



Julean and the Rai Release "Muse Tree" to Eager Fan Following Worldwide

Kevin Kingman, November 06, 2007

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Album marks first official release for infamous troubadour, songwriter.

PR9.NET November 06, 2007 - Manhattan, New York - This week, songwriter Julean Rai (better known to his listeners as the band "Julean and the Rai") released his first official debut album, following a healthy live career and a string of EPs, instrumentals, and demos. Julean, who is decidedly well-known in a number of regional circuits nationwide, including Austin, Texas, and most recently New York City, finished the project early this year as part of a series of intensive recording sessions. The first of several albums completed in those sessions, Muse Tree gives us 15 songs that even fans familiar with Julean live or in the studio can find fresh, enduring, and at times, unfamiliar.

Muse Tree, Julean says, relates the songs, stories and experiences of his first year as an adult and as a musician, twelve years ago. "A couple of those tunes are actually new songs about old stories. I've tried to write them for years and, in a way, I'm glad that I was able to make them more recent and probably more sophisticated than they would be back then." Of the fifteen tracks on the album, only a handful are songs Julean says he performed at that actual time in his early career.

When asked about the recording process, Julean had this to say: "Forty some days and nights of manic hyper-productivity. I slept on a cot in the studio, which was in the loft of a larger studio. It was cold -- winter in Ohio, you know. The walls were too thin, the pipes above the studio in the wood creaked at all the wrong times. A lot of it was timing. I had my coffee in the mornings outside, ramen in the afternoon and rice in the evenings. Sometimes the producer would send me some fast food burgers and fries for the protein, or productivity, or whatever. For those sessions, because I couldn't bring anybody else in where I was at the time, I pretty much was "The Rai". I had tons of instruments up there and I played them all."

Given the opportunity to listen to "Muse", the album is a genuine, lighthearted and warm recounting of a young boy growing up to discover himself, girls, life, and Independence. With steady rock acoustic songs like "First Light", full band menageries, such as "Mind Games" and "Ryn", and even tender, moody stories such as "The Roots" and the impeccable "Muse Tree", "Muse" calls to mind contemporaries from Kaki King and Jack Johnson as well as influences like Bruce Springsteen and Nina Simone. In both his intricate skill as a guitar player, his astonishing vocal range, and his trademark impish-slash-sincere delivery, Julean Rai's "Muse Tree" makes us all wish to be seventeen again.

Fans and listeners of Julean Rai can buy "Muse Tree" and more at his online store at <http://www.juleanandtherai.com/> or at his Myspace page at <http://www.myspace.com/juleanandtherai>

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About Kevin Kingman

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