

Paul Banks Feat. Jakob Dinesen

Grace

Stunt Records
STUCD 08072

The new Paul Banks release GRACE – with tenor saxophonist Jakob Dinesen playing on all ten tracks - is a collaboration between two distinct stylists within different genres.

This hand-played music is delivered with virtuosity, warmth and plenty of time, resulting in much more than a crossover between genres. Although the music balances on the edge of many well-known labels: folk, jazz, blues, country and gospel, the two musician's highly personal approach to their instruments create a timeless world uniquely their own. Some tunes were premeditated, others popped up on the spur of the moment.

The two backing vocalists, Hanne Boel and Marie Fisker contribute yet another twist to the stylistic framework. Boel – one of Denmark's most cherished soul vocalists for the past 25 years – and Fisker – a young, original voice – clearly enjoy each other's company and Paul's songs. Paul's son Peter plays harmonica on the title track.

A duo-collaboration is a demanding discipline, which never lets either participant off the hook for very long. It is also an art form in which simplicity is a keyword, and the ten tunes are kept in refreshingly stripped-down arrangements.

Paul Banks is a one-man-band. His guitar is the album's lyrical and grooving engine, and his vocal has never sounded better. Jakob Dinesen's tenor goes from slender translucency to raspy, growling swing. It is a perfect fit.

So this is it: Vocal, guitar and sax with a few backing vocals and a pinch of harmonica. It doesn't read as much, but these few elements come together to create a unique atmosphere in the nine songs and one instrumental included on the album. It's like being there your self.

PAUL BANKS has released 10 albums in his own name and appears as a session musician on close to 100 others. He has received quite a few awards, including a Danish Music Award for the STUNT release "White Noise & Diamond Nights" (Best Songwriter 2001) and another for "One Man Band Live" (Best Blues Album 2006).

JAKOB DINESEN is one of the most personal Danish saxophonists of his generation. Beautiful Day and Once Around The Park are but two groups, which have found listeners beyond usual jazz audiences. He has recorded a number of albums for STUNT Records: "Around" (with Paul Motian and Kurt Rosenwinkel), "Everything Will Be All Right" (with Kurt Rosenwinkel), "Lady With A Secret" (with Eddie Gomez, Ben Besiakov and Nasheet Waits) and "One Kiss Too Many" (with Ben Street, Jakob Brio & Nasheet Waits), "This Is The Sound Of Music" and "#3" (with Once Around The Park).

The White Hotel / Grace / Tennessee Walz / Ginhouse Blues / Man Of Many Faces / Indian Summer / Diity Wah Ditty / Comes Love / Indigo Nights / Crazy Love.

Paul Banks (g, voc), Jakob Dinesen (ts) + Peter Banks Johns (mh), Marie Fisker & Hanne Boel (voc).

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