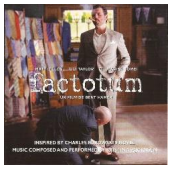
Kristin Asbjørnsen – Factotum (2006)



1 On The Bus 1:20 2 Reunion 2:50 3 I Wish To Weep 2:31 4 Farewell I 1:48 5 Slow Day 3:41 6 Ice Plant Overture 1:26 7 Pickles 2:40 8 Still Awake 2:11 9 Quirky Waltz 1:29 10 Dreamland II 4:18 11 Slow Day Fragments 2:12 12 My Garden 2:02 13 In The Kitchen 2:31 14 Beside You 1:43 15 Drunk Driving 1:54 16 Remembering 1:44 17 Shoes 1:40 18 If You're Going To Try 3:42 19 Horse Race Groove 1:32 20 Farewell II 1:49 21 Slow Day II 5:36 Kristin Asbjørnsen Vocals Jostein Asnes Guitar (Acoustic), Guitar (Electric), Mandolin, Vocals Jarle Bernhoft Bass, Drums, Guitar (Acoustic), Guitar (Electric), Mandolin, Percussion, Vocals Øyvind Brandtsegg Vibraphone Trygve Brøske String Arrangements Dadafon Krøyt Thomas Dahl Guitar, Sampling Kenneth Ekornes Percussion Øyvind Engen Cello, Vocals Tord Gustavsen Piano Svante Henryson Cello Kenneth Kapstad Drums Krøyt Performer Martin Langlie Drums Anders Larsen Violin Eirik Øien Bass Sigrid Stang Violin

In 2005 Kristin made her international debut as a film score composer for the American movie “Factotum”, based on a novel by Charles Bukowski. Factotum is a US/Norwegian co-production by Director Bent Hamer and producer Jim Stark, and is starring Matt Dillon, Marisa Tomei and Lili Taylor.

The film and the soundtrack received a lot of international acclaim and Factotum was selected for the Cannes Film Festival. Kristin’s soundtrack album is released on the French/American label Milan Records and her music won the Norwegian Film Award: “Best Norwegian Film Music” (Kanon prisen). ---kristinasbjornsen.com

It may seem odd that a notable Norwegian director (Ben Hamer) would be the one to make a movie about a tortured, against-the-grain cult writer and poet (Charles Bukowski, played by Matt Dillon) who spent all but two years of his life in Los Angeles. But the good news for music fans is the important larger discovery of the incredibly diverse and captivating Scandinavian jazz composer and vocalist Kristin Asbjørnsen. Even without images, the soundtrack to Factotum functions quite well by itself as a haunting, complex, atmospheric work with varied moods and instrumentation. The opener "On the Bus" is just over a minute but brings back magnificent creepy memories of Twin Peaks. After "Reunion," a subtle and graceful solo piano piece, is the chamber music-flavored "I Wish to Weep," featuring the composer's smoky, emotional vocals toiling sweetly over a simple Bukowski poem/lyric that gives the words a scorching urgency. There are other similarly flavored lead vocals (most notably, the classical/folk-tinged "Slow Day,") but Asbjørnsen proves herself equally adept at creating moods with wordless vocals ("Farewell I," "Beside You"). Amidst the largely melancholy vibe of most of these tracks is the rumbling and percussive acoustic jazz magic of the quirkily titled "Pickles." Asbjørnsen, making her composing debut, performs these pieces with her band Dadafon, drawing inspiration not only from her formal jazz education nbut also her love for West African griot singers. A fascinating work. ---Jonathan Widran, AllMusic Review

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