



IRASCIBLE MUSIC



SPIRAL STAIRS (USA)

Doris & The Dagger

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It's been eight years since Scott Kannberg, aka Spiral Stairs, released any new music. He knows that. The years just have a habit of slipping away sometimes. You can't hurry genius – not even the genial, unforced and unpretentious genius that has long been Scott's forte. What's for sure is his second album as Spiral Stairs, «Doris and The Daggers», is worth the wait. It's some of the best music Scott's been involved with, and also some of the most personal and emotional music he's ever written, reflecting the life changes that occurred over those eight years. During that stretch, Scott weathered the loss of friends, treasured the joys of fatherhood, lived life as an Australian and even ate haggis meat – experiences that inform these warm, sweetly melodic and soundly honest songs.

Having moved back to Los Angeles, the original concept for the album was to go to Seattle's Orbit Studios and «record the whole thing in a week, like the old days.» Then, a month before the trip, Scott awoke to heart-breaking news: Darius Minwalla, who had drummed with Preston School of Industry and on The Real Feel, and was scheduled to play on the mooted Seattle sessions, died suddenly in his sleep.

Scott was deep-sixed by the news, and it would be another three months before he was ready to return to the studio. By that time, the album had changed – the songs had grown in the interim, become longer, more emotional. Following Darius' death, Scott went to spend time with his friend, singer-songwriter Kelley Stoltz, up in San Francisco, where they bounced ideas off each other. «His influence made me turn the record in an entirely different direction.»

Instead of a week-long blitz, «Doris and The Daggers» was recorded over a more civilised, considered batch of short sessions at Exactamundo studios in Eagle Rock, California. Long-time low-end foil Matt Harris returned on bass duties, while the drum-stool was adopted by Broken Social Scene's Justin Peroff. The trio cut 30 songs in all, while a number of Scott's close musical friends stepped in to make some key contributions. Peroff's Broken Social Scene cohort Kevin Drew sang on 'Emoshuns', Kelley Stoltz lent guitar to the summery chime of 'AWM', and The National's Matt Berninger lends vocals to the bittersweet, zephyr-light 'Exiled Tonight'.

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