

VIC RUGGIERO

“Something in My Blindspot” CD

“Pop for those who know what's hip” (Bernhard Jugel, NOTES)

Victor "Vic" Ruggiero, (also known as Bad Vic, Ruggaroo or Lord Sluggo) is a musician, songwriter and producer from New York City who has played in many ska bands, such as **THE SLACKERS**, Stubborn All-Stars, SKAndalous All-Stars, and Crazy Baldhead. He has also performed with **RANCID** and **THE TRANSPLANTS**, both live and in the studio. He has released three previous solo acoustic albums, and has accompanied acoustic ska musician and singer Chris Murray. *“Something in My Blindspot”* is his first solo album to get a full UK release

Recorded in Berlin at the end of 2007 in downtime between touring and recording with the incredibly prolific SLACKERS the new album's main theme is Love. It's called: "Something In My Blindspot" - because that's where there is always something unexpected, waiting...

Ruggiero's voice has a distinct Bronx accent that has a hard, guttural quality. His lyrics usually follow several themes, including the apocalypse, dark humour, political distrust, paranoia, murder, love and loss. His songs have ranged from narrative ballads to nonsense songs inspired by Beat generation poets, such as Jack Kerouac. He is primarily an organist, although he also plays piano, bass, banjo, guitar, harmonica and percussion.

This time he is accompanied on a number of sweet and strange duets by Lisa Müller of the German swing-band **Black Cat Zoot** and two feature the off-kilter talents of Romanian brass band **Fanfare Kalashnikov**.

Vic's trademark production is also very evident in this stunning record. It remains distinctively raw by not erasing sounds that would traditionally be unwanted in a recording, such as doors closing or musicians cueing each other, his productions usually capture the live-band atmosphere more closely.

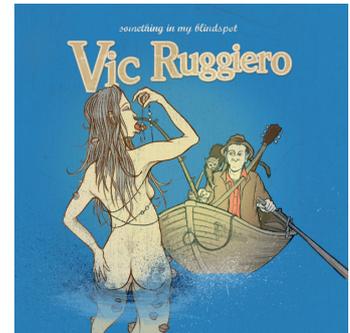
An earlier review on Blog Party was quick to say

“I really think it's some of the best songwriting Ruggiero's done in his 15+ year career. Which is a pretty heavy statement to make, considering that he's responsible for writing or co-writing roughly 160 of the songs present in my record collection.”

Songs jump from organ-driven shuffles like opener *“Taking Care of Business”* to throwaway '60s pop *“Innocent Girl”*, then off to a banjo-licked swamp-stomp *“If this Night”*, but all resonate with melancholic yearning for life's experience be it good or bad.

Some of the more unique tunes on the record come courtesy of Fanfare **Kalishnikov**, and **Lisa Müller**. The formers chaotic and inventive arrangements turn *“Lonely Nights Reprise”* and *“Animals”* into wild, parade-like explosions. Müller's honey-sweet voice plays the perfect Ella to Ruggiero's Armstrong, whether it be playful reminiscing *“Lonely Nights”*, surreal & darkly Waits-ish time travels *“Is it You”*, or one of the greatest country inspired duets in years *“Mad at Me”*.

This album of 14 fresh and darkly pop nuggets with their distinctive New York accent should provide a perfect lazy days soundtrack to your Summer 2008!



LINE UP

Vic Ruggiero – Vocals/ Guitars/
Keyboards/Theremin/Bass/Piano
and Banjo
Lisa Muller – Vocals/Duets.
Andrei Kluge – Drums
Fanfare Kalashnikov as
themselves

WEBSITE

<http://www.myspace.com/milloy>
<http://milloy01924.blogspot.com>

DISCOGRAPHY

SOLO ALBUMS

2008 - Something In My Blindspot
2007 – Hamburguru (*Japan Only*)
2006 - Top Secret Bountry and
Clues - (Also known as "Blues
and Clues".)
2004 - Alive at the Ladybug
House
2001 - Understanding New Jersey
& Living in Sin

THE SLACKERS

17 Recorded Albums (!)



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