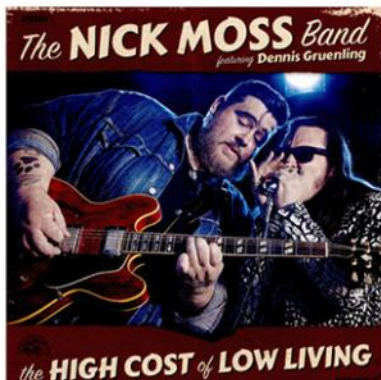


Rhythms



THE NICK MOSS BAND FEAT. DENNIS GRUENLING
THE HIGH COST OF LOW LIVING
 Alligator/Only Blues Music
 BLUES

Following in the footsteps of musicians like Dave Specter and Steve Freund, Nick Moss represents the younger generation of Chicago blues guitarists. He came up through the ranks playing alongside such bluesmen as Jimmy Dawkins and Jimmy Rogers. Moss' debut for Alligator Records sees him joined by long-time friend Dennis Gruenling whose technical mastery of the blues harp adds another dimension to his band. They trade fiery licks over 13 songs including Otis Spann's 'Get Your Hands Out Of My Pockets', Boyd Gilmore's take on Robert Johnson's 'Rambling On My Mind' and Santo & Johnny's jump blues instrumental 'All Night Diner'. Among Moss' originals is a minor-key ode to late pianist Barrelhouse Chuck 'He Walked With Giants'; Gruenling belting out vocals on his old school rock'n'roll contributions the Chuck Berry-inspired 'Count On Me' and the Bo Diddley-flavoured 'Lesson To Learn'. Moss and his crew cover all the bases of post-war Chicago blues in the spirit of great ensembles like the Aces.

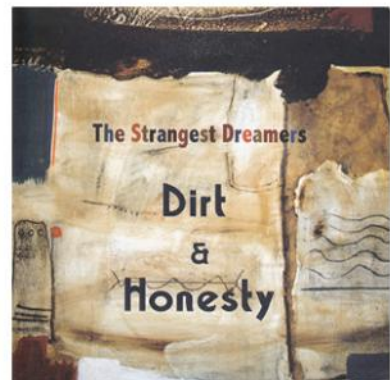
AL HENSLEY



THE SHEYANA BAND
BIG LOVE
 MGM
 ADULT-ORIENTED ROCK

It's not every Australian band that can boast a Top Ten hit single in Sri Lanka, but that's what happened in 2015 for Tasmanian four-piece The Sheyana Band, courtesy of London-born Sri Lankan singer, songwriter and guitarist Sheyana Wijesingha. Though Sheyana and guitarist Scott Mainwaring (ex-Pale Riders) have been working together some 13 years, the band as such only got around to releasing their debut EP, *Keep The Change*, in 2015, and *Big Love* is their debut album, and a nice solid piece of work it is. Sheyana has that big, powerful kind of rock voice that puts her in the Suzi DeMarchi, Sarah McLeod, Monique Brumby league, and musically, she shares a lot with those women and their respective bands. Her voice is complemented perfectly by Mainwaring's guitar work and a punchy, versatile rhythm section in bass player Dan Jeffrey and drummer Beau Thomas, the three musicians obviously in synch with Sheyana's lyrical ideas, subtle in their arrangements where necessary without losing any of the power of the emotion or direction of the narrative.

MICHAEL SMITH



THE STRANGEST DREAMERS
DIRT & HONESTY
 Independent
 ROOTS/SINGER-SONGWRITER

Since they formed over five years ago The Strangest Dreamers have built up a loyal following on the Sunshine Coast recording and performing at local gigs and music festivals in various configurations. This CD, their third release, sees the band fully realised as a sextet comprising lead and rhythm guitars, keyboards/accordion, harmonica, bass and drums. Eclectic influences from blues, folk, country and zydeco music permeate the sound which is grounded in creative instrumentation. But it's the band's vocal harmonies that give it a commanding presence. With six-stringers Jim Dowling and Pat Craigie, the band's chief songwriters and lead singers, backup vocals by other band members provide a full-toned resonance. Leroy Carr's 'In The Evening When The Sun Goes Down', Joe Hill's 'Rebel Girl' and the gospel/soul traditional 'Look Up' are the only non-originals in a 13-song set occasionally featuring session guests playing violin, accordion and mandolin.

AL HENSLEY

