
JON AUER

Songs from the Year of Our Demise

After what he describes as a "rabidly indulgent marathon of recording," Jon Auer has completed his first solo full-length CD of original material called "*Songs From the Year of Our Demise*." Although he co-wrote and recorded a Posies and Big Star album in the interim, "*Songs...*" is the record Jon says he's been "dying to make and release for the last 5 years." And it's well worth the wait.

The record is at turns more gritty and more lush, more atmospheric and more immediate, more universal and more personal than anything he's done in the past. It reflects the highs and lows of both a soaring exuberance and a crushing fatalism. Keyboards, cellos, organs, chimes and gizmos come and go while Jon's signature guitar work and angelic voice consistently echo the emotional turmoil of a past half decade that has seen him recover from a divorce, marry a reacquainted love, and inherit a daughter through that marriage. The album plays like a very personal and revealing musical journal of a period of difficult change.

Jon's musical journey started in the mid 80s in Bellingham, WA, where he formed legendary power pop band The Posies with high school classmate Ken Stringfellow. The Posies first record "Failure" was recorded in his father's home studio. Two years later The Posies signed a deal with DGC/Geffen and made four records for them, including the landmark "*Frosting on the Beater*," which includes Jon's classic singles "Dream all Day" and "Flavor of the Month." The Posies are still together and to date have released five studio albums, an e.p., two live albums, a 4-CD box set, and a "Best Of" collection. They've also recently signed to Ryko Records and will release a new studio album later this year.

The Posies' success has also led to Jon and Ken becoming part of the reformed Big Star with original members Alex Chilton and Jody Stephens. The reformed group played its first show in 1993 and now 12 years later is still touring together and has even recorded a new Big Star album of originals that will be released by Ryko Records on the heels of the new Posies record later in 2005.

Jon also spent time in Nashville last year playing guitar and singing on the latest William Shatner record, "Has Been," with Ben Folds serving as producer.

While all these projects came and went, Jon's ongoing core focus has been on completing his 15-song solo masterwork "*Songs From the Year of Our Demise*," which he calls an "all-consuming, important-to-me, it's-my-baby type of affair."

With few notable exceptions, every bit of writing, recording, and performing was done by Jon with "no one else around for miles" as he "methodically dragged the record into existence." This deeply personal musical statement stretches far beyond the expected boundaries of an artist known as a power pop legend. The sound will be familiar to any Posies fans who expect exceptional songwriting and hummable melodies, but this musical journey also takes listeners to musical and emotional territories far beyond the expected parameters of the pop genre.

Although he has released a solo e.p. in Spain ("*Perfect Size*") and an e.p. of covers ("*6 1/2*") on Pattern 25 Records, this is the landmark record we all hoped Jon had in him. Stay tuned for a release date.

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