

Agnes Strange □ – Theme For A Dream (2000)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Theme For A Dream* 2 *Messin' Around* 3 *Graveyard* 4 *Rockin' In 'E* 5 *Dust In The Sunlight* 6 *The Day Dreamer* 7 *Book With No Cover* 8 *Failure (Demo)* 9 *Motorway Rebel (Demo)* 10 *Children Of The Absurd (Demo)* 11 *Clever Fool (Demo)* 12 *Strange Flavour (Demo)* 13 *Odd Man Out (Demo)* 14 *Highway Blues (Demo)* John Westwood — lead guitar, vocals Alan Green – bass, vocals Dave Rodwell – drums, vocals + Dave Travis – acoustic guitar, vocals (5, 13), producer Terry Nicholson – bass (5) “Spider” Kennedy – drums (5) Sunny – vocal harmonies (5) "Unreleased masters & Original demos", 1972-1974.

Digitally remastered reissue of this very rare and collectable self-financed album. Most of the Supergroups of '70s Rock had become too vast and trunkless to mean much to the average music fan. Up and down the country, every night, small-time bands kept the spirit alive; playing R&B, Prog, Folk Rock, you name it, they didn't give up the music they loved. But record labels didn't really get it, giving rise to the phenomenon nowadays loved by collectors - the Private Press record. Agnes Strange were one of the best and most unusual (and at the same time archetypal) of these bands. With producer and well-known scholar of '50s Rock'N'Roll, Dave Travis at the recording controls, it was never going to be ordinary! Much bootlegged, pirated and faked by collectors' labels, here for the first time, with the full involvement of Dave Travis and the band, is the real story of Agnes Strange... 13 tracks. Rev-Ola. 2007. ---Editorial Reviews

What a great record! I had completely forgotten how good their first album was, so I started listening to this cold. As a hard rock fan since the beginning, this caught my attention right out of the box, and virtually never let up. It features awesome, power-trio style hard rock with plenty of

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progressive and psych elements in the mix. One of the main pluses of this set is that the band is not a one-trick pony, and favor mixing up the style of the material enough to keep things quite interesting. Whoever did the song writing had plenty of good ideas, and went on to develop them in novel ways. My only criticism is minor: while guitarist John Westwood is a superb guitar talent, "power-trio" hard rock may not be his best style. For while he certainly has the chops to lead away, in my experience, the best power-trio players are those who can (and do) drift effortlessly back and forth between lead and rhythm, sometimes even playing both simultaneously! Hendrix was a master at this, but there are plenty of others as well. Westwood leaves the rhythm chores to his bassist, while he soars among the clouds on lead. Of course, it sure works just fine, and I'm just nit-picking here, but it might have been even a little better, that's all. This was apparently their second album, which went unreleased at the time. Bonus tracks are from yet another, demo album, possibly recorded prior to their first. These tracks are all in precisely the same vein, and without knowing otherwise, you would not suspect they were from a different source. I'll surely go out and pick up the official release of this. CDR is great if all you need is the music. But I can't get enough of this fine group. ---tymeshifter, rateyourmusic.com

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