

PRESS RELEASE & BIOGRAPHY 2008

Love Man Riding

The eleventh Philipp Fankhauser album was released the 25th April 2008 in Switzerland by SonyBMG and on the 20th of June 2008 world wide by CrossCut Records.

„Love Man Riding“, like its successful predecessor „Watching From The Safe Side“ (Funk Houes Blues, SonyBMG, 2006) was recorded with Fankhausers regular touring band including Richard Cousins on bass, Toshio Yakkatokuo on drums, Hendrix Ackle on piano and Hammond B3, and guitarist Marco Jencarelli. Guest appearances by Stephan Eicher and percussionist extraordinaire Luis Conte.

The album was recorded in Lucerne, Switzerland, and Los Angeles. Produced by multiple Grammy award winner Dennis Walker (Robert Cray, B.B. King, Bettye LaVette), „Love Man Riding“ spotlights twelve soulblues songs, with various flavours from Bossa Nova to Pop and R&B. Philipp’s soul can not be overheard on all twelve of the stylish tracks.

Philipp Fankhauser’s niche has become wider, and that’s a good thing!

Musicians

Philipp Fankhauser, Guitar, Vocals

Richards Cousins, Bass

Toshio Yakkatokuo, Drums

Hendrix Ackle, Piano, Hammond B3

Marco Jencarelli, Guitar

Guests

Stephan Eicher, ac. guitars, Dulcimer

Luis Conte, Percussion

Alan Mirikitani, Guitar

Jim Pugh, Hammond B3

Michael Vannice, Tenor Saxophone

Tom Peterson, Baritone Saxophone

Lee Thornburg, Trumpet

Ira Nepus, Trombone

Diane Witherspoon, Backing Vocals

Gerold Johnson, Backing Vocals

Producer

Dennis Walker, 3 time Grammy award winner (Robert Cray Band, B.B. King)

BIOGRAPHY

2008

LOVE MAN RIDING 25. April (Sony BMG)

The eleventh Philipp Fankhauser album is being released in Switzerland and enters the official Media Control Popcharts on position 7 just one week later

20. June 2008

„Love Man Riding“ is released in the European Union on the renowned CrossCut Records label as CD as well as 180gm2 audiophile vinyl Longplayer.

2007

Still working up to one hundred shows a year in Switzerland, The Netherlands, Germany , and Belgium. Highlights were the Blues Festival in Antwerp Belgium, and as special guest of The Swiss Jazz Orchestra at AVO Session in Basel and the KKL hall in Lucerne. The 2007 Gurtenfestival was another fine appearance.

In November Fankhauser pays tribute to his long time friend and mentor, the late, great Johnny “Clyde” Copeland, five sold out shows throughout Switzerland, including the Lucerne Blues Festival.

Just a few days later producer extraordinaire Dennis Walker lands in Switzerland, and Philipp Fankhauser and his group start recording the new album, scheduled to be released in april of 2008. Marco Jencarelli joins the group as their full time guitar player.

At the end of 2007 “Watching From The Safe Side”, Fankhauser’s 2006 album, reaches gold status for 15’000 units sold in Switzerland.

2006

WATCHING FROM THE SAFE SIDE

More than ten years after “On Broadway” in 1995, top producer Dennis Walker has produced another album with Philipp Fankhauser. “Watching from The Safe Side” is scheduled to be released in spring of 2006. It was recorded in Switzerland and in Los Angeles. The twelve tunes are mainly Fankhauser/Walker originals, but the album also includes two compositions by Johnny Copeland.

PHILIPP FANKHAUSER

PHILIPP FANKHAUSER IN FRANCE

On January 24th Philipp Fankhauser gives his first concert in France at the world's largest music trade fair MIDEM, and the 25th of January sees him perform at Paris' premier music club, the New Morning.

OLYMPIC GAMES, TORINO 2006

Switzerland invites Philipp Fankhauser to appear at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy. He performs at the House Of Switzerland, downtown Torino on February 20th 2006.

