

41 DAYS

DUST ON THE NEEDLE

honkytonk records htr011

<https://jedgrimes.bandcamp.com/album/dust-on-the-needle-41-days>

DUST ON THE NEEDLE - a great name for a great good-time band!

A band with a style at once fresh, energetic and yet steeped in musical history.

The name was the brain child of co-founder **Pat Rafferty (Archie Brown & The Young Bucks)**, who contacted **Jed Grimes (Hedgehog Pie, The Doonans, The Hush)** in the mid 80s to discuss an idea.

That idea was to combine the pair's love of **cajun, soul, R&B and country music** into a musical stew, see what came out.

So - we had a name and a musical idea - now all we needed was a band to hang them on!

The 80s was a time of creative fluidity among musicians in North East UK, with many established players looking round for something new to do outside of their musical 'day jobs', so it wasn't long before a fluid but reasonably stable core was established, with Pat's vocals, keyboard and hot accordion skills, Jed on vocals and guitar, now joined by **Ray Laidlaw (Lindisfarne)** on drums, **Ian Thomson (Young Bucks)** on bass, **Marty Craggs** on sax and vocals, and **Ross Winning** on trumpet.

The resulting sound was immediately tight, focussed and punchy.

Pared to the bone arrangements and a fantastic groove permeated everything they played. A lot of musical nouse and eclectic good taste went into the signature Dust On The Needle sound!

The songs? From a hopped up version of the old **Ernest Tubb** lament 'Ain't Goin' Honky Tonkin' Anymore', taken at a fair old lick, Pat's cajun/blues shuffle 'What A Price', complete with verses sung in French, to **Louvin Brothers'** country gospel songs, and out-and-out soul with **William Bell's** classic 'You Don't Miss Your Water' (featuring guest vocals by actress/singer **Annie Orwin**, a stalwart of the respected Live Theatre roster) - **not forgetting the album's title track '41 Days', an out-and-out train-wreck zydeco stomp...**

Rapidly established as Newcastle's premier party band, the Dusties were invited to play many roots festivals - **Trowbridge, Beverley Folk Festivals** among them - appeared on **BBC R2's Paul Jones Blues Show** (featuring another NE legend on vocals, **Michael Whitaker**)...merged for a time with the Lindisfarne pop/rock offshoot Pacamax...arranged some tunes with Northumbrian piper **Kathryn Tickell** for a **BBC Radio Two special**...played every decent-sized venue in the north and down south too...**Dust On The Needle** were embraced equally by the folk scene and at rock and jazz venues everywhere.

The tightest rhythm section around, and the unique blend of rocking accordion riffing with rockabilly guitar and the compact, punchy horn section was way ahead of its time!

This is the only studio recording ever made by Dust On The Needle.

We've blown most of the dust off, given it a very reverent polish, and sent it out to you.

Take it out, stick it on your Dansette, give it a spin - we defy you not to shake your booty!