



CD reviews January 2018

RICK SHEA & THE LOSIN 'KIND "The Town Where I Live" (Tres Pescadores Records) (5 stars ***)**

In the *States* this album appeared about five months ago and now it is finally Europe's turn. Finally, because in our opinion Rick Shea is becoming one of the most interesting *singer-songwriters* of the current *Americana* lot . On his ten-tenth solo album, his best, he sounds like the almost ideal cross between Dave Alvin and the late Merle Haggard, as a storyteller as well as a singer. With both gentlemen, Shea shares a striking, instantly recognizable, warm voice, made as it were to bring stories to the life. His pen on the other hand emphatically betrays his Californian musical background.

In the company of his regular companions of The Losin' End and here and there assisted by wonderful people like Cindy Wasserman, Claire Holley and Shawn Nourse, Shea treats us on "The Town Where I Live" to nine of his own new songs and a great cover of Cowboy Jack Clements "Guess Things Happen That Way". Tunes that intelligently navigate back and forth between genres such as *country*, *folk*, *blues* and *rock*. *American* music, as a *fan* for life of Dave Alvin at the time of the Blasters, I like to stick to the term he used. The album has quite a few stand out moments that remain.

Here, for example, we would like to mention the lovely *Americana* ballad "The Angel Mary and The Rounder Jim" and the truly excellent *border style country* of "The Town Where I Live", but also a few others, the Tom Russell reminiscent opening song "Goodbye Alberta", the moody narrative very strong coming from the corner "The Road To Jericho" and the groovy rocking "Hold On Jake".

<http://www.ctrlaltcountry.be/Pagina1.htm#RickSheaAndTheLosinKind>