

# HANK SHIZZOE & LOOSE GRAVEL

## PLENTY OF TIME

Hank Shizzoe's third album is called „Plenty Of Time“. Following „Low Budget“ and „Walk“, performed with various different formations, it was only logical to make a record with Hank's live band, Loose Gravel. The line-up of this group consists of Michel Poffet on double bass and Christoph Beck on drums, percussion and backing vocals.

„Plenty Of Time“ was once again produced by Thomas Erb, but this time in collaboration with recording engineer Ron Kurz. The recording sessions took place in October 1997 at the Muehle Hunziken, an old mill in the village of Rubigen, near Berne, Switzerland. „Plenty of Time“ is not a live album, although all the basic tracks were recorded directly without any technical interference. To catch the feel of musicians playing together in one room was a top priority in the recording sessions.

The brilliant keyboard work of guest musician Christian Brantschen is an integral part of the sound of this band. Limiting the orchestration to piano, organ, and wurlitzer endows the album with warm undertones. Schifer Schafer gives guest performances in four songs and does what he did for two years on stage with Hank Shizzoe and Loose Gravel: with his unique guitar-playing he gives the arrangements fullness and airiness both at once. With „Plenty of Time“, Hank Shizzoe has succeeded in developing further as a guitarist and as a singer.

Shizzoe's music is still first and foremost guitar music. Thomas Erb wrote 12 of the 13 songs. Unlike its predecessor „Walk“, this album contains new songs that are more concise and avoid musical circumlocutions. They are concerned with the world in which we actually live, and with the way we live in it - with life, in fact. Limiting them to the essentials, however, also gives these songs more time to develop - „Plenty Of Time.“

„Between the Lines“ was written by John Fogerty, the legendary singer, multi-instrumentalist and composer of „Creedence Clearwater Revival“. John Fogerty has not previously released „Between the Lines“, and kindly made it available for „Plenty of Time.“

„Plenty Of Time“ largely does without tricks and trickery. From unadorned rock („Arrows Through My Heart“, „Indian Girl“, „1-800-

Grand-Prize“) to relaxed („What I Can't Forget“), or pulsating rhythm'n'blues („She's Back In Town“, „Silvertone Guitar“) to quiet folk and blues („Train Song“, „The Life Of A Thief“, „Same Time, Same Place“), ballads („One Fine Day“), and pop-like folk-rock („Being There With You“), „Plenty of Time“ ploughs a furrow through the musical field generally called Roots-Rock, Americana, or Singer-/Songwriter-music.

