

NEW RELEASE | 3rd May 2019 | SW516CD

Songways

LC No. 14585

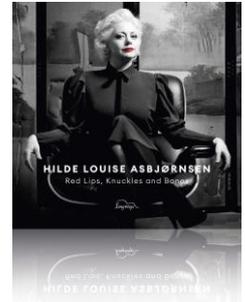
ozella
music

Songways

Ozella Music | Schloss Hamborn 20 | D-33178 Borcheln | Germany | fon +49(0)5251-38509 | fax 388909
email mail@ozellamusic.com | www.ozellamusic.com

Hilde Louise Asbjørnsen

Red Lips, Knuckles and Bones



Freedom in Loneliness

Hilde Louise Asbjørnsen is a team player. "The people I work with are my most important gear," she says about her approach to collaboration. Still, *Red Lips, Knuckles and Bones* occasionally feels like a solo album. On predecessor *Don't Stay for Breakfast*, Asbjørnsen had delegated many decisions to her producer. This time, she dealt with every detail herself, including the arrangements and even the grooves of her band. 10 albums and 15 years into her remarkable career, this may well be her most personal work.

At the same time, the traits of her signature sound have remained. Her four-piece 'Orchestra' is as tight as ever, spicing up the compositions with gripping solos. And as always, her congenial song writing-partner Anders Aarum once again added his magic to the production. Only this time, his involvement was more subtle than usual. Although Hilde Louise and Aarum did travel to Budapest together to focus on nothing but music, they mostly worked on their own projects there: "In Budapest, I was mostly surrounded by strangers," she recounts, "The loneliness freed up my writing."

The desire for freedom and creative growth has always been with her: "In the beginning, I tried to write songs that sounded like Cole Porter and the Tin Pan Alley writers. Songs like "Night and Day", or "Darn That Dream" were my ideals back then." But she's never stood still: "I hope my voice will always be in development, along with my way of writing songs." As if to mirror this development, she packs her songs with unconventional ingredients: Ska and chansons, rock and americana and subtle electronica. On *Red Lips, Knuckles and Bones*, she even reinvents an eternal classic: Her take on "Lazy Afternoon" is dreamy and hazy, yet also seductive and sexy.

Her own, original compositions, meanwhile, are like diary entries of a painful period. Many of the stories deal with a year which saw her lose three dear friends at once, including activist designer Hariton Pushwagner. On "Pink Pushwagon", she pays homage to her former collaborator with some of her most politically charged lyrics yet: "War pigs still draining childhood dreams / Short-trading heartbeats and sunbeams."

The general tone of the album, however, is one of optimism and joy. In a way, lines like "Don't be clever, just swing" say it best. That, after all, is exactly what Hilde Louise is doing here, as passionately as if this were her debut.