

Ralfe Band – ‘Bunny and the Bull’ OST

Original Motion Picture Soundtrack, Composed & Performed by Ralfe Band (Ghost Ship Records)
Released Tuesday October 25th 2011 – CD/Vinyl (ltd ed of 300, gatefold, hand-numbered) / Digital
The film *Bunny and the Bull* out now on DVD and Blu-ray (Warp Films)

About Ralfe Band - Ralfe Band is the brain child of songwriter and composer Oliver Ralfe. First discovered by John Peel in 2004 who said of them, “Its difficult to tell who they’ve been listening to...”, Ralfe Band have gone on to release three albums in the UK and Europe - *Swords* (Skint, Talitres 2005), *Attic Thieves* (Loose, Talitres 2008) and *Bunny and the Bull Original Soundtrack* (Ghost Ship, 2010). The albums have all combined songs and instrumentals. Ralfe Band have toured widely in Europe and have played at many festivals including Reading and Leeds and two main stages at Glastonbury.

Ralfe Band’s music has been praised for its cinematic qualities. Being asked to compose a feature film soundtrack has been an exciting next step for the band and a chance to experiment. Says Oly Ralfe, “I have been inspired by film music. Morricone’s soundtrack for *Once Upon A Time in The West*. Herrman’s score for *Vertigo*. Also soundtracks to 60s films like *Blow Up* and *The Ipccress File*. The music of Emir Kustirica films like *Underground*. Even *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Creating a film soundtrack was a great way to make music outside the normal album format.”

Oliver Ralfe is also an award-winning filmmaker in his own right. His self-shot documentary film *The Ballad of AJ Weberman* about the infamous Bob Dylan fanatic was filmed in New York and premiered at Slamdance Film Festival 2007, before winning the “Raindance Award” at The British Independent Film Awards and most recently screening on BBC4 in the UK for Dylan’s 70th birthday. Oliver’s second feature documentary *The Mighty Boosh On Tour – Journey of The Childmen* is a behind the scenes film following the cult British comedians on tour. The film premiered in the U.S. at the amazing Cinefamily in Los Angeles and 92Y Tribeca in New York where Oly introduced the film in person to an army of comedy fans. Both films also feature animations based on Oliver’s drawings. Another animation by Oliver is the music video to the Ralfe Band single “Women of Japan” which won “Best International Music Video” at SXSW 2006.

Oliver and his band also make several cameo appearances in seasons 1-3 of *The Mighty Boosh* television show.

The film - BUNNY AND THE BULL is a comedy road movie set entirely in a flat. An extraordinary visual feast from the director of *The Mighty Boosh*, featuring the crème-de-la-crème of British comedy talent, including Noel Fielding, Julian Barratt and Richard Ayoade, *Bunny and The Bull* is one of a recent batch of productions from Warp Films which also include *This Is England*, *Four Lions* and *Submarine*.

Stephen (Edward Hogg) hasn’t been outside for months. Living with a painfully restrictive routine, he finds his mind hurtling back to a disastrous trek around Europe he undertook with his friend Bunny (Simon Farnaby), a womanising, gambling-addicted booze-hound. Stephen’s apartment becomes the springboard for an extraordinary odyssey through landscapes made up of snapshots and souvenirs. A story of love, disillusionment, stuffed bears and globalised seafood, *Bunny and the Bull* is an offbeat and heartfelt journey to the end of the room.

The soundtrack – notes by Oliver Ralfe - The film creates a unique visual world, so I also aimed to create similarly unique sounding music. Like the film the soundtrack is meant to have an unreal colourful quality.

We recorded in remote countryside during the heavy snowfall in January 2009. We were snowed in, with deer wandering in the garden and ice everywhere – it was a strange magical time This all helped with the atmosphere of creating the music.

Piano is my main instrument and it features heavily. There’s a dusty, archaic kind of look to some scenes, which suited an old piano sound. We had an old, broken 19th century piano in the room we were recording in, and we ended up just banging and tapping its insides to create the atmospheric, darker sounds. It was a great pallette to work from. I recorded the melodic pieces on another piano which was in tune! There are

folk and gypsy influences with mandolin, accordion, viola, and trumpets inspired by the sets in Poland and Spain. Electronic pieces for some scenes, and some more classical themes, embellished with strings. It's a road trip, and the music has different ingredients we were able to draw on that depending on where the characters traveled in Europe.

I really wanted to create a soundtrack album. I've always enjoyed sitting down, listening to them and going on a strange journey in your head. So having finished work on the film I spent a couple of months producing the album. I enjoyed having themes re-emerging within the album almost like a classical piece.

The soundtrack – Notes by Paul King (writer & director, Bunny & the Bull)

On the coldest day of the year, when public transport had given up on the south of England, I drove out to Oxford to meet Ralfe Band. They were recording in the studio of their largely unheated house – but had left the piano out in the snow because they wanted it to have a more degraded sound. Certainly they seemed to match the home-made spirit of the film, but watching your composers literally weather their instruments is enough to panic the most trusting of directors.

And then they played - and it was simply great. They were the best of collaborators. I'd made suggestions of where I wanted music and given them vague references. They'd completely ignored me, done their own thing, and I never wanted to change a note. It would be absurdly arrogant to say it was just as I imagined it. If I could imagine music like that I would never have picked up a camera. It's blindingly, blisteringly, barnstormingly better than I could ever have imagined -and the one thing about the film I would never, ever want to change.

Some praise for the *Bunny & the Bull* soundtrack:

"The 22 tracks here recall the deft melancholy of the *Amelie* soundtrack... The kind of regally drunk spirit last heard on David Dundas' equally fine *Withnail & I* soundtrack. Score!" **8/10 NME**

"The real test of any score is its ability to survive independent of the movie and Oliver Ralfe's piano-heavy work manages that easily... It's alternately sweetly hushed, spooky and sad, tapping Bernard Herrmann, Tom Waits, Danny Elfman, European folk and gypsy song traditions in a bewitchingly evocative collection." - **UNCUT**

"Catchy, interesting, and it's good to hear a contemporary soundtrack album with a bit of character... Another feather in their jaunty musical hats." - **RECORD COLLECTOR**

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