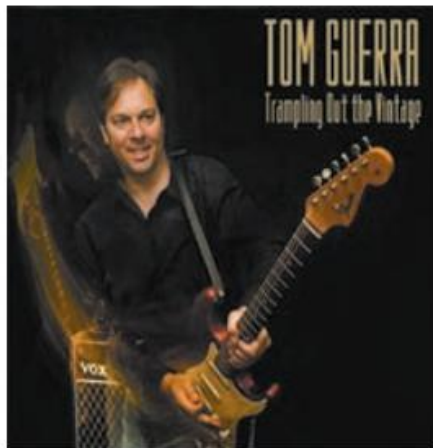


Waves



Sound

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Tom Guerra *“Trampling Out The Vintage”*

Casa Del Soul Records

Reading the credits on this disc, it becomes evident that Guerra (pronounced “Gare-uh”) is a very versatile musician. He performs all the guitar and vocal works, along with providing the bass riffs on tracks two, five, eight and nine; Hammond organ on track seven and eight, and percussion throughout this recording. He also penned all the tracks with the exception of “Make Your Own Kind of Music” written by Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil and “Pay in Blood,” written by Bob Dylan, but Guerra performs his own rocking version. Guerra is joined by Kenny Aaronson on bass guitar, Morgan Fisher and Matt Zeiner on piano and organ, and Mike “Double Dog” Kosacek on drums and percussion.

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From the very beginning of this CD, you get the feeling that you are on your way to an audio party! The first tune, “All Purpose Song” alludes to just that...lyrics that have an ambiguous quality. The guitar and piano solo thru a myriad of chord changes, then find their way back to the root. In the second cut, “Dr. Nick and Elvis” Guerra emulates Dylan-esque vocals (as he does in many of these cuts) as well as Dylan’s lyrical stylings. Track three, “Tell The World” has a lighter spirit, vocally and instrumentally. This song has pop potential for sure! He reluctantly proclaims, “I wanna tell the world I love you...but how can I talk of love when the world’s gone mad!” The fourth cut, “BYOB” is literally a party tune, with “BYOB” being an abbreviation for “bring your own buzz” which is repeated in the chorus.

Track five is the first cover tune on this disc. Guerra’s vocals reflect the spirit of this tune... melodic and sentimental! This “vintage” song, “Make Your Kind of Music” is warm, but then we find our ears changing channels as it song segues into the funky, cynical sprit in track six, “Love Will Forget You” referring to love as “a beast...run for your life!” Aaronson sets the pace with a punchy bass! On track seven, Guerra pays homage to Bob Dylan in the fore mentioned cover of “Pay in Blood.” He definitely puts his own personality into this one, although he does channel Dylan’s vocal stylings, not only on this tune but others as well.

The eighth cut, “Super Moon” (also known as a Blood Moon) which according to legend, is a sign of the end of days; “They say we’ll be gone tomorrow. Armageddon’s coming soon. Will the Sun arise in the shadowed skies, tell me super moon?” The melodic tones of this tune, especially in the refrain, are in sharp contrast to the lyrics, “Can you make it out alive? Are you going to survive? All I see is hate and guile!” The ninth cut, “Grow on Your Own” addresses self awareness and spiritual autonomy. The music has an almost symphonic quality, enhancing the message, “All your life you had someone there telling you what to wear, how to comb your hair. You’re trying to keep up with the Jones’. Grow on your own!”

The tenth tune, “Hard to Love” closes this recording with a ballad that prompts the listener, “When you’re walkin’ down the road...please stop and smell the roses along the way. Be sure the stare up in the sky and count the stars above. ..these things aren’t hard to love!” The piano intro sets the stage with a mood reminiscent of the intro to The Beatles, “Let it Be.” I thought it was a fine note (pun intended) to end the CD. Enjoy it for yourself!

P.S. Tom Guerra and the Mambo Sons will be doing the “Trampling Out the Vintage” CD release party on Nov.11 at Blackeyed Sally’s in Hartford, CT.

- Ms Marci