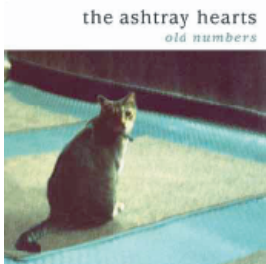


THE ASHTRAY HEARTS

Old Numbers (elect003)



"On their debut *Old Numbers*, the Ashtray Hearts have created a somber, inviting album that reflects those lonely, hopeless wintry days in a city full of broken hearts, dead dreams and bittersweet memories."
-No Depression

The Ashtray Hearts are a six-piece ensemble from Minneapolis that plays what is best described as 'apartment music'. Taking elements of Americana and alt-country, the Ashtray Hearts add eclectic instrumentation (horns, organs, accordions) to create their lonely, broken-hearted sound. Their debut, *Old Numbers* (Free Election Records, elect003), is a quiet introduction to the Ashtray Hearts, collecting twelve songs of love and loss.

TRACK LISTING

1. Amusement Park
2. Disaster
3. The One You're Closest To
4. Still Shaking
5. Queen South
6. Anyone's Guess
7. Bryn Mawr
8. Trestle
9. Country Bar
10. Spain
11. Southern Wedding
12. Watching Me Try

RIYL

Mojave 3, Wilco, Byrds, Calexico, Court & Spark.

PRESS

"The Ashtray Hearts coined the genre "apartment music" to describe their alt-country sound: *Old Numbers* embellishes basic folk ballads with accordions, pianos, organs, and trumpets, while the lyrics make the most familiar bus stops, dive bars, and main streets seem hopelessly romantic."
-City Pages

"Finding alt-country a snooze? Yeah, me too. That is, until the Ashtray Hearts invited me to eavesdrop at their worn apartment door, allowing me to digest slow, gentle tales of disappointment and regret that are centered on the heart. The results: a beautiful, melancholy delight perfect for those lonely autumn days and cold winter nights."
--Amy Carlson, music writer,
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Coming together in the fall of 2000, the Ashtray Hearts quickly became a local favorite while playing with an impressive group of artists. While in Minneapolis and on the road, the Hearts have shared the stage with The New Pornographers, Richard Buckner, Kelly Willis, Jason Ringenberg, Jesse Sykes & The Sweet Hereafter, The Prom (Barsuk), Rivulets (Chair Kickers Union), and others.

After their first U.S. tour and modest press exposure from *No Depression* in 2002, the band caught the attention of legendary **BBC DJ Bob Harris**. He invited the Ashtray Hearts to be on the *Bob Harris Presents Vol. 4* compilation (released March 2003). The compilation features a dozen of Bob's favorite new artists including Rosie Thomas, Laura Cantrell, and Thad Cockrell.

The Ashtray Hearts are part of a diverse Minneapolis/St. Paul music community. In an attempt to bring together like-minded artists, the Ashtray Hearts started the Free Election label and put out a series of releases including *Old Numbers* and the APARTMENT MUSIC compilation. APARTMENT MUSIC features the Ashtray Hearts along with Work of Saws, The Owls (feat. members of the Hang Ups and the Legendary Jim Ruiz Group), Kid Dakota (feat. members of Low, Fog), Florida, Mike Brady, and Quillan Roe (ex-Accident Clearinghouse). The compilation was named *Best Local Compilation* in 2002 by the Twin Cities major weekly *City Pages*.

The summer of 2003 saw the Ashtray Hearts tour the England and Scotland. Their visit included a session for Bob Harris (BBC2) with stops in Brighton, London, Liverpool, Nottingham, Swindon, Leicester, Hartlipool, Edinburgh, Ullapool, Manchester, and Newcastle.

The band is currently recording their second collection of songs in an old de-sanctified church in Duluth, Minnesota. The new record is set to be released in the fall of 2004.

For more information...

Distribution: X-COUNTRY DISTRIBUTION / SAFE HOUSE RECORDS
802.287.2000 safehouse3@aol.com

Press/U.S. Booking: Dan Richmond, Free Election Records/The Ashtray Hearts
612.296.9849 freeelection@hotmail.com

UK Booking: Robert Main-Ellen robert.main-ellen@ntlworld.com

FREE ELECTION www.freeelection.org
4544 Garfield Avenue South, First Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55409