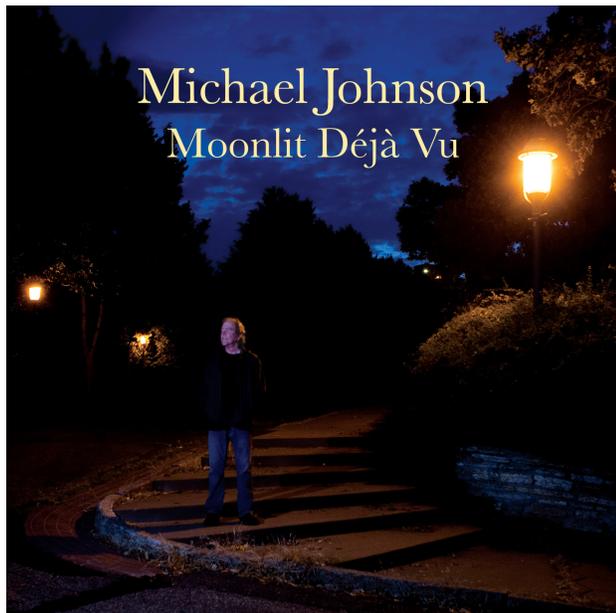


RED HOUSE RECORDS

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Michael Johnson Moonlit Déjà Vu

RHR-CD-259 • Release Date: October 2, 2012

“a dazzling guitarist and wonderfully expressive singer”
-**Billboard**

Red House Records is pleased to announce the **October 2, 2012** release of *Moonlit Déjà Vu*, the first new studio album from **Michael Johnson** in 15 years. Best known for his 1978 hit “**Bluer Than Blue**” and his **#1 Billboard-charting country songs** “**Give Me Wings**” and “**The Moon Is Still Over Her Shoulder**,” the singer and fingerstyle guitarist returns with an acoustic masterpiece.

After spending his years in Nashville, Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, Michael has recently returned to Minnesota where he lived from 1969 to 1985. Recorded in Minneapolis, the new album is a homecoming of sorts, featuring top Twin Cities players (**J.T. Bates, Marc Anderson, Dan Newton, Maud Hixson, Benny Weinbeck**) and some friends he’s known for over 40 years, like famed jazz bassist **Gordon Johnson**. It also includes a very special guest appearance by his newly found daughter **Truly Carmichael**.

Michael never knew his daughter, who was adopted when she was four days old, but he knew she was out there. “I’d dream about her,” he says. “Sometimes I’d even picture her at my door at night.” Twenty years ago, Michael began looking for her, trying to reach her mother so that he could track her down. Making no progress, he let go of the search, saying that if it was supposed to happen, she would find him. And then in August of 2009, he got an email from Truly, who was, of all things, a classically trained vocalist now living in Minnesota.

“Go fig,” Michael says. “It’s such a thrill to have her on this record. She was a ghost to me forever, and now here she is, singing like a bird.”

Singing together on the poignant original “**One Mile Apart**,” Michael and Truly are the perfect voices for this duet about being close to someone and not even knowing it. Like that song, several tracks on the record remind Michael of his daughter, including Hugh Prestwood’s “**April Fool**” and Charles Cochran and Roger Cook’s “**Looking for Rainbows (Without an Umbrella)**.” He says, “It’s hard to explain why, but they evoked her long before we finally met. They were just *her*.” As he sings in “Looking for Rainbows,” “If the child in you prevails/And your common sense still fails you/You’re looking for rainbows, without an umbrella/That’s maybe the reason/I’m looking for you.”

Nostalgic and romantic, *Moonlit Déjà Vu* is a portrait of a man who has lived through fame and success as well as loss and illness. Now returning to his roots and reconnecting with his daughter, he reflects on his life, with songs like “**My Favorite Lies**” and “**How Do You Know What You Know?**”

With Michael’s beautiful guitar playing and singing taking center stage, this new album has an intimate and authentic quality reminiscent of his riveting solo acoustic performances--a must-have for any fan.

