

Escape From Moon Jail EP (44): Liner Notes

The Story behind Escape From Moon Jail

In the summer of 2015 I became wistful for our band (44) from the 1990s. I was inspired, then, to explore what viable material there might be for a possible release. Sitting on a closet shelf were two ½ inch reels of tape. My original plan was to locate the legendary and seemingly lost “7 Songs” set of recordings and have them transferred to a digital format. The tapes, having not been properly labeled left me with a choice. I mailed one of the tapes to David at the Thin Brown Line in California and waited. As it turns out the fabled “7 Songs” remain legendary and seemingly lost. But what I did receive were transferred files for songs that comprised the “Red Demo.” The tapes needed to be “baked” a bit, but the process was successful.

The Red Demo was recorded Tuesday evening, May 23, 1995 at Hennepin Technical College, Studio B, in Eden Prairie, MN. 44 personnel: Pat Gibbons, Dan Hylton, and Brian Wells. Recording Engineers were: Ben, Jenny, and Steve (Steve would eventually engineer the before mentioned and still legendary “7 Songs”). Our agent/manager, Tom Brewer, along with an associate, conducted additional engineering at Audio Magic in St. Paul, MN on Monday, September 25, 1995.

We recorded four songs, including an additional take of “New England Doesn’t Care” and “Uncle Funky.”

I remixed the four tracks at Terre Vista Studios and had them mastered by Sage Audio, Nashville, TN.

During this time, I also set about on an epic exploration of EVERYTHING this version of 44 had ever recorded, including live performances, rehearsals, and test recordings. I listened to several audio cassettes and VHS tapes, looking for anything that might be worthy for inclusion on the still emerging idea of an EP. The superior audio quality was on the VHS tapes. These tapes were converted to DVD and then the audio was extracted. Due to the age and quality and format of the recordings, a fair amount of technical wizardry was employed by our mastering engineer. Two songs, “Rio Paraguay,” and “Moth Killer” were taken from a performance at “The Fine Line” in Minneapolis on either March 11th or March 12th 1996. The other, “The Laundry Man” was taken from a performance recorded at “Ground Zero” January 30th 1995.

The EP was sequenced, cover art developed by Pat Mixdorf, our friend from Massachusetts, and released March 15th, 2019. In addition, two videos will also be released in support of the EP. The videos include the efforts of an animator, a dancer, friends, family, the editing abilities of Dan, and the vision of Sender’s Dream.

- *Pat Gibbons (former co-frontman of 44)*

Full Credits for *Escape From Moon Jail*

the tracks:

1. *The Shirt* (3:01)
2. *Uncle Funky* (4:20)
3. *New England Doesn't Care* (3:10)
4. *Unpolished Baby Boy* (5:28)
5. *Rio Paraguay (Live)* (6:38)
6. *The Laundry Man (Live)* (3:10)
7. *Moth Killer (Live)* (6:47)

words and music for all songs by Gibbons/Hylton

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the musicians:

Pat Gibbons: vocals, guitars

Dan Hylton: vocals, bass

Brian Wells: vocals, drums

the rest:

audio recording/engineering: Hennepin Technical College, Eden Prairie, MN (1995)

additional engineering: Audio Magic, St. Paul, MN (1995)

tape conversion: Thin Brown Line, Orange City, CA (2018)

remixing: Terre Vista Studios, Terre Haute IN (2018)

mastering: Sage Audio, Nashville, TN (2019)