



Nanci Griffith "**Winter Marquee**" Rounder Records

This fourteen-track *live* recording, only her second, equates to a reprise of Griffith's musical career, and then some. Aided and abetted by her Blue Moon Orchestra, the album was recorded at the Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville on Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup> this year. Her 1993 Folk Grammy winning album **Other Voice, Other Rooms** featured Dylan's *Boots Of Spanish Leather* and *Speed Of The Sound Of Loneliness* from the pen of John Prine. The latter song opens this collection and the Dylan tune appears later in the set. Assisted by guests, Emmylou Harris and Tom Russell and Andy Hardin, Griffith draws the collection to a close with Phil Ochs *What's That I Hear*, followed by a boisterous rendition of Townes' *White Freight Liner Blues*.

In addition to the latter pair of previously unrecorded songs, Nanci also covers *Good Night, New York* from the pen of Julie Gold. Far from being a 9/11 song, Gold penned it during the nineties as a tribute to her adopted hometown. Emmylou Harris shares the vocal duties with Griffith on the latter cut. The lyric of Gold's song includes a reference to the Vietnam War, which Nanci neatly segues into her own reflection upon that struggle, *Travelling Through This Part Of You*. During the introduction she mentions that her ex-husband Eric Taylor served there - "*You were an American boy, Whose innocence was lost here in the war.*" The only new song on this set is an upbeat country/rock tinged outing titled, *Last Train Home*. The remaining eight titles are all time served Griffith classics, the oldest *There's A Light Beyond These Woods* (*Mary Margaret*) being from 1978, all the way through to the aforementioned *Travelling Through This Part Of You* which appeared on her 2001 Elektra album **Clock Without Hands**.

In the States, Rounder have released an eighteen song DVD bearing the same title, and the four *bonus* tracks amount to John Stewart's song *Lost Her In The Sun* as well as the Nanci Griffith composed title cut, both from last year's **Clock Without Hands**. In addition, there's the Pete Seeger/Lee Hayes co-write *If I Had A Hammer* which Griffith included on her second folk music tribute collection **Other Voices Too**. Completing the quartet of video additions is a *seemingly* new Nanci Griffith composition *Home On The Radio*, a tribute to her mentor, close friend and song scribe, Harlan Howard, who passed away earlier this year. It's interesting to note that in introducing the song Griffith states that she wrote it about twelve years ago, as a birthday gift. There's only one minor glitch. In terms of continuity, Nanci's long hair is tied back on the CD and DVD liner photos, yet, in performance, on the DVD she has short permed hair.

Folkwax Rating 8 out of 10

Arthur Wood  
Kerrville Kronikles 09/02