

MAURICE TANI

77 el Deora

BLUE LINE

BLUE LINE is the fourth studio album from Californographic singer-songwriter Maurice Tani and 77 El Deora. The 13-track collection provides another spin with Tani through his original narratives of open roads and closed chapters and, as always, a unique take on a few classics.

"When I'm Drinkin' (I Ain't Thinkin')" is classic hillbilly noir—a honky tonk shuffle that contemplates the nature of "filters" and alcohol as a lubricant for social interaction. "Fields of Green," (co-written with Ken Owen and Paul Griffiths) is a romantic ode on the classical theme of a realization that there's no place like home. Queueing up a cover, Maurice and the band then brings a moody and erotic blend to Chuck Berry's classic "Nadine."

Tani's long-time muse and sparring partner-in-crime **Jenn Courtney** renders the intimate "Three Flights to L.A." in breathy, cascading tones: "She's Venus in repose tonight." And then, reprised from Tani's checkered music past (as Calamity & Main, from Honky Tonk Heaven, WIR 0103 2003), "Twisted" makes a comeback in fresh dungarees with smokin' fiddle and mandolin solos. "I Think of You" (also penned with Owen) is a dark ballad of unrequited love, jealousy and desperation that will chill the bones of the warmest soul.

English songstress **Pam Brandon** makes the first of two appearances with "New Dress," a moody yet freedom-claiming impressionist tale of personal rejuvenation. Maurice takes a bluesy-jazzy approach to Mario DeSio's "Red Wine," which features an extensive, soaring sax solo over a liquid, dreamy groove. Track 9 is a shadowy re-imagining of Burt Bacharach's classic "Walk On By" swathed in lush pedal steel pads and reverb guitar; instantly recognizable yet singular in style.

The album's rustic and sparsely-arranged title track "Blue Line" is a sordid tale of power, excess, corruption and "redemption" at the hands of fate. (Disclaimer: Any similarity to persons living or dead, or events past or future, is purely coincidental.) "Happy Hour" (yet another penned with Owen) is a broken-hearted honky tonk ode that features a soaring melody, pedal steel hijinx and a protagonist that clings to hope where none appears to be. The character in Jim Bruno's "Don't Say It's Over" is a bit less delusional, but just as committed to a relationship that appears to have fallen apart. Blue Line ends with vocalist Brandon back for a duet with Maurice on a gorgeously dark take on Hank Williams' jukebox favorite, "Your Cheatin' Heart."

Personell: Vocals -Maurice Tani, Jenn Courtney (4), Pam Brandon (7, 13);
Accordion -Linda "Big Lou" Seekins (13); Basses -Mike Anderson, M.Tani;
Drums -Trey Sabatelli, Christopher Fisher (5); Fiddles -Steve Kallai (1), Alisa Rose (5,7);
Guitars -M. Tani, Jinx Jones (4); Harmonica -Jimmy Sweetwater (10);
Bkg Vocals -Kathy Kennedy (3), M.Tani, P. Brandon, Wil Hendricks, Misisipi Mike Wolf (5);
Keyboards-Jim Pugh, M.Tani; Mandolin -Adam Roszkiewicz (5);
Pedal Steel -David Phillips; Percussion -Jeanine Richardson; Saxophones -Armen Boyd (8);



Artist: Maurice Tani/77 El Deora

Title: Blue Line

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Genre: Americana/Alt Country

Track Listing

1. When I'm Drinkin'
2. Fields of Green
3. Nadine
4. Three Flights to L.A.
5. Twisted
6. I Think of You
7. New Dress
8. Red Wine
9. Walk On By
10. Blue Line
11. Happy Hour
12. Don't Say It's Over
- + Your Cheatin' Heart

