Various Artists – The Return of Ralf Edstrom

‘The Return of Ralf Edstrom’, a compilation of independent music is to be released on September the 3rd. It drops on the unsuspecting toes of a world in which personal taste is everything but - thanks to algorithms, nobody actually gets to develop one.

Album curator, label owner and tireless crate-digger Marcus Törncrantz has dug deep into current global left-field pop music, from Singapore to Turku.

Among the selected artists, there are genuine oddballs, punk-disco freaks and sophisti-poppers that together paint a picture of an alternative state of mind. This music exists in defiance of today’s polished, AI-aided, comfortably functional slop. It renders irrelevant the question of whether we need musical genres or sub-genres at all. After all, it’s just music….and what great music it is. Tastefully off-kilter, gently psychedelic, heart-warming. Decidedly anti-macho.

To put this LP into a continuum - 35-odd years ago there were two compilation cassettes - first came ‘Grimsby Fishmarket 4 – Norrkoeping (Norrköping?) 0’ and then ‘Second Half’ - both displaying close kinship with the rosters of Mike Alway’s él Records, Siesta in Spain, Le Grand Magistery and Heavenly. Torncrantz, an independent pop svengali if there ever was one, captured a certain European indie sensibility in full bloom and later saw those tapes become seminal, even era-defining.

At first glance, today’s world seems a very different place. But look closer and maybe things haven’t changed so much. There are still benevolent forces that encourage joy over jadedness and wonder over safety. ‘The Return of Ralf Edstrom’ dares the listener to prove otherwise.

Only four of the tracks have been previously released on vinyl, the others are exclusives. The vinyl LP is strictly limited to 300 copies. You won't find the album on any streaming platforms, you won’t be able to skippity-hop and stumble on these tracks online. ‘The Return of Ralf Edstrom’ happens only here, on white wax.
Ville Särmä

Tracklist and listening links

Side_A https://on.soundcloud.com/uS3Ffgm3p8VUIkJ5yz

1) RALF EDSTROM : Grimsby Fishmarket

2) JOAKIM ÅHLUND & JOCKUM NORDSTRÖM : Georgie Girl

3) LYMEPARC : Shot Through Your Shine

4) MELODY SISTERS (feat. Gustav Ejstes) : Humble Bee Tree

5) JOHNNY SPUNKY : Zonked On Your Zazzle

6) MOON CITY BOYS : Hopes in Vain (Body in the Thames Edit)

7) HOTEL ARTESIA : September

Side_B https://on.soundcloud.com/ng8EWwk7SumlGC8Zfp

1) INDEPENDENT ORCHESTRA : Farewell Music

2) STERNPOST : Sounds Everywhere

3) ESCAPE-ISM : 6th Avenue & 66th Street

4) WENDY LIMERY : Temple Du Lion

5) MOUTH 2 MOUTH : The Rash

6) KOKONAUT (feat. Miriam Berhan) : Pacific Highway

PDF Cover (front)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NuIyPicQbUn60NZ8UBj_kw4fJdv-L0wK/view?usp=drivesdk

Album credits

Compiled by Marcus Törncrantz 2026. Törncrantz Rock'n'roll. MARSE017

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