



THE SCOTLAND YARD GOSPEL CHOIR

... and the horse you rode in on

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

"I hope that you catch syphilis and die alone" begins "Stop," the first song on The Scotland Yard Gospel Choir's new album *... and the horse you rode in on*. The opening lyric is a portent of heartbroken bitterness to come. Thankfully it's washed down with tawdry sex, unrequited lust, and, um, the tearing down of opera houses.

After a romantic split sparked a breakup with the world at large, SYGC frontman Elia retreated to his family's farmhouse in North Wales. Most of *... and the horse you rode in on* was written during this time, and the whole record echoes Britain's foremost purveyors of pity and poetry. Hints of Morrissey's literate lamentations, Jarvis Cocker's over-sexed swagger, and Orange Juice's broken-hearted exuberance rise and fall over the fourteen songs.

"Stop," features a massive double string quartet led and arranged by violinist Ethan Adelsman and provides moving counterpoint to the band's most rocking songs yet. The rhythm section of Jay Santana and producer/engineer Mark Yoshizumi propel "One Night Stand," which rocks and reels like its subject matter, bringing some greatly missed sex back into American indie rock. Mary Ralph's fragile vocals on "Sixteen Is Too Young" are a total heart-wrecker, while the raucous punk rocker "Tear Down the Opera House" calls to even the most sedentary geezer.

Paste Magazine hailed Elia's "street corner stories ... dolled up style and wise-guy sensibility," saying he's "a taleteller in the David Johansen mode." Often storming the stage over a dozen deep, Scotland Yard Gospel Choir revels in brass and strings just as much as guitar and bass.

... and the horse you rode in on features cameos from **Jon Langford** (Mekons/Waco Brothers) and **Martin Atkins** (Public Image Ltd./Ministry/Killing Joke). Darlings of the literati, SYGC have performed with artists of every discipline, from the Arcade Fire and Spoon to Ira Glass and Dave Eggers.

Spin calls The Scotland Yard Gospel Choir, "a hug for the downtrodden," and it's true—a rollicking, fucking, dance-your-ass-off, cry 'til you can't cry anymore hug. Breakups are tough, and life never gets any easier. SYGC knows that fully. Luckily, they couldn't care less.

The Scotland Yard Gospel Choir is:

Elia - vocals, guitar
Ethan Adelsman - violin, vocals, guitar
Mary Ralph - guitar, vocals
Jay Santana - drums
Mark Yoshizumi - bass

with:

Alison Hinderliter - keyboards
Sam Johnson - trumpet
Matt Priest - trombone

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