

APHRODESIA / INDIGO

(Sundance Music, SU 9072-2 - Release: 15/10 2007)



Blue is the color of love.

"Indigo" means "the color from India". Once, this particular blue was used to dye the clothes of Egyptian mummies; thus indigo has an aura of mysticism and death. Indigo blue is so deep, that it borders on purple and almost seems red.

The color is symbolic of the love-duo Aphrodesia, a fruit of the marriage between Grammy Award-winning soul princess Yasmin and her spouse Asger Steensholdt, perhaps best known as bassist in the Danish pop-rock band Big Fat Snake and other top acts on the Danish pop scene. Yasmin, who kick-started her career in 1991 with the mega-hit "Wanna Dance" (also released in the USA), followed her debut success with "A Scent of Flowers" in 1993. She has accompanied top Danish acts such as Hanne Boel and Sko/Torp and toured internationally with the Betty Nansen Theater. The wide variety of her musical experience is apparent in her charismatic and powerful performances within the many colors of the jazz palette.

The name Aphrodesia – derived from the Greek God of Love Aphrodite – signifies that this is no run-of-the-mill band, but

a place where emotions emerge and are given musical life. Aphrodesia's first release, "Lavandou" from 2004 harvested fine reviews, including these words in Danish music monthly Gaffa: "... an exceptionally fine, homogenous, but varied CD containing anything from quiet ballads to powerful, pulsating songs. (...) The material is homemade - and made well. What really impresses, is their fearless and devil-may-care treatment of the material, which never crosses the border to craziness." While "Lavandou" was born in the electronic universe of Asger Steensholdt's Mac, "Indigo" is more down to earth, though still retaining the same fearless approach to the songs. The basic tracks were recorded in Copenhagen's Mox studios in only three days. The overall impression is a jazzy constellation, resulting in a release which is not only exiting as pop/jazz, but enticing and interesting for its use of diverse inspirational sources, fusing a jazz sound with soul, pop, bossa and blues.

The album opens with the staccato and flippant "Superstar", leading almost seamlessly into the introverted, moody "Wind Song". From the onset, Yasmin displays a wide range of expression, spanning playful and defiant to translucent and melancholy. The duo's production lends the album presence.

Fronted by the charismatic producer-couple, a selection of top Danish jazz musicians color the wide range of musical influences indigo and lend the music a natural richness.

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Superstar / Wind Song / Late Light, Late Love / Jovina / I Leave You Tonight / Calling You / I Feel Happy Today / Sing to the Stars Above / Walk Away

Yasmin (voc), Asger Steensholdt (g, keyboards, treatments), Stig Samson Naur (sax), Nikolaj Hess (p), Anders Christensen (b), Jakob Høyer (dr), Emil Johannes Steensholdt, Halfdan Asbjørn Steensholdt & Sira Jovina Steensholdt (treated backing vocals)

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For more information & interviews:

Telefon 26 82 09 36 (Yasmin Elvira Steensholdt)

For more pressmaterial:

Phone +45)33 33 87 20 Mail sundance@sundance.dk



STUNT RECORDS

Sundance Music ApS Gothersgade 107 1123 Copenhagen K Denmark
T: +45 3333 8720 F: +45 3333 8730 www.sundance.dk sundance@sundance.dk