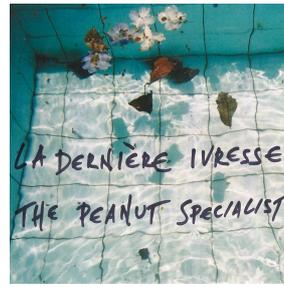
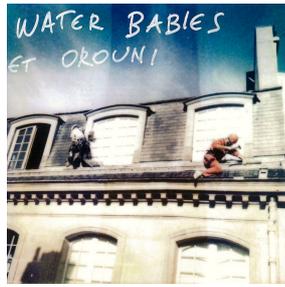


WATER BABIES + OROUNI - *La dernière ivresse* + *The peanut specialist*



The CD you are holding in your hands results from the friendship between **Orouni** and the **Water Babies**, that began in the spring of 2014.

Orouni and Clementine, the two bands' respective composers, were both teenagers in the 90s, share a common taste for British pop (from **Kevin Ayers** to **Supergrass**), **Curtis Mayfield** and Great Black Music, **David Bowie's** song *Station to Station*, and both enjoy Tom Zé and **Brazilian music** (country where Clementine, who lived in Rio and São Paulo, began her musical training).

One summer day in 2014, just months after the release of his album *Grand Tour* (Sauvage Records), Orouni ran across a split-single by **Fugu** and **Stereolab** and jokingly proposed to Clementine to do the same. Clementine, who takes everything at face value, rose to the challenge and so, Orouni wrote *The Peanut Specialist*, whilst The Water Babies wrote *La Dernière Ivresse* (The Last Drunkenness).

What more natural, with such influences, than to go record these two songs at **Tropicalia**, the fresh new Parisian studio designed by Jean Thevenin (**François and the Atlas Mountains**) and David Sztanke, and sound engineered by the very talented Guillaume Jaoul (Tahiti Boy and the Palmtree Family)?

Each band's recording method was respected. For *The Peanut Specialist*, Orouni conscientiously stacked layers of sounds together until the instruments were scrambled into one, resting onto a very solid yet unpredictable pillar of rhythm (with Steffen Charron on bass and Dimitri Dedonder on drums). For this song, which recounts the construction of a (real) safe located in Norway that contains seeds from around the world, in the case of an urgent need to reseed a country ravaged by war, a typhoon, or even the Apocalypse, Orouni decided to replace his own voice with the female tones of Amélie and Clementine (Water Babies), Dorothée

Hannequin (**The Rodeo**) and Barbara Silverstone. The result is an English pop piece inspired by the spirit of **Motown** girls' bands and dominated by futuristic synthetic climates.

Differing from the Water Babies' approach and not just language-wise, *La Dernière Ivresse* was recorded live in the studio, as was their first album, *Soupir* (Sigh), to be released in September 2015. Pierre Caron's guitar arpeggios, which open and close the song, develop into a martial pop/opera delirium, softened by **Julien Gasc** (guest and friend)'s Philicorda organ, (Clementine is also his bassist). Clementine March's bass and Guillaume Magne's drums also highlight the sinuous melody that is ingenuously interpreted by Amélie Rousseaux, the band's singer, who co-wrote the lyrics with Clémentine: the story of a woman who drowns so deeply in her anxieties that the world becomes comically tragic, like a drunkard seeing the ground shift beneath his or her feet.

These two titles were therefore born out of an artistic friendship, a relationship that seeks consistency within the two bands' common spirit, bilingualism, a taste for risqué harmonies (Water Babies) joined to an attraction to funny stories and rich orchestrations (Orouni). All of it is packaged by the talented Indira Dominici, photographer and artist (**Mina Tindle**, Hoferlanz), who created the split single's cover, where one can observe two workers, busy on a Parisian polaroid roof, wearing different outfits, but sharing one same goal.

Water Babies and Orouni play on June 29th 2015 at Les Trois Baudets (Paris, France)

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