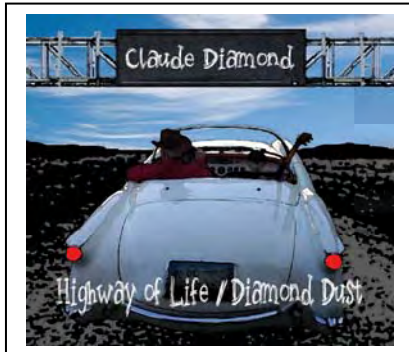




RELEASE SHEET

NEW RELEASE, AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 5



Claude Diamond

*Highway Of Life /
Diamond Dust*

Continental Song City
CSCCD 1038

Price: EURO 7.00

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CD _____

Rounder Europe are proud to release Claude Diamond's prize albums *Diamond Dust* and *Highway Of Life* for Europe, now assembled on one disc!

Tracklisting

Highway Of Life

01 Little Copper Wire	2:55
02 Highway Of Live	4:05
03 Nashville Train	4:23
04 Her Old Address	4:12
05 Out On The Salt	3:39
06 Someone I Need	3:52
07 Dance With The Hurricane	3:40
08 Talking To Strangers	3:50
09 Spend A Little Time With Me	3:06
10 I Waited Too Long	3:15
11 Bluesy Blues (Bonus Track)	2:59

Diamond Dust

12 Last Man On Earth	3:03
13 Land Of Zydeco	3:10
14 Half My Doublewide	3:08
15 Land On The Moon	3:58
16 I Hope Hell Freezes Over	3:44
17 North Of Exit Ten	3:41
18 I Drop Quarters	3:35
19 Edge Of The World	4:42
20 The Girl I Love	3:04
21 The Phone Call	2:55

Diamonds are forever. Claude Diamond decided to "put the music dream on hold" on graduating from college in 1960. 44 years later, in 2004, at the age of 65, the Atlanta, Georgia based singer/songwriter released his debut album **Diamond Dust**. Now he has released his second album, **Highway Of Life**, delivering another outstanding earthy, diverse set that skilfully mixes his country, bluegrass, cajun, rockabilly and blues influences. Claude is without a doubt pure music to the bone and the stylistic diversity he uses to frame his first-rate song-writing ensures there's never a dull moment from start to finish.

Claude Diamond possesses a dusty, weathered, lived-in voice that bears similarities to performers like Billy Joe Shaver or Kris Kristofferson. His tales are full of life experience and display both wit and wisdom; they are told in vivid, but simple words whether they are songs celebrating life's ups or painting painful, heartbreaking portraits of the downside of life. His infectious songs will remind one of Guy Clark (listen to the title track), but first and foremost John Prine, whose imagery, timbre and phrasing have been a great influence.

Diamond Dust showcases 10 of Claude's original songs that highlight the diversity of his writing styles. The album opens with an up-tempo, old timey bluegrass-influenced song, *Last Man On Earth*; things soon take an unexpected twist with *Land Of Zydeco*, with a captivating, hauntingly exotic, bluesy melody. There are waltzes, a terrific full blown honky tonker, and it's easy to hear why Claude won a writing award for *Edge Of The World*, in which he paints a vivid, heartbreakingly desolate portrait of a man who's hit rock bottom after years of fighting the bottle. Claude then shakes it up with some jumping swing-boogie rockabilly and the album closes with a poignant story ballad, *The Phone Call*, again a showcase of some very clever writing indeed.

The opener of **Highway Of Life**, *Little Copper Wire* is a fascinating account of his childhood, and the arrival of electricity in his Tennessee home, when "mama cleaned the kerosene lamps and put them all away". It captures a unique moment in history with precision and just the right amount of wistful nostalgia, in a manner reminiscent of *Texas 1945*, Guy Clark's tale of the arrival of the railroad in his home town. *Out On The Salt* and *Spend a Little Time With Me* both have a cajun feel, and the latter has a wry, off the wall lyrical content. Throughout the album tastefulness and integrity remain intact, thanks in no small part to the excellent, crisp production which is evident throughout the eleven tracks. Producer J. David Leonard also contributes some wonderfully precise guitar, bass, drums, and keyboards, all of which complement Diamond's fragile singing to perfection.

When he reached 65, Claude Diamond decided it was time to focus on the release of a CD. Today Claude remains very busy songwriting, recording and performing his music and is proof that it's never too late to follow a dream. He is one of those hidden treasures most assuredly worth seeking out and both *Diamond Dust* and *Highway Of Life* are true gems. Shine On You Crazy Diamond!



European distribution:

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