



JEFFREY FOUCAULT

GHOST REPEATER

Holed up in Iowa City for the coldest week of the year, Jeffrey Foucault teamed with legendary blues guitar player and producer Bo Ramsey (Greg Brown, Lucinda Williams) to create ***Ghost Repeater***, a country and blues album at the crossroads of love and lament, exploring the hopefulness of new love and the seasickness of contemporary American living.

Ghost repeaters are empty radio stations scattered around the country to re-broadcast demographically tailored playlists, endless echoes of American market culture, from thousands of miles away. Epidemic sameness, big-box stores, and the retail news cycle of ghost prisoners and God on Our Side create a backdrop against which ***Ghost Repeater*** unfolds a story of love and uncertainty. There are no declarations to be had here, no easy politics, but the details of living are parsed in a language by turns elegantly plain or vividly abstract, and Foucault circles the heart of each tune warily.

Written over the course of a year in which Foucault married, ***Ghost Repeater*** juxtaposes a personal narrative of hope and beauty against the wider story of the times, in a series of travelogues and dreamscapes. Words like bloom and fade, truth and mercy, dream and memory recur through the album to create a sort of grammar, a palette of colors that Foucault and Ramsey merge with dark washes of electric guitar and vocals hushed or plaintive, in a visionary portrait of modern Americana.

It's a natural pairing – Ramsey's cool economy of phrase the perfect compliment to Foucault's elegant lines and weatherbeaten drawl – and the recording itself something of a homecoming, with Foucault traveling back to the Midwest from Massachusetts where he's lived the past few years, and bringing the songs he'd written home to record them with Ramsey's longtime collaborators.

Released in Europe in April, to wide critical acclaim, and now available in North America as well, ***Ghost Repeater*** features full band arrangements but hews close to the line of Foucault's previous albums (*Miles from the Lightning*, 2001, and *Stripping Cane*, 2004), with darkly intimate songs and rich language, framed this time around by Bo Ramsey's signature electric guitar work in a series of country rockers and dark blues. It was an instinctive progression for Foucault - whose first two records explored the landscape and characters of his native Midwest in spare and largely acoustic terms - to broaden the focus of the music and the subject matter by incorporating a rhythm section and training his sights on not only the intimate but the wider world, the personal and the profound.

In addition to Bo Ramsey's inimitable sound Foucault has the backing of Rick Cicalo and Steve Hayes (Greg Brown) on rhythm, along with special guest appearances by Iowa legend Dave Moore on harp and accordion, Eric Heywood (Son Volt, Richard Buckner) on pedal steel, and Kris Delmhorst on backing vocals.

Against the broadcast echoes of an America long gone, Foucault lays out the particulars of love in a country contending with its own ghost. In songs of love and empire, dream and memory, ***Ghost Repeater*** delivers the honesty of country, the rawboned desperation of blues, and the simplicity of folk to achieve a document that's timeless and poignant.



BOOKING: Mongrel Music 415.485.5100 info@mongrelm.com
LABEL: Signature Sounds Jim Olsen 800.694.5354 info@signaturesounds.com
PUBLICITY: Flora Reed 800.694.5354 flora@signaturesounds.com
All other inquiries, please contact info@jeffreyfoucault.com



WWW.JEFFREYFOUCAULT.COM

WWW.SIGNATURESOUNDS.COM

PRAISE FOR GHOST REPEATER

THE NEW YORK TIMES:

"Jeffrey Foucault is a young man with an old soul... His music is contemporary and timeless."

THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES: ★★★★★

"One of the best albums of the year... Jeffrey Foucault incorporates the best of the Americana, alt-country and roots-rock genres... Those who recall Bruce Springsteen in the pre-"Born to Run" days will hear echoes of the Boss."

THE WASHINGTON POST:

"Not that Foucault doesn't know the dark side of being from the U.S.A. It's hinted at in the lyrics and also in Foucault's voice, a young man's baritone that's been roughed up by the grit of creation, revealing layers of wisdom and wonder... [he] can conjure demons as adroitly as his Americana heroes Chris Smither and Townes van Zandt."

THE NEW YORKER:

"An album full of gravelly, gorgeously rolling poems about weather, trains, and love... exceptional."

THE IRISH TIMES: ★★★★★

"Quietly brilliant."

THE NEW YORK POST:

"Reflective roots music... *Ghost Repeater* drips in pedal steel and quiet beauty."

NO DEPRESSION:

"There is no America like the one that serves as a backdrop for the songs on Jeffrey Foucault's aching new album... his spare, rootsy tunes are deceptively complex... the title track is the real stunner here... a high-lonesome feel and ominous undertones."

THE SUN (UK):

"It's easy to pigeon-hole Jeffrey Foucault as "Americana" or "alternative-country". These tired tags, however, barely do justice to this exquisite album."

THE IRISH WORLD:

"An apt [album] name... you need repeated listings to take in just how high in quality it is... Songwriting at its rawest and best... stirring stuff."

THE STRANGER (SEATTLE):

"Incisive... a contender for many 2006 Best-of lists... mesmerizing."

MOJO:

"Moments of songwriting brilliance."

THE STEREO TIMES:

"Impossible to take your ears away... a singular talent, an important new voice... a brilliant collection of songs... a masterful achievement."

PHILADELPHIA CITY PAPER:

"[All of the songs] function as polished short stories... This is a CD launch worth toasting."

ACOUSTIC GUITAR MAGAZINE:

"Honest and bittersweet..... his acoustic guitar is a warm, woody constant - a steady companion to his gentle, leathery voice."

THE DENVER POST:

"Excellent... a mix of upbeat and pensive country-folk and blues... captures that mood without trying to be a definitive statement... oozes a comfortably leathery vibe."

Q MAGAZINE (UK): ★★★★★

"An excellent third album... Americana doesn't get much finer."

UNCUT MAGAZINE (UK): ★★★★★

"A deceptively simple record of undeniable treasures... fans of John Prine will find much to admire... exquisite."



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