2005

OVER 100 LIVE SHOWS

Philipp Fankhauser and his band have performed more than one hundred shows in Switzerland and Europe, nearly all sold out. They have reached 30'000 listeners and sold, at the live shows alone, 4500 cds.

THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS WRITES ABOUT THE ALBUM TALK TO ME

The Blues music world is richer for it, don't miss it!
Blues Wax Ezine, Des Moines, Iowa

A highly impressive CD from a guy way ahead of much of the competition.

Blues & Rhythm, Bromham, UK

Shemekia Copeland's praise and the respect in the black Blues community for Philipp Fankhauser are well deserved!

Out Of Time Magazine, Milano, Italy

Brilliant as vocalist, above-average as guitar player, and excellent as song writer!

Blues News, Altena, Germany

Talk To Me presents the polished work of a seasoned entertainer!

Blues Revue, Salem, West Virginia, USA

Fankhauser doesn't sound the least bit like a visitor from Switzerland that unrealistically fancies himself as a blues singer!

Down Beat, Chicago, Illinois, USA

2004

RECORD DEAL WITH MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

Philipp Fankhauser signs a recording contract with "Memphis International Records". The new album "Talk To Me" is released world wide May 25th 2004. It gets raving reviews and excellent airplay at US

college radio stations, in Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, UK, Russia and Switzerland.

LIVE AT CHICAGO BLUES FESTIVAL 2004

Fankhauser and his band perform at the Chicago Blues Festival June 12th 2004, the first time a European artist ever played the world's largest Blues festival.

TALK TO ME MAKES IT ONTO THE GRAMMY 2005 VOTING-BALLOT

Talk To Me enters the pre-selection for the Grammy nomination in the category "Best Contemporary Blues Album of The Year 2005" with 47 other albums. Fankhauser doesn't get the nomination, losing against Dr. John, Van Morrison, Keb Mo', Johnny Winter, and Charlie Musslewhite.

2003

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS AT THE BELLINZONA BLUES FESTIVAL

Philipp Fankhauser gets a call to perform the prestigious Bellinzona Blues Festival (artists included luminaries such as King Solomon Burke, Kenny Neal, Johnny Winter, Lucky Peterson and Big Jack Johnson) and the press calls his and the band's performance one of the highlights of this year's festival! Release of the live album "Live - So Damn Cool", Fankhauser's eighth album. Philipp Fankhauser & Alvin Youngblood Hart meet for a week long tour.

1995

DENNIS WALKER PRODUCES PHILIPP FANKHAUSER & THE MEMPHIS HORNS

Dennis Walker, legendary producer and song writer for Robert Cray, John Campbell, Lowell Fulson, B.B. King and many others, hears of Philipp Fankhauser and produces his first U.S. album, "On Broadway". The album includes some of L.A.'s finest musicians and the legendary Memphis Horns, Andrew Love and Wayne Jackson. Fankhauser visits Europe with the L.A. Band and the Memphis Horns for 30 sold out shows. Swiss Radio International honors the work of Philipp Fankhauser by producing the album "His kind of Blues", a best of CD including 17 tracks of his previous 5 albums. "His kind of Blues" is released in April of 1996 and is sent to over 1500 radio stations in over 120 countries around the world.

1994

FANKHAUSER JOINS JOHNNY COPELAND FOR A US TOUR

Philipp Fankhauser follows the invitation of longtime friend Johnny Copeland, and joins him as a featured vocalist. The tour leads through some of America's

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finest Blues venues, such as Tramps, New York City, Mick Fleetwood's, Washington D.C., B.B. King's Blues Club, Memphis TN, Antone's, Austin TX, Buddy Guy's Legends, Chicago IL, House of Blues, Boston MA, and many others. He will not return to Switzerland until late in the year 2000.

