

Tamara Williamson

All Those Racing Horses RELEASE DATE: 30 SEPT. 2003

On her fourth solo release, *All Those Racing Horses*, Tamara Williamson continues her unique brand of looping, stereoscopic wizardry. Trumpet, cello, violin and mouth organ are woven together with ambient samples such as a surprisingly musical modem, making a listen on headphones (be it ever so cliché to advise somebody to do so) an almost spiritual experience. Though the tracks on the album reveal a palpable pop-sensibility, the chord progressions never quite go where one might expect.

Williamson's music has the unique ability of blending traditional song-writing approaches with textures coaxed from an array of foot-pedals, effectively turning herself into a one-woman choir. Her idiosyncratic technique adds so much depth to her music that audience members frequently look around to see where the rest of the band is. One might say that listening to one of her solo shows is something like listening to folk music on acid.

Horses is permeated with a sense of melancholia, manifesting itself in such songs as "Sikura", which explores the grisly death of John Sikura who, while being embroiled in intrigue with then Ontario Premier Mike Harris, died mysteriously when his car exploded. "The News", meanwhile, was inspired by Neil Peart's book *Ghost Rider*, a poignant travelogue detailing a man's attempt to come to terms with the deaths of his wife and daughter.

Following the trend set by her previous two albums, biography is the constructive principle of her song writing; the track "5ive" looks at the life of Wallace Simpson, the woman for whom King Edward VIII gave up his throne. For this song Williamson conducted extensive research in which she hoped to answer why people loved to hate Simpson (the Yoko Ono of the royal family).

Since moving to Toronto from England in the early 90s, Tamara has been a mainstay on the Canadian alternative music scene. She has also worked on several occasions with trip-hop sensations **King Cobb Steelie**, fronts Toronto's **Microbunny**, the atmospheric noise-rockers whose work has been featured on Dutch TV, HBO films, PSI Factor and others. To date, she has been the only voice to ever grace a **Do Make Say Think** album, 2001's *And Yet and Yet*.

Being a producer herself (Rachel Smith, Barzin), Williamson has a defined recording philosophy that advocates what more mainstream musicians might call underproduction. Rather than do ten takes of a vocal she would rather bring a sincerity to the track, often leaving breaks in her voice on a song in order to bring a sense of intimacy to her records. And that ends up being one of the most powerful aspect of her music: every track leaves one with the sense that something profound is being imparted, something of import being asked.



Track List:

01. My Road
02. Halfway Home
03. The News
04. Birdy
05. 5ive
06. The King
07. Love Street
08. Houses
09. Microscope
10. Shoot the Sky
11. August
12. Counting Sheep
13. Sikura

All songs written and produced by Tamara Williamson except "Love Street" written by Karl Wallinger/Williamson.

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