

MOLLIE O'BRIEN AND RICH MOORE RELEASE *LOVE RUNNER*

REMINGTON ROAD RECORDS # RRR0684

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With the release of their second studio recording as a duo, Mollie O'Brien and Rich Moore have mined the American songbook while adding 3 original tracks of their own; the result is a glorious mix of contemporary folk, powerhouse gospel, funky dance music and everything in between. It's the personification of what we call Americana - an amalgam of all the kinds of music that have defined the sounds coming from the American trajectory of music that's blossomed over the last 100 years. *Love Runner* features three songs written by O'Brien and Moore for the project: the rocking title track which is an unabashed invitation for some love in the car; the autobiographical swing-like "Went Back Home"; and a powerhouse turn at the traditional gospel song "Don't Let The Devil Ride". They also have once again unearthed some hidden gems: Tom Paxton's newly written "Central Square" is a remembrance of first love; Robin and Linda Williams and Jerome Clark's "Green Summertime" is a gorgeous paean to a small town world called home; Hal Cannon's "Just Go" places the listener squarely in the front seat next to a woman leaving a ruinous relationship in the dust. O'Brien and Moore also put their stamp on the inimitable Dave Van Ronk's "Sunday Street" and on Randy Newman's eerie "Suzanne" - both songs normally sung from a male point of view, but when given Mollie's gimlet-eyed take, become even more unique for their devil-may-care breeziness and swagger.



Produced by Lyons, CO ace arranger and bassist, Eric Thorin, the basic tracks feature keyboardists Eric Moon and John Magnie, drummer Marc Dalio and steel guitarist Glenn Taylor. In short order over their three days in the studio, they recorded all 11 tracks that locked into grooves and arrangements leaving them wanting more. Added into the stew were sawist Lesley Kernochan, fiddler Jessie Burns, trumpeter Gabe Mervine and O'Brien and Moore's daughters, Brigid and Lucy, on harmony vocals. The end result is being hailed by fans as a landmark recording. Nashville songwriter Gretchen Peters says "It takes serious talent to play and sing this effortlessly; these two are the perfect vehicle for this eclectic set of songs."

Most of the tracks have to do with the universal theme of home: leaving it and family behind, missing it, never wanting to go back, finding it in surprising places all over the world, and finally wondering what kind of home awaits us in the life after this one. O'Brien and Moore let us know via their choice of material that they are not afraid to take risks. It's almost as if they're telling us that at this stage in their lives, they are at home with their musical selves - they can do whatever they want and they don't care if the rest of the world agrees with them. It takes guts to make choices like this work, and they've succeeded.

Track Listings

1. Sunday Street (Dave Van Ronk)
2. Train Home (Chris Smither)
3. Went Back Home (Mollie O'Brien & Rich Moore)
4. Central Square (Tom Paxton)
5. Love Runner (Mollie O'Brien and Rich Moore)
6. Suzanne (Randy Newman)
7. Don't Let The Devil Ride (trad. arr. by Mollie O'Brien and Rich Moore)
8. They Want Me Here (Robbie Fulks)
9. Just Go (Hal Cannon)
10. West Virginia, My Home (Hazel Dickens)
11. Green Summertime (Robin and Linda Williams and Jerome Clark)

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