1993 – 2000 THE US YEARS

Philipp Fankhauser lives and works in the United States. He's touring throughout the US with Johnny Copeland and his band, sometimes even being allowed to steer the Ford Van. He's searching for the essence of the Blues from New Orleans to Anchorage, plays six rounds of pool with Otis Rush (and loses all of 'em big time), asks Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown about the content of his smoking pipe (he'd rather not have asked), mowes several yards of several houses to buy food, rents out Harley-Davidson motorcycles in San Diego, guides dozens of Harley tours from Chicago to L.A., from Scottsdale to San Francisco, and from New Orleans thru Louisiana and Mississippi to Chicago. He fries hamburgers and produces cds for various artists, drives his 66 Cadillac Coupe de Ville thru Texas, meets very smart and not very smart people, records his seventh album "Welome To The Real World" in 1997 in Nashville (with about 1000 units sold a super flop), eats noodles and rice for weeks, until some money is rolling in, writes new songs, and generally bitches about everyday life in the US of A.

In the year **2000** he returns to his homeland Switzerland, and by coincidence (or maybe because of a certain amount of know how he accrued in the US), Philipp Fankhauser gets appointed general manager of a major Harley-Davidson dealership in Switzerland. After only six months Fankhauser gives notice, and finally returns to his real calling, the music.

1992 THE TIGHTEST BLUES BAND ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

The second album "...with a feeling!" without Margie Evans adds many concerts to the busy schedule of the Checkerboard Blues Band. In 1991 alone the band works over 150 shows all over Europe. Short concert tour with special guest Johnny "Clyde" Copeland.

The third album "Dedicated" establishes the band as "the best and tightest Blues band on this (European) side of the Atlantic Ocean" (Blueprint Magazine, London). The band works with Katie Webster, Luther

Allison, Johnny Adams and Louisiana Red.

The seventh and last year of the "Swiss" Checkerboard Blues Band is 1993. A three day sold out concert series are recorded live and appear as the band's fourth CD, "Thun - San Francisco".

1989 MARGIE EVANS HELPS PHILIPP FANKHAUSER

The first album "Blues for the Lady" with guest star Margie Evans is released in 1989. The L.A. based Blues lady (and former Johnny Otis Show vocalist) Margie Evans joins Philipp to promote the CD, and works with him and his band at the Amsterdam Blues Festival, San Remo Blues Festival Italy, Berlin Jazz Festival, among many others.

"Blues for the Lady" hits the charts at CHUO FM Ottawa and KCSB Radio in Santa Barbara, and countless other stations in Europe and Japan. Extensive touring with Margie Evans throughout Europe in 1990.

1964 - 1988

Born in 1964 under the sign of pisces in beautiful Thun (spelled like toon as in Cartoon), Switzerland, Philipp Fankhauser already at an early age preferred to be sung to sleep by his mum singing The Beatles rather than some of the "regular" lullabyes! In 1974 he moved to the italian part of Switzerland with his mother, where for the first time he was confronted with the recordings of Johnny "Guitar" Watson. Only shortly thereafter his brother Christoph gave him an LP by the great Chicago piano pioneer Sunnyland Slim. That was really the starting point of Philipp's obsession with black american Blues. Not that he would have understood a word of the lyrics, but he captured the feeling and the expression of this so uniquely melanchonic music. In 1977, at age thirteen, he received the legendary first guitar, which is still on his side to this day. It was the beginning of the strong desire to be a Blues player himself one day. Philipp collected every piece of information, every piece of sound he could find and afford, and was so obsessed with his love for the Blues, that no other hobbies had in any way place in his live. His output in school was not the greatest accordingly; he knew he was to be a Blues singer, so no need for much schooling anyway!

In 1980 Philipp first met Louisiana Red, who took him on stage, and showed him many invaluable tricks and licks. At his first visit to the famed Montreux Jazz Festival 1981 he was introduced to the frantic music of Albert Collins. 1982 he moved back to his city of birth, Thun, and after a year in his

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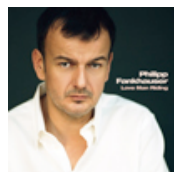
PHILIPP FANKHAUSER

father's house, he definitely moved out to live by himself. He knew the way to go: Blues singer! In the same year he started to appear with a friend as a Blues duo, and they mainly played the streets of Bern, Switzerland. Their first Blues band had very very moderate success.

