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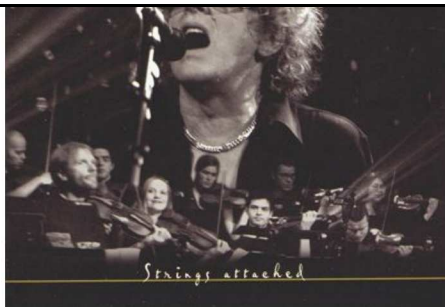
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Overview

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Review by Mark Deming [-]

While **Mott the Hoople** were one of the greatest British rock bands of the 1970s, they were also a band unafraid to wear their hearts on their sleeves, and it's hard to imagine any other group of pile-driving boogie merchants who could have gotten away with songs as emotionally naked as "Sea Diver," "Hymn for the Dudes," or "I Wish I Was Your Mother." Nearly 30 years after **Mott the Hoople** called it a day, frontman **Ian Hunter** was still rocking out, but he hadn't lost touch with his inner softie either, and this live album, recorded during a pair of Oslo concerts in early 2002, gives him the chance to put his more personal side front and center for an evening. Recorded with a primarily acoustic band and a large string section helping out, **Strings Attached** features a set of **Mott the Hoople** classics and great songs from **Hunter's** solo career as he demonstrates the blend of hard-edged sentimentality and street smarts that has informed so much of his best work. In typical neo-*Unplugged* fashion, **Strings Attached** doesn't rock much, but it has a bit more backbone than you might expect -- the stripped-down versions of "All the Way From Memphis" and "Once Bitten, Twice Shy" are good rollicking fun -- and it finds **Hunter** in strong voice, calling up the sort of passion that marks his best music. Part of what makes **Hunter's** songs so effective is the way he can tap into the deeper and more complex emotions that lurk inside even the toughest rocker's heart, and put them into song in a way that honors their delicacy without sounding mushy or saccharine. **Strings Attached** gives **Hunter** the space to honor this side of his repertoire, and the results are both good fun and emotionally potent stuff. So go on, grab a beer, sing along, and don't fight that lump in your throat -- that's what **Ian Hunter** wrote these songs for in the first place.

Collapse ↑

Track Listing - Disc 1

Sample	Title/Composer	Performer	Time	Stream
1	Rest in Peace Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	6:31	
2	All of the Good Ones Are Taken Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	3:31	

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**Hard Rock
Rock & Roll**

Recording Date January 29, 2002 & January 30, 2002

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Album Moods

[Poignant](#) [Rousing](#)
[Autumnal](#) [Intimate](#)
[Organic](#) [Wistful](#)
[Amiable/Good-Natured](#) [Earnest](#)
[Energetic](#) [Literate](#)
[Reflective](#) [Street-Smart](#)
[Complex](#) [Confident](#)


Themes

[Introspection](#) [Reminiscing](#)



8	All the Young Dudes David Bowie	Ian Hunter	5:42
9	Irene Wilde  Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	4:05
10	Once Bitten Twice Shy  Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	5:29

Track Listing - Disc 2

Sample	Title/Composer	Performer	Time	Stream
1	Rollerball Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	5:27	
2	Ships  Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	6:10	
3	A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square Eric Maschwitz / M.P. Sherwin	Ian Hunter	3:59	
4	Michael Picasso Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	8:20	
5	Wash Us Away Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	4:27	
6	Don't Let Go Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	3:56	
7	All the Way from Memphis Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	5:28	
8	Roll Away the Stone Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	5:03	
9	Saturday Gigs Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	6:29	

blue highlight denotes track pick