After Hours: Lou Reed Gets Darkly Upbeat Career Retrospective from Indie Scene

U.S.-based indie label **Wampus Multimedia** introduces *After Hours: a Tribute to the Music of Lou Reed*. Featuring 14 Reed classics interpreted by emerging artists in the indie community, *After Hours* focuses on Reed's monumental contribution to literate, modern songcraft.

Through track selection and sequencing, *After Hours* traces Reed's career from the late 1960s to the present. From the unflinching optimism of Johnny J Blair's "Sunday Morning" to the cerebral ambivalence of Brook Pridemore's title track, *After Hours* tells the story of an artist unencumbered by popular expectations, yet, intriguingly, popular. From Radio Caroline's understated "Pale Blue Eyes" to Kowtow Popof's playful take on the seminal "Satellite of Love," the CD looks beyond the famous Reed persona to the unqualified brilliance of the Reed songs.

"This project brought out a lot of interesting artists, people who knew the Lou Reed catalog about as well as anyone could," said producer Mark Doyon. "We had submissions from all over the world. Choosing the tracks was, realistically, impossible, so we dug right in. It was less about 'merit' than it was about creating a narrative, weaving a story."

The project began in 2001, after Wampus released its first tribute CD, *If I Were a Richman: a Tribute to the Music of Jonathan Richman*. "We chose Lou because he's Richman's antecedent," Doyon said, "and a central inspiration and influence in modern rock 'n' roll. Things would sound a lot different today if Lou had lost interest in music in 1964."

After Hours runs the gamut of Reed's eclectic career, from Velvet Underground nuggets (Cordalene's "Who Loves the Sun," The Crowd Scene's "Candy Says," Joe Scinta's "Temptation Inside Your Heart," The Special Agents' "All Tomorrow's [Beach] Parties") to vintage early solo material (Okapi Guitars' "Vicious," tvfordogs' "How Do You Think It Feels," Silent4's "I Love You," Music for Viola's "Going Down") to latter-day Lou (The Underhills' "Turn to Me," Lee Rude's "Cremation"). *After Hours* paints a portrait of an adventurous auteur of American song.

Whether one sees Reed as the Godfather of Punk, a Dylan refractor, a cross-dressing provocateur, or an earnest missionary for the cause of literate rock music, his influence can't be denied. His career spans more than 35 years, from his seminal role in the Velvet Underground through his reinventions as glam jester, hardcore pre-punk, lovestruck Romeo, and, finally, acerbic rock 'n' roll survivor. Through it all, he has towered over most of his contemporaries, redefining the boundaries and potential of rock composition.

After Hours: a Tribute to the Music of Lou Reed is available from **CD Street, CD Baby, Amazon, Borders, CD Now** and many other retailers.

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