



ANDREAS DORAU

Aus der Bibliothèque



CD / vinyl + CD / download
Release date: January 17, 2014

• Andreas Dorau is a marvellous pop musician, equipped with the choicest humour and the gift of creating wonderful melodies. Aged 16, he wrote the huge hit “Fred vom Jupiter” and has been championed erroneously as representing German New Wave (NDW) ever since.

• “Aus der Bibliothèque” is the first album which Dorau has recorded with a band since “Demokratie” (1988). Backed by the “Liga der gewöhnlichen Gentlemen” soul brothers, he sought inspiration in the quarry of ideas known as the Hamburg Central Library. The result: poppy krautrock, Beatlesque sunshine pop, soft rock, electronica. And true to life lyrics. In short, a superb album!

Many musicians dedicate their albums to a close friend (a “muse” as they say, often female), who has inspired the artist in some way. Or to a mysterious, mythical place, a studio in name, found either in an especially forlorn locality (“we recorded our album in a disused chicken farm in Minnesota. The nearest bus stop was 150 miles away. We were able to concentrate on our music completely”) or a name-dropped monument designed to turn the potential listener green with envy (“The old RCA studio in L.A. The amplifiers were set up just as they had been for the final Elvis sessions. A stone’s throw from the beach. I mean L.A. ... not exactly healthy, but what the heck ...”). A record dedicated to someone who has grown distant from the artist is a rare thing indeed (“Here, My Dear”). So far, so dull. Apart from the last one, of course.

Andreas Dorau, on the other hand, dedicates his new album to a totally different place, a different muse altogether: the Hamburg Central Library. To be precise, the Central Library located at “Hühnerposten”. This is where Dorau has spent much of his free time in recent years. “The library is the little Internet for haptics”, Dorau suggests. “And why should I spend money on books, music or DVDs when they will just gather dust at home?” Rationality – a welcome virtue!

This, then, is where he found the themes for his new album: the tale of gruesome serial killer Fritz Honka (“Tannenduft”) in the Hamburg History section, something on the essential and equally popular element hydrogen (“Wasserstoff”) in the natural sciences department or whilst gazing pensively out of the window (“Bienen am Fenster”). Even the journey there was honed into potential hit material (“Faul und bequem”, or lazy and comfortable). Taxi to the lending library – now that’s stylish.

A lending library can also be of musical assistance ... and it barely costs a penny (see below). CDs, sheet music, it’s all there. Instead of scouring flea markets for curiosities or researching the rather soulless Internet, Dorau concluded his library visits by filling his designer plastic bags with CDs. Randomly. “Greatest Hits” by bearded American bands long since forgotten, the latest releases out of the awful “indie rock” genre, five year old top ten monstrosities. But why? Dorau: “I wanted to find the good spot on each CD, one harmony, analyze it and maybe use it, ah well, borrow it for my own songs.” Lending libraries on a meta-level, so to speak. Interesting! Or the realization of the old alchemist’s dream, creating gold from waste matter?

The backing band are Die Liga der gewöhnlichen Gentlemen, brothers in spirit and, as it happens, similarly enthusiastic fans of the library. Dorau’s version of a singing and playing library was committed to tape in the studio of Gentlemen member Zwanie Johnson, aided by banjos, saxophones, guitars, rhythm machines, an old piano, a Höfner double bass and many more such instruments. The result: poppy krautrock, Beatlesque sunshine pop, soft rock, electronica. In short, a superb album!



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Promo contact:
Bureau B, Nina Thomsen
Tel. 0049-(0)40-881666-62,
nina@bureau-b.com
Cover & press kit download:
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| 1) Hühnerposten | 3:58 |
| 2) Flaschenpfand | 3:39 |
| 3) Der Monat | 3:53 |
| 4) Wasserstoff | 3:48 |
| 5) Löwe | 3:05 |
| 6) Reden wir von mir | 3:58 |
| 7) Tannenduft | 3:34 |
| 8) Stählerner Adler | 4:53 |
| 9) Sabelle fliegt | 3:54 |
| 10) Faul und bequem | 3:49 |
| 11) Klischee | 1:03 |
| 12) Bienen am Fenster | 3:01 |
| 13) Für immer | 3:28 |