles, representative tracks from each of our seven studio LPs, and a selection of rarities that are either new to CD or were only ever pressed up in quantities of about fifty as radio promos. The collection is accompanied by a lavish selection of photos and memorabilia and extensive sleevenotes detailing our history so far.

Here's to the next ten years...

Max Décharné

THE FLAMING STARS

BONR UNDER A BAD NEON SIGN

CD Album 2006

Following on from our double CD collection “London After Midnight – Singles, Rarities & Bar Room Floor Fillers 1995-2005” – released in May 2006 and covering the highlights of our career for the now defunct vinyl Japan label, “Born Under A Bad Neon Sign” is our first new studio album for Ace. Recorded between March and May this year at Ed Deegan’s Gizzard Studio in East London, it features thirteen songs, including a very special guest appearance (singing a duet on the title track) by our old friend Holly Golightly. Sometime around 1998, I sang a duet with Holly on one of her singles, and we’re delighted that she came along for a return engagement with us. In the entire 133 tracks which we’ve released since 1995, she’s the only person apart from the band members who’s ever appeared on one of our recordings.

Ed Deegan, who recorded and mixed the album, has been working with us at various times since 1995 – we made a couple of albums with him at Toe Rag Studio and his Gizzard Studio is set up very much along the same lines. Our method of making an album has never really changed – seven or eight days of recording followed by two or three more for the mix, and try to capture everything as live as possible.

What does it sound like? Good Question.... There’s some 60’s garage ‘Senator McCarthy’s Paranoid Witch Hunt Blues’, some kind of Russian/ East German love song ‘Treptower Park’, a Pinetop Smith meets Martin Rev boogie number ‘All The Same To Me’, a southern soul-style ballad ‘Too late To Turn Back’ Too Early To Say Goodbye’ and of course the title duet ‘Born Under A Bad Neon Sign’, a hard-luck romance set to French 60’s background. I could go on, but I won’t...

By Max Décharné (lead vocals and keyboards, The Flaming Stars)

Don’t forget to check out Max’s latest book as well: King's Road: The Rise and Fall of the Hippest Street in the World (Weidenfeld & Nicolson)