In support of the new album, Michael Johnson will be touring throughout 2012 and 2013. For his full schedule, visit www.mjblue.com or www.redhousetrecords.com.

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BIOGRAPHY

Michael Johnson is a masterful guitarist and songwriter who has had several **Billboard-charting** hits. Equally at home singing pop, country or classics from the American songbook, he remains one of the true authentic voices in contemporary music. His songs have been recorded by such artists as **Alison Krauss, Suzy Bogguss, Chet Atkins** and **The Persuasions**.

Born in Alamosa, Colorado and raised near Denver, he began playing guitar at age 13. He went to Colorado State College to study music but left after winning an international talent contest that landed him a deal with **Epic Records**. He then moved to Barcelona, where he attended the Liceu Conservatory to study with the classical guitar great **Graciano Tarragó**. Not long after returning to the States, he joined **Randy Sparks** in a group called the New Society, touring East Asia. After that he toured with the **Chad Mitchell Trio** and began co-writing and touring with **John Denver**, forming a trio called Denver, Boise & Johnson.

After spending some time as an actor, working in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, he returned to music to release some of his biggest songs, including **Top 40 hits** like “**Bluer Than Blue**,” “**This Night Won’t Last Forever**” and “**Almost Like Being in Love**.” He then enjoyed equal success in Nashville, recording **#1 country songs** with singers like **Juice Newton** and **Sylvia**.

Always most at home on stage with just an acoustic guitar, Michael continued to tour solo, playing about half his shows in Minnesota, where he lived from 1969 to 1985. At one of his recent shows at the Dakota Jazz Club, he met up with singer-songwriter **John Gorka**. Michael talked about wanting to return to his acoustic roots, and John connected him with his manager and his St. Paul-based label **Red House Records**. Very familiar with Michael’s work, Red House president Eric Peltoniemi was delighted to meet Michael and hear his new material. “I was just stunned at how great his new songs were,” he says. “It thrilled me to hear a true artist still at the top of his game.” Michael signed with Red House and got to work recording his new songs at Minneapolis’ Wild Sound Recording Studio.

Ready to return to his roots, Michael moved to Minneapolis. “It just seemed that all roads were leading me back to Minnesota--signing with Red House, working on the new album and most especially, reconnecting with my daughter who lives here.” Michael adds, “And I’m just an old hippy, and I need to be up where my people are.”

Releasing his new album **Moonlit Déjà Vu** on October 2, 2012, Michael will be hitting the road once again, touring across the country. For his most current schedule and for more information, please visit www.mjblue.com.

2012-2013 TOUR DATES

- 10/6 - Hopkins Center for the Arts (Hopkins, MN)
- 10/19 - Grassroots Concerts (Nisswa, MN)
- 10/20 - Amazing Grace Bakery (Duluth, MN)
- 11/1 - Flying Goose Brewpub (New London, NH)
- 11/2 - 1st Unitarian Church (Littleton, MA)
- 11/3 - Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center (Old Saybrook, CT)
- 11/4 - River Town Village Clubhouse (Windsor, CT)
- 11/24 - Crossings at Carnegie (Zumbrota, MN)
- 11/30 - New York Mills Regional Cultural Center (New York Mills, MN)
- 12/7 - Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN)
- 12/8 - Elmara Vineyard (Trempeleau, WI)
- 12/26 - Pioneer Place on Fifth Theater (St. Cloud, MN)
- 1/5 - Walker Theater (Charleston, WV)
- 1/10 - Shattuck-St. Mary’s School (Faribault, MN)
- 2/1 - CSPS Hall (Cedar Rapids, IA)
- 2/2 - Unitarian Church of Hinsdale (Hinsdale, IL)
- 2/7 - Bluebird Cafe (Nashville, TN)
- 2/8 - Buckman Performing Arts Center (Memphis, TN)
- 2/15 - Glenwood Springs Center for the Arts (Glenwood Springs, CO)
- 2/17 - Stargazers Theatre (Colorado Springs, CO)

