

**Various Artists – Raina Rose, Rebecca Loebe, Smokey & The Mirror
- THREE NIGHTS LIVE (Album Review) Goose Creek Music**

Two support players, three venues, four songwriters, sixteen songs performed flawlessly.

Released by Virginia based Goose Creek Music, who (currently) specialize in releasing in-concert recordings, *Three Nights Live* captures sixteen songs performed by a coterie of Austin, Texas and Fayetteville, Arkansas based singer/songwriters as they made a three-gig sweep through Oklahoma and Texas during mid-November 2013. The venues visited - Greg Johnson's The Blue Door in Oklahoma City, The Cactus Café on the University of Texas campus in Austin and down on the Gulf coast Houston watering hole McGonigel's Mucky Duck. The musicians in question are solo songwriters Raina Rose (vocals, acoustic guitar) and Rebecca Loebe (vocals, acoustic guitar) – who also produced the disc - plus Fayetteville duo Smokey & The Mirror composed of Bernice Hembree (vocals, bass) and Bryan Hembree (vocals, electric & acoustic guitar, cajon). The Hembree's previously performed with accomplished luthier Bayard Blain as 3 Penny Acre. Sitting-in were Hembree sideman Daniel Walker (keyboards, accordion, cajon, vocals) and 'Becca's long-time collaborator/record producer Will Robertson (bass, electric guitar, vocals).

The sixteen *Live* songs alluded to in the opening paragraph merge originals with covers, with the latter bookending the disc and also furnishing a subtle midstream interlude. The disc opens with each of the principle contributors chipping-in on Jackson Browne's forty-year old classic "These Days." Reaching back to her 2009 *Blackwater EP*, next up, Raina contributes "Act Of God." Oregon bred, Rose possesses a potent voice that joyously soars and swoops on her tale of a break for freedom after two lives are torn asunder one Sunday. Rebecca follows with the subtly worded and titled *love lost* ode "Lie," originally a 2013 download-only single that featured her Austin band, The New Ordeals. Retaining the subjective status quo Bryan follows with his gently reflective "Goodnight Lorena."

Raina's second offering, an invitation to love, "Swing Wide The Gates" appeared on her 2013 album *Caldera*. Next "Marguerita" from Loebe's *Mystery Prize* (2010) segues with (two-minutes of the cover) "California Stars." 'Becca's energetic former was inspired by a NPR item about *deportees*, while the Woody Guthrie/Jeff Tweedy/Jay Bennett co-write, from the first *Mermaid Avenue* collection, possesses an appropriate symbiosis. The aforementioned 'midstream interlude' finds the quartet present a muscular take of Guy Clark's "Dublin Blues" followed by a gentle reading of Townes' "Loretta." Moving on, Loebe offers a pair of *restless voyager* travelogues, "California" - from *Mystery Prize* - and "The Chicago Kid" - from *Circus Heart* (2012).

The rhythmically strident "Somewhere In The Middle" a Hembree co-write, and Bryan's "Rag And Bone" appeared on the Smokey & The Mirror 2013 EP, *Rag And Bone*. Raina journey's

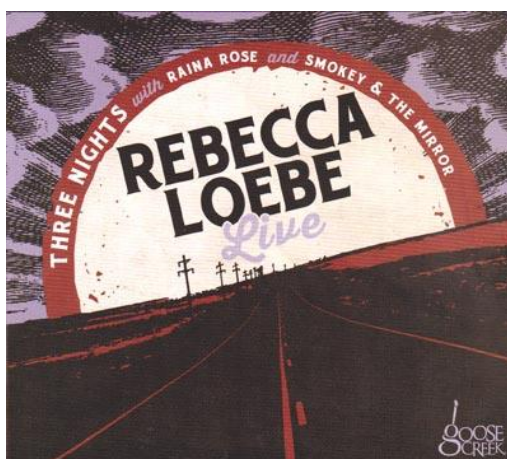
down love's rocky road on her final offering "Bluebonnets" which closed *When May Came* (2010). Bryan/Bernice's pop inflected "St. Alban's Day," a tribute to visual and aural memories, dates from their 3 Penny Acre days. The quartet end *Three Nights Live* with "Tracks Of My Tears" a 1965, #2 Billboard R&B hit for The Miracles. Penned by band members Smokey Robinson, Warren Moore and Marvin Taplin, the foursome unite for a truly soulful interpretation. Assuming *Three Nights Live* to be a typical example of Goose Creek's output, they deliver "*best seat in the house*" pristine, crystal clear in-concert recordings. Released concurrently, drawn from the concerts, were discs headlined by Smoky & The Mirror and Rebecca Loebe (the latter reviewed separately on ND).