In 1983 he witnessed the legendary "Blues Explosion" again in Montreux: B.B. King, Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson, J.B. Hutto, Koko Taylor, Sugar Blue, Willie Dixon, John Lee Hooker and the young and by then relatively unknown Stevie Ray Vaughan; Philipp met them and they all received him well. Throughout the eighties Philipp met Memphis Slim, Luther Allison, Katie Webster, with whom he even toured for a short while, Piano Red, former Howlin' Wolf guitarist Hubert Sumlin, Carey Bell, Son Seals, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, Jimmy Witherspoon, and many more. He started concentrating on solo appearances in 1984 and had quite a few concerts in that year. It was also 1984 when Texas Blues Master Johnny Copeland, again at Montreux Jazz Festival, blew Philipp Fankhauser completely away. Never before did he experience such intense, raw and moving Blues. Johnny Copeland would be Philipp's major influence from then on, and in the later years would even become a very close friend and mentor.

Then, throughout the eighties he'd seen all the American Folk Blues Festivals that were touring Europe since 1962. John Lee Hooker, Son Seals, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, Albert King, The Legendary Blues Band, and, foremost, the wonderful Margie Evans. With Margie, whom he first met in 1983, he is still on very close terms and is staying in touch on a regular basis. It was Margie Evans that helped him beyond one's imagination with her guest appearance on his first album with the Checkerboard Blues Band in 1989. "Blues For The Lady" is by many considered a classic today.

Discography



LOVE MAN RIDING

Released: 2008

Label: Funk House Blues/SonyBMG/CrossCut Records
with Richard Cousins, Toshio Yakkatokuo, Hendrix Ackle,
Marco Jencarelli, Alan Mirikitani, Luis Conte, Stephan Eicher

Produced by Dennis Walker



WATCHING FROM THE SAFE SIDE

Released: 2006

Label: Funk House Blues/SonyBMG
with Richard Cousins, Toshio Yakkatokuo, Hendrix Ackle, Marco
Jencarelli, Alan Mirikitani, The Sweet Inspirations

Produced by Dennis Walker

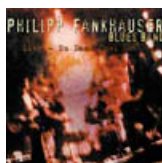


TALK TO ME

Released: 2004

Label: Memphis International Records
with The Memphis Horns

Produced by Dennis Walker & David Less



LIVE - SO DAMN COOL

Released: 2003

Label: Funk House Blues Productions
with Richard Cousins and Toshio Yakkatokuo

Produced by Philipp Fankhauser



WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD

Released: 2000

Label: Funk House Blues Productions

Produced by Bobby Kyle



HIS KIND OF BLUES

Released: 1996

Label: Swiss Radio Int'l / Musica Helvetica

Produced by Patrick Linder for SRI

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ON BROADWAY

Released: 1995

Label: Funk House Blues Productions
with The Memphis Horns

Produced by Dennis Walker

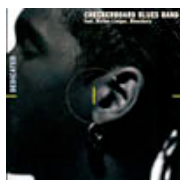


THUN - SAN FRANCISCO

Released: 1994

Label: Funk House Blues Productions
with Margie Evans

Produced by Philipp Fankhauser



DEDICATED

Released: 1992

Label: Funk House Blues Productions

Produced by Hans Raymondaz



WITH A FEELING

Released: 1991

Label: Funk House Blues Productions

Produced by Philippe Cornu and Hans Raymondaz



BLUES FOR THE LADY

Released: 1989

Label: Funk House Blues Productions
with Margie Evans

Produced by Philipp Fankhauser

MAJOR CONCERTS

AVO Session, Basel, (support for Elton John)
Chicago Blues Festival, Chicago 2004
B&W Rhythm'n'Blues Festival, Halle, Germany
Antwerp Rhythm & Blues Fest, Antwerp, Belgium
New Morning, Paris, France
Midem Showcase, Cannes, France
Moods, Zürich, Switzerland
Kaufleuten, Zürich, Switzerland
Paléo Festival, Nyon, Switzerland
Petöfi Blues Festival, Budapest, Hungary
San Remo Blues Festival, Italy
Amsterdam Blues Festival, Amsterdam
Quasimodo Club, Berlin, Germany
Volkshaus, Zurich, Switzerland
Gurtenfestival, Bern, Switzerland
Open Air St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland
New Orleans Jazz Festival, Ascona, Switzerland
Bellinzona Blues Festival, Switzerland
Handzame Blues Festival, Klerken, Belgium
Heritage Folk & Blues Festival, Lexington, Kentucky
Bayfront Blues Festival, Duluth, Minnesota

