

ARTIST: Richie Kaye and the New Old-Timers

ALBUM: Plush Life

RELEASE DATE: May 1, 2022

“PLUSH LIFE” LINER NOTES

I have known Richie Kaye since Kindergarten and was his first musical collaborator. It started in the 5th grade when we teamed up for a school talent show on an original instrumental we jokingly called “Tie a Yellow Tape Around the Old Broken Paper” because the beat-up sheet music we were reading for our respective instruments looked the part. The title was an homage to Tony Orlando and Dawn’s “Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree,” which had been a mega hit on the radio in 1973.

Three years later we joined forces again for a rock band we dubbed Cerberus before quickly changing it to Nova. At that time, he was deep into the guitar wizardry of John McLaughlin’s Mahavishnu Orchestra, Al Di Meola from jazz-rock fusion pioneers Return to Forever and Led Zeppelin’s Jimmy Page. Vocally, he was still finding his voice after failed attempts to mime Robert Plant with falsetto vocals.

Fast forward to middle age following a 20-year break from music, and all the opera, Broadway show tunes and Rat Pack recordings he listened to as a child but didn’t appreciate at the time heavily influenced the direction of his sound. And that’s not taking into consideration his musical adventures in the Far East where he sang Enka on Japanese TV and Chinese pop on Chinese TV in prime time.

His solo and duo work in the jazz-standards arena in terms of both performing and recording led to yet another change. My dear friend Rich summoned other very early musical influences from watching Glen Campbell and Johnny Cash on their respective TV shows. Now living in Houston, Texas, he rediscovered the wonder of classic country. While his latest transition might appear on the surface to be fairly dramatic, he reminded me of just how interrelated the two genres are dating back to the late 1940s and ’50s.

On his sixth album, “Plush Life,” which marks his debut with the New Old-Timers, he sings in the 1950s and ’60s style of country crooners Ray Price, Faron Young, Hank Green, Hank Williams Sr. and George Jones. At the same time, he channels exceptional jazz guitarists like Barney Kessel for a hybrid sound that makes his version of country music swing with the swagger of a musician who has grown increasingly confident with the direction he decided to take.

– Bruce Shutan, drummer and journalist

Contact:
Bruce Shutan | Publicist – 89 Peanuts, Inc.
21198 NW Wapinitia Ln, Portland, OR 97229
Home office: 503.430.8146 Mobile: 310.975.9618
Bruce.Shutan@89PeanutsInc.com | www.bruceshutan.com