



Joy And Independence

Jason McNiff

**AT THE HELM
RECORDS**

Catalogue Number:

ATH197430

Release Date:

27th July 2018

jasonmcniff.com

TRACK LISTING

1. Joy and Independence (4:37)
2. Wind of Zaragoza (3:36)
3. And the Sun Comes Up On My Dreams (3:30)
4. Stuck in the Past (5:11)
5. Amanda (5:40)
6. Thoughts (feat. Lily Ramona) (2:54)
7. Midnight Shift (5:19)
8. Italy (2:42)
9. (there are no) Ordinary Days (3:32)
10. Been a Bad Day (2:45)
11. Dream of a Highway (5:10)

Joy And Independence, the new album from Jason McNiff is out on the 27th July 2018

Jason McNiff, noted London-based songwriter and guitarist, teams up with At The Helm records for a career defining 6th album, **Joy and Independence**. Coming hot on the heels of last year's double compilation, Rain Dries Your Eyes, McNiff strips it back to the essence of the songwriter's craft; 11 brand new songs, just voice and guitar, live in the studio. In this context, the song is everything, there is no place to hide. From the John Prine-esque title track, to the Rainy-Night-In-Soho vignette of his residency at the fabulous, now gone, 12 Bar club (Midnight Shift), McNiff's inventiveness keeps the listener engaged throughout. Perhaps it will be Amanda, a 6 minute re-telling of the story of Amanda Knox, that will get most people talking. 'Amanda, you were innocent then, you're not so innocent now' is its poignant refrain, and there will be inevitable comparisons with Bob Dylan or Woody Guthrie.

If America forms the background in the McNiff landscape, there is an unmistakable Englishness up close in the work of this 43 year old singer songwriter. Born in Bradford, West Yorkshire, Jason landed in London in the mid- Nineties in time to catch the Bert Jansch residency at the aforementioned 12 bar. For 6 months, every Wednesday night, McNiff would be in the front row of Soho's tiny club learning finger style from the master. He would later sign his first record deal with Snowstorm, a label run by Bert's brother-in-law.

Joy and Independence was recorded in sporadic sessions over a 6 month period through 2017-18 at Sean Read (Rockingbirds, Dexy's) studio in Hackney, East London. It is an album that will have a broad appeal to all fans of acoustic music.

Jason says: "I think in quite a conscious way this new record is intended to be an homage to a golden era of the coffee house Troubadour, a figure that, for me, is summed up in Ramblin' Jack Elliot. 'Sing about something you care about, play a bit of guitar...' is how Jack characterised his vision. And that's pretty much it."

A superior singer/writer " -**No Depression**

"A fantastic body of work" -**Shindig!**

One of the UK's best-kept secrets' -**Mojo ******

Deft finger-picking style against a wonderfully atmospheric vocal" -**Clash**

Joy And Independence is released via At The Helm Records on 27th July 2018

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, MP3s, press tickets etc:

jeremy@atthehelmpr.com

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