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**Toulouse Engelhardt**

*Perpendicular World*

Toulouse Engelhardt could be one of those legends you never heard of before. The guitar player is distinguished in many circles and particularly well known for his association with the "Takoma Seven". The magnificent seven were known for being innovators of the finger-style guitar that was recorded for Takoma Records from 1965 to 1976. The celebrated seven included John Fahey and Leo Kottke. Needless to say, Mr. Engelhardt has made a name on his own merit and sits in some pretty impressive company.

*Perpendicular World* is Engelhardt's latest acoustic masterpiece. I emphasize the word "masterpiece" because there is no other definition worthy of this man's output on this project. The only albums I have personally enjoyed that come close are recordings from Adrian Legg, another brilliant acoustic player. This is an artist that defies conventional methods and categorization while simultaneously producing absolute heaven with his acoustic guitar. He uses bronze strings and heavy-gauge National Steel fingerpicks to create his visual imagery and finds success within each composition.

There are 13 tracks on *Perpendicular World*, each one creates an ambiance and has a personality all its own. The album is broken down into two parts, Inner Space (tracks 1-7) and Outer Space (tracks 8-13). I must say even though this artist is new to me I was able to settle in and enjoy his music rather quickly and appreciate all the talent that was afforded my previously uneducated ears. Instrumentals make it more difficult to decipher the meaning of tracks and rarely make any sense or fit with the music, except for the originator in most cases. In this instance the man making the music makes you think about each title while listening, pushing you into a reflective and introspective frame of mind.

The one track you will likely recognize is "Third Stone From The Sun" (Hendrix) which gives the listener unfamiliar with Engelhardt's work a little more familiarity to reach a comfort level with relating to the music. The track is amazing of course and what would you expect from a player like this covering a Hendrix track? I liked the transition from the hyper fast picking to the calming beauty of "Lost In The Luminiferous Ether-Live At UCLA 1978", culled from a spectacular live performance. Then to flip you back to blinding speed and efficiency, Engelhardt blows you away with "Exceder La Velocite De La Lumiere (Exceeding the Velocity of Light)". Playing guitar is hard enough but to play with tremendous dexterity and lightning fast speed using this method of finger picking is beyond my understanding as a mere mortal. Guys like Engenhardt are amazing to me. Like I read in the one sheet, he has been dubbed the "Segovia of Surf" amongst other things.

*Perpendicular World* is finger picking 101 and an exceptional recording that you will want to hear several times just to find out what you missed the previous listen! This is a must have collection of tracks for anyone that enjoys acoustic instrumentals and for budding guitar aficionados...take heed this is one of the masters at work here so listen carefully.

I thoroughly enjoyed this fantastic voyage of finger picking and feel compelled to delve into the back catalog of this masterful virtuoso.



**Hot Tracks: Third Stone From The Sun, Lost In The Luminiferous Ether "Live At UCLA 1978", Exceder La Velocite De La Lumiere (Exceeding the Velocity of Light)**

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