

Big Bus Dream: You've Got to Have a Big Dream, Baby



Big Bus Dream is a visionary urban rock duo founded by singer-songwriter **Mike Shannon** and guitarist-songwriter **Chick Tsikouras**. On their torch-carrying new album, *Big Dream Baby* (**Wampus Multimedia**, March 27), the pair mints a literate brand of social comment in the tradition of Lou Reed, John Lennon, and Mark Oliver Everett (Eels). Blending acoustic roots with muscular, electrified arrangements, the album evokes nothing more than Reed's *Transformer*.

On a trio of releases beginning with their 2006 debut, Shannon (former leader of 4th Ward) and Tsikouras (Pat Metheny, Mamas and Papas) have recorded a voyage of emotional disintegration

and redemption. The story is not unfamiliar, but the telling of it is original and universal. In Shannon's eyes, we are trying and failing at life, at dreams, and finding a sort of unimagined grace in the wisdom it brings us. As he sings in "C'mon & Run," the album's anthemic closer, "you better have a big dream, baby / 'cause dreamers built this place / never think you're it and the others are not / 'cause hatred has an ugly face." The big dream, to Shannon, is a sort of battered salvation.

From "Wonderland," a plain-spoken account of a family torn apart, to "Fried," a tuneful lament of time's march, to "Mary's Spoken," the acceptance of an inevitable end, Big Bus Dream perseveres in the face of disappointment. We are not defined by our setbacks, Shannon says, but they are always there. The big dream fuels and sustains us.

Produced by Shannon and recorded with **Jamie Hoover**, *Big Dream Baby* includes cameos from Jeff Kephart, Brian Bayne, Julianne Allen, Andrew Shannon, Ben Huber, Ray Henderson,

and Shoe String Symphony. It is available on CD from **Amazon** and **CD Baby**,

and can be downloaded and streamed digitally from **iTunes** and many other outlets.

Big Dream Baby joins a Wampus Multimedia roster that includes recent and coming releases from **Arms of Kismet**, **The May Bees**, **Johnny J Blair**, the

matthew show, **Waterslide**,

The Crowd Scene, and **tvfordogs**, as well

as the compilations *Hurry Home Early: The Songs of Warren Zevon*, *After Hours: a Tribute to the Music of Lou Reed*, and *If I Were a Richman: a Tribute to the Music of Jonathan Richman*.

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