



AMERICAN AMBULANCE

Hard workin', hard playing rock n' rollers from the streets of Brooklyn, NY, American Ambulance drop their fourth record in as many years with the release of *STREETS OF NYC* — a big messy valentine to the rockinest city on earth, a song cycle about the Wild Apple in the swingin' 1970s, and most of all a testament to the power of rock n' roll. This Ambulance runs on a high-octane musical blend that combines the songcraft and lyricism of vintage country music with the rich musicality and open-mindedness of classic rock n' roll.

Singer/songwriter PETE CENEDELLA and his brother-in-law, the guitar slinger SCOTTY ALDRICH, anchor the band with their two-guitar attack and harmony singing. Blue-collar Brooklyn compadre ROB GOTTSTEIN (ex-Hangdogs) on bass and the pride of Baldwin, Long Island, MIGHTY JOE DESSEREAU on drums round out the lineup that “manages to capture every damn thing that’s ever been cool about rock n’ roll” (Pop Culture Press).

On the new album, the boys were aided & abetted by drummer WILL RIGBY (Steve Earle & The Dukes) and keyboardist BRIAN MITCHELL (Rosanne Cash) as well as AUTOMATIC SLIM (The Hangdogs) on pedal steel and one of NYC’s hidden jewels ERICA SMITH on vocals. HUGH POOL (Mulebone) produced (his third project with the band) and sat in on lap steel and harp.

AmAm began informally, playing acoustic instruments and passing the bottle around Pete’s kitchen table in Williamsburg, Brooklyn circa 1999. The cars whooshed past on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway out the window as the songs — and the drink — flowed freely.

Soon they were recording their first album, *SWEETNESS & DARK* (2001), a homemade dish that mixes folk, country, and rock n’ roll into a dark and satisfying stew.

Indy label Rustic Records took notice and soon signed the boys up for a three-album deal. *STRAY* followed in 2003, and then 2004’s election-year EP *ALL OVER THE MAP*, with both releases enjoying long rides on the Americana charts as well as solid AAA airplay.

Now comes what the boys consider the best AmAm record yet. Take a rockin’ ride with American Ambulance down the *STREETS OF NYC* and straight into the big heart of rock n’ roll country.

“American Ambulance manages to capture just about every damn thing that’s ever been cool about rock n’ roll...”

– J.J. Benson, Pop Culture Press

“Both brashly energized and bursting out of their garage already mature.”

– Barry Mazor, No Depression

“Inspired rock n’ roll softened by facets of folk and country.”

– Donald Teplyske, The Red Deer Advocate (Alberta, Canada)

“Roots rock is such a voluminous genre that it’s easy to overlook the gems hidden in the fluff. American Ambulance proved itself to be one of those shiny objects with its previous album Sweetness and Dark, and confirms it again with Stray. The band is tasteful and eloquent; guitarist Scott Aldrich finds just the right notes, bassist Tim Reedy adds perfect touches of accordion and keyboards and drummer Joe Desserau kicks up a ruckus when required so the music never settles too far down.”

– Michael Toland, High Bias

“Imagine a cross between the Clash and the Bottle Rockets – tasty twang and potent anthemic songs.”

– Alan Young, Trifecta

“Memorable melodies flow out of Cenedella’s pen like honey from a bottle, and he’s an excellent lyricist as well. From country waltzes and loud rockers to meditative ballads and hook-laden singalongs, Cenedella effortlessly doles out gem after gem. The tightrope between craft and heart is often a difficult one to walk, but Cenedella’s got it stone cold down, and his band supports his visions with subtlety and grace.”

– Michael Toland, High Bias

“Guitarist Scott Aldrich rips off a non-stop commentary of nifty licks that call up a pantheon of peerless pickers, from Clarence White to Tom Verlaine.”

– Dann Baker, The Brooklyn Rail

STRAY:

“Stray is simply too goddamn good to deny.”

– Michael Toland, High Bias, Feb. 2004

“Stray presents tight songwriting and well layered instrumentation.... Their rendition of the traditional tune “Raleigh & Spencer” is a chooglin’ hootenanny rumbler that really rips it up. On the softer side is the acoustic “Stray Dog Blues”, with its Cajun flavored violin and accordion. The slow burning, low-feedback fueled “I Found Out About You” features background vocals from Florence Dore... Rootsy, rock-driven Americana.”

– Miles of Music

SWEETNESS & DARK:

“Not just a promising debut, but a formidable one.”

– No Depression

“Sweetness & Dark is beautiful stuff.”

– Michael Toland, High Bias

AmAm LIVE:

“This Brooklyn band has been mixing alt.country twang with the strong, melodic songwriting of leader Pete Cenedella in live shows that can recall the electric power of Jason & the Scorchers.”

– Barry Mazor, No Depression

“These midnight cowboys wreaked havoc on the club.... Live, American Ambulance takes the country-hippie aesthetic of Gram Parsons and leavens it with a big ol’ dose of street-smart rock.”

– Dann Baker, The Brooklyn Rail

THE LAST WORD:

“The band doesn’t play for its own amusement, but to showcase the songs of frontperson Pete Cenedella. And damn, is he good at what he does. Rockers (“Marianne is Hangin’ On,” “No Change Back”), ballads (“I Found Out About You,” “Stray Dog Blues”), the blues (the brilliant “Why O Children?”) and that indefinable showcase of wit and emotion that only the best writers can convincingly create (“Hey! Richard Nixon,” “Saturday Night and Sunday Morning”) all fall contentedly within his scope. He could probably pursue a career as a Nashville songwriter, but it’s doubtful the pretty faces in music city would know what to do with material as spiritually yearning as this. Cenedella imparts everything in a voice by turns tough and tender, with just enough grit to keep from sounding sappy but not so much that he comes across as trying too hard. He’s simply got the perfect voice for this style.”

– Michael Toland, High Bias