

WAYLON AFTER ALL

It took two years, five studios and three countries, but Waylon's second album is finally here. 'After All' contains eleven tracks, each one of them an ode to love. Do not expect sugar coated, candle lit, puppy love songs, because, according to Waylon, "love puts all emotions on edge, the good *and* the bad. Therefore it is such a nice thing to sing about. There's always the danger that you succumb to using clichés, but that's not the case on the songs on this album. You have to have lived first, stumbled and fallen and gotten up again, and you must have met that one special person, to get to the core. To know that that entire scope of emotions are at the same time bizarre, fantastic and contradictory."

And that *tour d'amour* includes more than just Waylon's matters of the heart. It's also been typical for the way 'After All' has come to be.

The production process starts in the London Kensaltown Studios, the same place where 'Wicked Ways' was recorded in 2009. "I thought: never change a winning team. And although the music and lyrics came quite easily, I had my doubts about the sound. I did not want an extension of my debut album. I wanted more." He then tries it with his childhood heroes of the country band Big House in Bakersfield, California. Again: there's a click, but not the result he is looking for. Waylon decides to go to London once again, this time to try another producer. Everything and everyone is ready, when one day before departure suddenly music legend Steve Jordan calls: "That man has worked with all the greatest artists, so if he wants to work with you, you don't say no."

But after one month of trying and struggling in New York, Waylon returns to the Netherlands disillusioned and confused. "This time there just hadn't been any connection, musically or spiritually. When I came home in March, I was exasperated. I had lost interest in the album and I actually wanted to throw everything away. I felt that I had failed." With the support of his band, Waylon eventually ends up in a studio in the picturesque Dutch harbor town of Volendam, where they have a few weeks of eating, sleeping, recording, and especially laughing a lot. And after that all it requires is one last trip to London, to the studio where the whole process began, to straighten out the album. The result: 'After All'.

About that name Waylon says: "'After All' refers to a song on the album, but it also sums up my feelings about the last two years. What have I learned of everything that has happened, what has that whole trip meant to me?"

The Escapist

"The first song is about a situation that everyone has experienced at least once: getting stuck in a bad relationship, but not knowing how to get out. I want this track to show the escape route to that person, I want to be her good Samaritan. She knows that there is more to life, that there's an alternative, but she has yet to be convinced. Whether it's a musical pipe that you

hear? Ha ha, no, I'm not the Pied Piper. Although... it did work for him..."

Lucky Night

"Sometimes you can have a night on the town, and then suddenly: bam! Your eyes meet somebody else's, and you just know it's going to be your evening. Pure lust. *'I don't wanna talk, it's just a feeling that I've got for you baby/ So let's get physical'*. And yes, the next day you want to tell your friends about it. It means a lot to a man, when the prettiest girl of the ball falls for you."

After All

"Man, I hate lying. Therefore I wrote this song, which can be summarized by the Dutch saying: no matter how fast the lie, the truth will catch up. I did a lot of bad things in my life, but I dare say I've never hurt anyone intentionally. Did I hurt people? Yes. But deliberately? No."

Need A Little Time

"This song is close to my heart. Sometimes someone can say: 'I need more time', which is essentially a rejection in disguise, right? I don't believe in that. If in doubt, you can certainly take more time, but only if you take that time together. That's the only way you can find out whether things are still right between you. I know that you can talk yourself into a certain feeling: *'You told yourself something feels wrong'*. The easiest way is to end it, while just as easily taking some more time can lead to something good."

Jealousy

"Somehow this song sounds like a folk song, something you'd hear if you'd enter an old pub right after closing time. That fits with a dark, overwhelming emotion like jealousy: *'It hits you right from the start / Like a knife in the heart'*. It can lead to horrible actions and thoughts, just look at history. I think that horrible part is fascinating. The pain of the person in this song drives him to go and look for his lover with *'the devil in his hand'* - a gun."

Lose It

"That girl from *'The Escapist'*? That turned into love. And where love blossoms, you also get the feeling that you can freak out any moment: *'You lose it'*. One the one hand you have that despair and self-chastisement, while on the other hand you have the exhilarating feeling of being truly alive, that it's exciting. Uncertainty is both attractive and maddening, and as long as you have that in your relationship, you maintain the feeling that you have to continue to fight for it. Although I must say that peace in a relationship at times can also be very nice..."

Desperate Situation

"This is just an awesome track that suddenly came up. It's a song that was originally written for Marvin Gaye, and through Motown it ended up with me. I feel really honored that I was allowed to record it. And I recognize that feeling as well: you lover is gone, you lie awake in bed, and it drives you crazy."

Speed Of Love (Can't Sleep)

"You can see this track as a simple love song, as well as an ode to true love. You can look for it your whole life, catching every plane, trains and automobile, turn over every stone, but the joke is that your true love cannot be found. She finds you, she'll bowl you over. And when that happens, it hits you hard: *'The speed of love'*. Anyway, that's how I've experienced it."

The Satisfier

"This is the most up-tempo song on the album, about a punk with a big mouth. But actually this track is especially good for the band: the drummer, the horn players, the guitarists, everyone can get his little moment in the spotlight here, show off a bit. At that moment, in the studio or on stage, we are all *'satisfiers'*."

Time For Us

"I want this song to be about hope. Everyone is busy, certainly with his or her own things, but every now and then you have to just get away from the daily grind together. When the going gets tough you have to believe better times are ahead, and strive for that together. Have the courage to stay together. Faith. Change if necessary."

Unfaithful

'An honest song, a confession: *'I want to tell you how I'm feeling'*. She forgives him, but it also ends the relationship. Adultery always leads to the unavoidable dilemma: Am I going to tell, taking the risk the relationship will end, but getting a clear conscience? Or am I keeping my mouth shut and will I live with that gnawing feeling? He has to tell, he does, he loses her, but he'll never forget her: *'I still remember who you are.'*

With his new album 'After All' Waylon wants to continue down the path that in the past two years led him in the right direction. Make music, do exciting shows, believe in himself, and work very hard. "I've gotten a clear purpose in my life. Silly as it might sound to say this, I have matured. And that pays off: people come to see me today because my music means something to them. It's beautiful if you're about to do a show somewhere, and they already have a smile on their faces before you've even played a note. That's fantastic and very special and I hope to be able to experience that for a long time to come."

'After All' will be released on November 4.

Waylon's 'Lucky Night Tour' started October 8. Expect more rock, even more soul, even more stage presence. After all, it's Waylon.

October 2011