



Bill Morrissey **"Come Running"** Turn And Spin Media Records

Following a twenty-one year sojourn with Rounder Records [1984 - 2004], and a six year silence since his last original work **"Something I Saw Or Thought I Saw"** [2001], Bill returns with **"Come Running"** a thirteen song collection released on his own label, Turn And Spin Media Records. Co-produced with drummer Billy Conway [Morphine, Twinemen] and recorded at the latter's Hi-N-Dry Studio in Cambridge, Massachusetts the support players include Dana Colley [saxophone], Kent Allyn [bass], Cormac McCarthy [harmonica], Dave Alvin [guitar] and Jennifer Kimball [vocals].

In addition to guitar and vocal, Bill blows a bass clarinet on the funky sounding opener "I Ain't Walking," a song about parting, wherein Bill references The Miracles' Holland, Dozier, Holland penned 1963 ten million selling hit "Mickey's Monkey" and from the following year Major Lance's "Um, Um, Um, Um, Um, Um" written by Curtis Mayfield. Set in a bus station, it's two in the morning as the musician/narrator in "Thirty Years" reflects *"Gotta get some sleep, gotta gig to make, It's fourteen hours to the next town."* For Morrissey it's an all too familiar scenario and in the refrain the narrator, who has seen better days, adds *"Thirty year of thank you and please, Till all you get is the smokers' cough and the alcohol disease."* In "Holden's Blues" Morrissey poetically witnesses the turning of the seasons with *"But summer days pack and move down south just to make room for the fall"* and in the same verse continues with *"They come running through the wheat and rye, And you cannot catch them all."* I guess that the album title and the song that features them, namely "Holden's Blues," may just possess a Salinger link. And wasn't Holden's middle name Morrissey?

While the lyric mentions Morrissey's favourite sport – *"I cast my line"* – "Summer Jumped All Over Me" is actually a song for the seasons that concludes, *"When you fall in love this time of year, there ain't no room for doubt."* In "By The Grave Of Baudelaire" on a visit to Paris, Bill's narrator reflects on the loss of love, and in the later "I Was A Fool" he explores the same theme. Morrissey employs the Son House song of the same name as his backdrop for "Death Letter," while "Victory At Sea" finds Bill's narrator reminisce about the television show of the same name, first aired during 1952/53, and of a seaman acquaintance and WWII veteran who once upon a time avidly watched the programme. The closing "Johnny's Tune" is a tribute to Scottish born, American based fiddle player Johnny Cunningham, and occasional Morrissey collaborator, who died on 15th December 2003 in New York City. Here Morrissey employs allusions to time and the seasons in *"And these days the sun don't rise, as much as goes down,"* as he warmly memorialises his friend.

Born November 25th 1951 in Hartford, Connecticut, the index number of Bill's debut release on his own record label is CD 1125. Some days you don't miss a trick.....

Folkwax Score 8 out of 10

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 07/07.