

CHRIS CACAVAS

New Album:	Love's Been Discontinued
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"Chris Cacavas from Waldbronn, Germany" doesn't sound nearly as sexy as "Chris Cacavas from Tucson, Arizona," (or Los Angeles, California, where he made his name). But this musician, who established his rock 'n' roll street credentials in the early 1980's, has lived in Southern Germany for several years now, and the quality of his output has not suffered from it. On the contrary; With ***Love's Been Discontinued***, his 2nd album for the Blue Rose label, Cacavas not only ends a five-year break from recording, but decisively reclaims his mantle as an unparalleled rogue singer-songwriter - original, and resistant to pigeonholing.

The creation of ***Love's Been Discontinued*** began at the end of 2007. Cacavas admits he has become a bit of a control freak over the course of his career. Rather than just going into the studio for a few days, as he would have done some years ago with his former backing band Junkyard Love, and quickly throwing down the tracks "fast and live" for a complete album, Chris has been crafting his songs one by one, coaxing out the last details until they sound just right. He pens and play his own overdubs, or where others can do it better, he drafts his touring band or individual guest musicians to play the parts - be they female backing vocals, violin, or percussion.

And the effort has paid off! As heard on *Self Taut* in 2004, Cacavas picks up his work where the best part of his solo career left off in the late 80's and early 90's. Quality songs, streamlined production and deliberate guitar work once again take center stage. Anyone who knows a little about the history of American Indie rock knows that this multitalented, versatile musician secured his position in the annals of alt-rock many years back as a founding member of the legendary Green On Red from Arizona / California. Alongside Dan Stuart's and Chuck Prophet's driving, jangling guitars, Cacavas' characteristic frenetic, quivering organ sound - often drawing comparisons to The Doors' Ray Manzarek - provided one of the defining features of the seminal first GOR albums *Gravity Talks*, *Gas Food Lodging*, *No Free Lunch* and *The Killer Inside Me*. It was during this era that Cacavas advanced to one of the most in-demand studio musicians for countless "desert rock" sessions between Tucson and Los Angeles. His keyboards grace the records of The Dream Syndicate, The Leaving Trains, The Romans, Naked Prey, Ghosthouse, Russ Tolman, Chris Burroughs, Rich Hopkins, Downsiders, River Roses, and many more. Deserving of special mention is his close collaboration with Howe Gelb / Giant Sand and Steve Wynn, who have recruited him as keyboardist while touring. Cacavas was, of course, on board for the recent, and highly acclaimed reunion tours by Green On Red and Danny and Dusty.

On ***Love's Been Discontinued***, his 10th solo project, Chris Cacavas turns again to his guitars, both acoustic and electric. In accord with his various keyboards waxing psychedelic and soulful in the background, and his voice which evokes an early Neil Young - softly plaintive and doleful, yet hauntingly penetrant - Cacavas develops a hypnotic atmosphere that evolves over the course of the 12 songs and 50 minutes. The melancholia, the pop-psychedelic arrangements, the unadorned songwriting and a healthy indie-rock attitude meld together, blending successfully. Chris does his utmost to avoid stylistic fractures, sudden tempo changes or mood swings to give the listener a chance to immerse himself completely in the mellifluous music of the Chris Cacavas cosmos.

Italian bassist Filippo Costanza and German drummer Wieland Rochel are in steady service for groove and rhythm: loosely pulsating, coolly driving, flexibly rocking, whatever is needed. Guest percussionist Kai Niedernberg supplies the intermittent conga drum, and Vicki Brown, from Cacavas' hometown of Tucson, lends aesthetic violin arrangements, conjuring up passionately yearning sound imagery as on the wistful ballad "Tell Me Everything." Cacavas then gets down to business with succinct rockers like "Loving Tree", "I Bow Down", or the laconic "Who's Your Whore?" Especially noteworthy is singer Nadia Leonti, from the Swiss band Shilf, who complements Cacavas on the richly formed harmonies. Stylish and classy, yet very emotional, Chris Cacavas' little masterpiece ***Love's Been Discontinued*** hits the mark!