



Antje Duvekot *The Near Demise Of The High Wire Dancer* Black Wolf Records

Her name is pronounced Aunt-yuh Doo-va-kot. *The Near Demise Of The High Wire Dancer* is this German/American's fifth solo album. Produced by singer/songwriter Richard Shindell this eleven-song disc features guest contributions from his pals John Gorka and Lucy Kaplansky.

The opening cut *Vertigo* was co-written with the multi-talented Mark Erelli, who contributes mandolin and harmony vocals. Duvekot's narrator, a woman in love, compares the sensation to walking on a high-wire and readily admits her discomfort – "*I lied about the vertigo, And I have never been up this high.*" Architect of the twelve-string jangle that helps propel *Ragdoll Princes & Junkyard Queens* is the one and only Duke Levine. Think of the lyric as a poetic travelogue, and the same can be said of her old song *Long Way* (which immediately follows). John Gorka supplies a harmony vocal to the latter, while verse-on-verse Duvekot's narrator traverses America in the "*worn out heels of Kerouac.*"

Seamus Egan, leader of the renowned Irish music band Solas, produced Duvekot's previous studio album *Big Dream Boulevard*. That recording featured three Antje/Seamus co-writes and two more appear on *The Near Demise Of The High Wire Dancer*, respectively *The Bridge* and *Scream*. The waltz paced *Coney Island* is a pleasant travelogue/love song, as is her reprise of the already familiar *Dublin Boys* – relative to lyric content, an overall pattern is emerging. Last year's *Snapshots* reprised material from Duvekot's early career, self-released solo recordings. The disc included three previously unreleased studio cuts, and here she reprises *Merry-Go-Round* a reflection upon the multi-faceted tapestry that is human life.

Duvekot closes with *Augen, Ohren Und Herz* (translates as *Eyes, Ears And Heart*) by Gerhardt Schone, a [East] German children's music composer whose music she grew to love as a child (living in West Germany). An English translation of the lyric in the liner booklet would have been appreciated. It appears that I may be swimming against a rather powerful current relative to my assessment of Antje's music. Her career in folk music is most assuredly on the up, and in that regard an estimable music business scribe has compared her to Patty Griffin. That said, while musically adequate and agreeable, I have yet to hear a Duvekot creation as focused and goose bump inducing as Patty's *Makin' Pies* or *Burgundy Shoes*.

Score 7 out of 10

<http://www.antjeduvekot.com/index.php?page=home>

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 05/09 & 06/09.