



DENIS GRAEFF

music and poetry

BIOGRAPHY

Denis Graeff's songs are stories that erupt from the streets, from behind office desks, on packed buses and trains, in the time lost while doing that which we're not, while we lose ourselves in the grey landscapes of the city. Every wall hides personal dramas, every street corner houses desire, every window contains wandering eyes, lost in memory or longing. At times, those tales demand to be sung.

Brazilian singer and songwriter Denis Graeff has done quite a lot of things in life, from holding office jobs in to acting in television and working as blackjack dealer at an indian casino in the US. But most importantly, he is a poet who builds his music around the personal stories he's found along the way. Inspired by some of the great poets of song - Leonard Cohen, Nick Cave, Jacques Brel, Chico Buarque - and music mavericks such as Serge Gainsbourg, David Bowie, Kraftwerk and Astor Piazzolla, he doesn't commit himself to an immutable genre of music. Hailing from the southern portions of South America, he searches his environment, his roots and personal history for elements of composition, leading to the creation of urban ballads, electronic tango poems and modern-day milongas that portray the metropolises' disillusion.

Graeff's current work seeks to show the music of his homelands in south of Brazil and the Río de la Plata to the world. But with a twist. The familiar elements of tango and traditional milongas and payadas are reinterpreted, taken away from their natural environment and native tongues to create gritty, contemporary songs. Electronic and experimental arrangements, as well as the dark landscapes of the metropolis, are elements that move beyond the geographic and stylistic frontiers of traditional genres and take the deep emotional expressiveness of South American music from its settings to a worldwide audience.

Yet, the stories have a well defined background. It is Buenos Aires, the capital of the pampas, the infinite city, a meeting point of south america and the world, a merger of popular sensibilities and the wit of great writers, collision of anonymous masses and the dreamers that keep on arriving to it's streets. This is the symbolic home for Denis' songs and life stories.

Coming from Blumenau, a german immigrant's town in southern Brazil, born to parents from the gaucho lands of Rio Grande do Sul, Denis Graeff's life has led him through many countries and occupations, travelling around Europe and South America and working various jobs in the US. After many years writing poems and songs just for himself and friends, he started in 2014 to record demos and perform on stages around his home state of Santa Catarina. But soon music lead him to more unexpected experiences. In 2014 and 2015, two trips to the United States and Canada saw him perform in open mics in New York City and even appear as a backing vocalist on the Belle et Bum television show of Télé-Québec in Montreal, accompanying Brazilian singer Bía.

In September 2014 he released his first demo EP, "(To Hide From You) I Am Here," followed in 2015 by "Sketches of Song." With songs initially influenced by English and North American folk tradition, from 2016 onwards Denis Graeff began to develop ideas of greater experimentation, adding elements of electronic music to his compositions - like the single "Fulton Bound", of 2016 - and the melodies and rhythms of the music of his own roots in southern Brazil and the southernmost tip of America, as in "Vos y Yo", "Milongueta", and "And Her Eyes" and "Your Own Song", released in 2017.

His first full album "*Bulnes 12 40*", was released in October 2018. In this piece, as well as reinterpreting South American music, Denis also pays tribute to Leonard Cohen, wondering what a record of the Canadian master would have sounded like had he lived in the Argentine capital. "*Bulnes 12 40*" is available on all major streaming platforms.

INFLUENCES

Leonard Cohen, Allen Ginsberg, T.S. Elliot, Serge Gainsbourg, Jacques Brel, Astor Piazzolla, David Bowie, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, Rogerio Duprat, Jayme Caetano Braun, Vitor Ramil, Talking Heads, Neu!, Kraftwerk, Throbbing Gristle.

DISCOGRAPHY

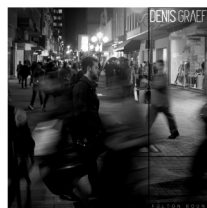
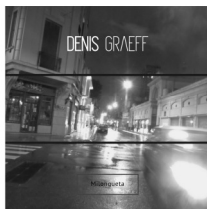
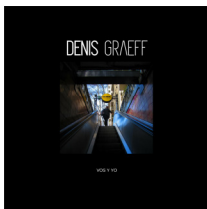


Bulnes 12 4 0 – Album -2018



Sketches of Song EP - 2015

Singles:



MUSICAL STYLES

Urban Folk, Milonga, Experimental, Spoken Word, New Chanson


SOCIAL MEDIA AND STREAMING


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