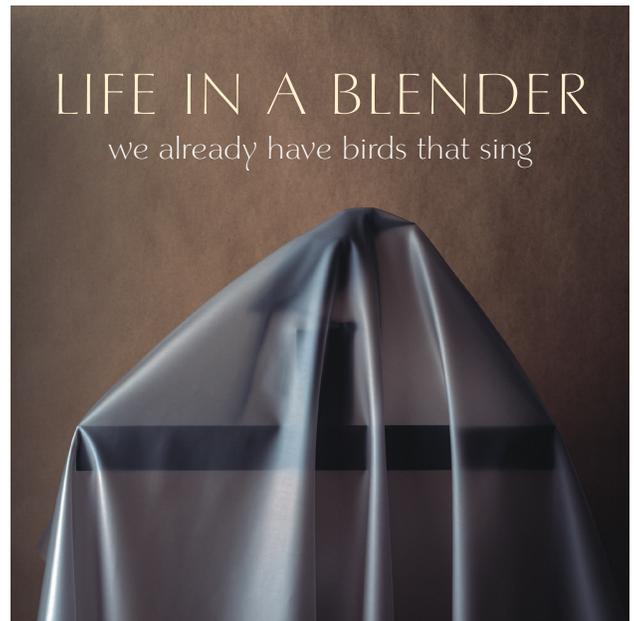


LIFE IN A BLENDER

barrels into spring with a new album

WE ALREADY HAVE BIRDS THAT SING



The indie chamber-pop punk rock band **Life in a Blender** celebrates spring with the release of its new seven-song album, *We Already Have Birds That Sing* (Fang Records). The title comes from a line in the lead track “Tongue-Cut Sparrow”. Frontman **Don Rauf** wrote the song based on a true-life story by Japanese-American author **Mitsu Sundvall** about Mitsu’s cousin who was a burlesque dancer at the Forbidden City in San Francisco in the 1950s. Don explains: “Despite being told repeatedly by family and others not to pursue a career in burlesque, Mitsu’s cousin found her creative voice in boozy theaters filled with music and questionable behaviors. Her story parallels Life in a Blender’s exactly, except we wear smaller tassels.”

The other songs on Blender’s latest dark journey into the absurd take you into a sonic rabbit hole of oozing melody and skewed lyrics. “Good Answer” is LIAB’s bleak commentary on social and political conformity, ironically celebrating our ability to parrot the latest meme. In “Falmouth” a recovering alcoholic tries to help a relapsed friend with the power of chicken and roller derbies. “Shards” starts off as a hip-swaying Tom Jones romp before the façade cracks to reveal a middle aged man alone in his solitary world haunted by the fragments of his life. Drawing on Edward Lear’s poem The Jumblies, LIAB paint a curiously detailed off-kilter portrait about a sea voyage, complete with strong cheeses and marmalade, in “To Sea in a Sieve.” And “Mamanama” is a rootsy story about the other LA, where a hard-partying guy returns home to find a little peace the only way he knows how – with cigarettes, strip clubs and vodka on the beach.

Horror film impresario **Larry Fessenden** is directing a video for “Frankenstein Cannot Be Stopped,” Rauf’s song about a man watching the tragic film *Frankenstein*, hoping against hope for a different outcome. *We Already Have Birds That Sing* was recorded and co-produced on a crisp fall weekend by **Kenny Siegal** (Langhorne Slim and The Law, The Wiyos, Chris Whitley) at Old Soul Studios, in Catskill, New York.

www.lifeinablender.net <http://music.lifeinablender.net/album/we-already-have-birds-that-sing>

LIFE IN A BLENDER: Don Rauf: vocals; Dave Moody: guitar, cello; Mark Lerner: bass; Al Houghton: guitar; Ken Meyer: drums, cymbals, sound effects; Rebecca Weiner Tompkins: violin . All songs © 2014 by Don Rauf/Life in a Blender (Stingy Brim Publishing/ASCAP). Recorded at Old Soul Studios, Catskill, NY by Kenny Siegal.

PRESS

“Life in a Blender is a long-running Brooklyn institution specializing in heartfelt pop that is both surreal and thought-provoking. Though rife with oddness, the band’s work hides moments of poignancy and introspection amidst the laughs.” —*The New Yorker*

“True to its name, Brooklyn’s Life in a Blender funnels an impressively broad range of influences into its quirky rock, from Tom Waits to R.E.M.” —*Time Out New York*

“Rauf has the quality of not being right on the note, but close enough, being in the ballpark musically to sell the song and be unique all at once, much like David Byrne and Isaac Brock.” —D.W. Dunphy, *Popdose*

“Off-kilter pop nuggets with a dark streak reign supreme here.” —Stephen Haag, *popmatters*

“Don Rauf is an illustrator who uses music in place of paint to reveal elusive nuances of thought, emotion and life... Pop underground music that is melodic, inventive and clever.” Joe Ross, *Roots Music Report*

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