

# AD VANDERVEEN

<b>New Album:</b>	<b>Live Labor</b>
<b>Cat.-No.:</b>	<b>BLU DP0615</b>
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## *Live Labor belated liner notes*

Ok, let's get this out of the way; out of all my favorite artists, Neil Young is the biggest inspiration that has influenced my music over the years. In much the same way that I guess Chuck Berry influenced Keith Richards, Woodie Guthrie Bob Dylan, Bob Dylan so many others, the history of popular music is filled with examples, running a relay, passing things on and carrying it further. There's many other people that had a deep impact on me but somehow none of them come through in my work as clear as Neil does. He's like an older brother, a force of nature, and something just naturally resonates inside beyond my control.

All this is concerning form and style. The songs themselves and lyrical content are a different matter, they come from a deeper well that has been springing throughout my life and, fortunately, doesn't feel like it's about to run dry.

**The O'Neils** are a tribute to this and a youngster's rock'n'roll dream, guys growing up in the sixties and jamming in the garage, inspired by the music of their heroes. The band first came together as a one-off gig for the Dutch NY fan club in 1996. I got the request and called up some old neighborhood buddies to see if we could still get the jamming spirit like we used to. As it goes, most of them were hardly actively pursuing music, sidetracked as they were by careers and families and such, but it soon appeared that the instincts were well intact and the gig went over great.

One thing led to another and this inspired me to cut my own songs with the guys; a studio was booked and our first CD was made in 1998. The line up and repertoire evolved over the years that followed; 16 years of on-and-off touring and recording shaped the band and forged a bond that made 4 quite unlikely rock'n'roll band-types feel like some sort of family. **Purple, Tim, Marty and Lefty O'Neil**, later joined by **Kersten de Ligny**, were in it for an unexpected long run. After all, how many times does one get to have such long standing relationships in a lifetime?

So here we are, as some of us 16 year-olds turn 61, on the road in our beloved Germany in the cold spring of 2013. It's our last date on a 10 day tour in Wredenhagen, near Berlin, and I'm sick with a cold and fever, thinking would this be my first show cancellation ever. Not in a very good musical shape for singing and playing, let alone recording. Come showtime the place is packed and the same instinct and energy that we spring from carries us through; the band rocks and is right there supporting me, improvising and rocking through songs old and new and feeding off the energy of the crowd.

Weeks later, to my surprise, a CD with a recording of the show landed on my doormat and playing it back I got a sense of listening to someone else, hearing the music I made in spite of myself on the wings of rock'n'roll. It was rough and the mix was funny here and there but it rocked and I got a kick out of it. I'm happy my German label Blue Rose did too and now it's out there as an authorized bootleg CD, a great souvenir of where we've come since the old neighborhood days. It's a *live labor* of love and I'm glad to have it there.

**AV, august 2013**

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