<http://www.goosecreekmusic.com/>

Brought to you from the desk of the Folk Villager.

aka Arthur Wood.

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Rebecca Loebe – LIVE (Album Review) Goose Creek Music

Dynamic, amusing, informative and memorable that's Rebecca Loebe Live.

Released by Virginia based Goose Creek Music, who (currently) specialize in releasing concert recordings, *Live* captures half-a-dozen original songs and three covers performed by Austin based Rebecca Loebe (vocals, acoustic guitar), leavened by two selections (by others) from the complementary *Three Nights Live* compilation. (In addition to Loebe) the latter disc features adopted Austinite Raina Rose (vocals, acoustic guitar) and Fayetteville, Arkansas duo Smokey & The Mirror - Bernice Hembree (vocals, bass) and Bryan Hembree (vocals, electric & acoustic guitar, cajon). Aided by regular Hembree sideman Daniel Walker (keyboards, accordion, cajon, vocals) and 'Becca's long-time collaborator/record producer Will Robertson (bass, electric guitar, vocals), during mid-November 2013 these singer/songwriters made a three-gig sweep through Oklahoma and Texas. The venues visited - Greg Johnson's The Blue Door in Oklahoma City, The Cactus Café on the University of Texas campus in Austin and down on the Gulf coast Houston watering hole McGonigle's Mucky Duck.

Rebecca opens with a heartfelt interpretation of the cleverly-titled *love lost* ode "Lie" – "*So much for good goodbye's, I mumble as you try, to paint the door shut on your way*" - which was a 2013 download-only single release featuring her Austin band, The New Ordeals. During America's annual late November celebration, Loebe's humorous "Thanksgiving" finds the narrator recall events, good and less so, from the past twelve months. The foregoing song appeared on her *The Brooklyn Series EP* (2007). Next up, Loebe offers a pair of *restless*

voyager travelogues, namely, "California" - from *Mystery Prize* - and "The Chicago Kid" - from *Circus Heart* (2012). Prior to performing Kurt Cobain's "Come As You Are," which she sang on U.S. television during Season 1 of *The Voice*, in a short introductory narrative 'Becca describes the contest judges as "four very judgemental pieces of furniture."

If you've been lucky to catch a Rebecca Loebe concert, you'll know that she is an effervescent performer, with a winning smile and an expressive voice that can scale the heights and drop down on the lows.....and rip your heart out when a whispered word or line is required. Doubtless there was a wicked twinkle in her eye while composing the love song "Darlin'," the opening tune on *Circus Heart*. Having noted "*The smell of your beard in the dark*" and such, the lyrical hinge is the subsequent and repeated "*What did you do to my heart?*" and the narrator closes with the (polite) enquiry "*When...when can you do it again?*" Loebe's *Mystery Prize* (2010) tune "Marguerita" segues with (two-minutes of the cover) "California Stars." The energetic former was inspired by a NPR item about *deportees* that Rebecca heard – as related in the preceding narrative "An Upbeat Jig..." while the Woody Guthrie/Jeff Tweedy/Jay Bennett collaboration, from the first *Mermaid Avenue* collection, possesses an appropriate symbiosis. Raina Rose's "Swing Wide The Gates" and "Somewhere In The Middle" from Smokey & The Mirror are taken from the *Three Nights Live* set (also reviewed on ND), and Rebecca's album closes with a quartet interpretation of Jackson Browne's four-decade old classic "These Days."

<http://www.goosecreekmusic.com/> and <http://www.rebeccaloebe.com/>

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