US-TOUR WITH JOHNNY COPELAND 1994

Tramps New York City, Chicago Blues New York City
Manny's Car Wash New York City, The Bottom Line
New York City, Mick Fleetwood's Alexandria, B.B.
King's Club Memphis, Buddy Guy's Legends Chicago,
Blues E.T.C. Chicago, Antone's Austin, Billy Blues
San Antonio, House of Blues Boston, House of Blues
New Orleans, House of Blues Hollywood, Blind
Willie's Atlanta, Stanhope House, Stanhope, The
Boom Boom Room San Francisco, The Blues Saloon
Minneapolis

MAJOR INFLUENCES AND APPEARANCES WITH

Johnny Copeland
Margie Evans
Luther Allison
Katie Webster
Sonny Rhodes
Carey Bell
Johnny Adams
Louisiana Red
The Memphis Horns
Dennis Walker
Phillip Walker

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STATEMENTS

"Talk To Me" presents the polished work of a seasoned entertainer!

Michael Cote, Blues Revue, December 2004

Fankhauser doesn't sound the least bit like a visitor from Switzerland that unrealistically fancies himself as a blues singer!

Frank Hadley, Downbeat, November 2004

Philipp Fankhauser's economical, clean guitar style shows the influence of his mentor, Johnny Copeland!

Joseph Taylor, Soundstage September 2004

"Talk to Me" benefits from roomy production and punchy playing!

David Whiteis, Chicago Reader, June 2004

Those who were expecting Swiss guitarist-vocalist Philipp Fankhauser to come out with ax swinging will be surprised by the soulful sound of this CD!

Jeff Johnson, Chicago Sun Times, June 2004

Brilliant as vocalist, above-average as guitar player, and excellent as song writer!

Uwe Meier, Blues News Germany, July 2004

Brilliantly performed current album of the vocalist and guitar player from Switzerland!

Rudi Steinke, BluesBox.de, August 2004

I've always been impressed with Philipp's musical ability; I mean, he totally has it down!

Shemekia Copeland, 2004

The Philipp Fankhauser Blues Band is sensational! **Ian McKenzie, Blues In The South, 2003**

I am definitely more than just a little impressed!

Kai Becker, Blues Radio Germany, 2003

The Band is tight, professional and soulful. They've done a marvelous job in interpreting the American Black Blues!

Greg Drust, KCSB Radio Santa Barbara, CA 1989

The Band is hot!

Patrick Beaudry, CHUO-FM 89, Ottawa 1990

The Album Dedicated is brilliant! The basic point I make is that Checkerboard is ahead of just about any other Blues Band on this side of the Atlantic Ocean!

Norman Darwen, Blueprint Magazine, Blackpool, 1992

Previously I have stated that Otis Grand's recent release should be album of the year. I now may have cause to eat my own words..."Dedicated" blows away all other European competition to date!

Brian Harman, Blueprint Magazine, London 1993

I really enjoyed listening to the album Dedicated and feel that it has great potential.

I wish you much success and look forward to meet you someday!"

John Lee Hooker (personal letter to Philipp) 1992

The Band of the year!

Darral Campbell, Radio KRED 90.5 FM, Eureka, California, 1992

I'm very impressed! It's different of what we usually get!

Brett Bonner, Living Blues Magazine, Oxford, Mississippi, 1992

You're Swiss? Amazing!

Robert Jr. Lockwood

(at B.B.King's Blues Club in Memphis after hearing Philipp Fankhauser opening the set for Johnny Copeland May 1994)

Philipp is one of the Blues futures!

Johnny "Clyde" Copeland, 1991