

October 21, 2016 Josh Franklin



Release: "Spent"

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Track Listing:

1. Full of Disgraces
2. Try You On
3. Masterpiece
4. Toll Road
5. So Long
6. Queen of the Boat
7. Poconos
8. Nothin' On Me
9. Around The Kitchen
10. He and He
11. Fairytale

Many singer/songwriter albums come from an extremely personal place and, quite often, each album details a specific journey, theme, time period or emotion. Singer/songwriter/actor/director Josh Franklin's sophomore album "Spent" is not one of those albums. Instead, Franklin spectacularly covers the whole spectrum of emotions associated with love – from the butterflies and uncertainties of the initial phases of puppy love, to dealing with the grief of a break-up, then on to the deceptions of love as well as the glorious splendor of a perfect lifelong romance.

Having already received numerous accolades for his Broadway, acting and directorial work (*Jersey Boys*, *Grease*, *All Shook Up*, *Anything Goes*, *Ghost*, *Legally Blonde*) and having performed alongside such musical legends as Aretha Franklin, Kylie Minogue, and Barry Manilow, "Spent" shines a spotlight on Franklin's im-

mense talent as a composer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist (guitar, piano) recording artist. And, that voice! Critics have already been raving about it for years, applauding "*The standout voice ... [that] possesses a rich and full range which is displayed to superb effect*" and commending his "*well-trained, silky, lyric Baritone voice.*"

"Spent" showcases these million-dollar vocal chords, as anticipated, but pushes his talent as a composer to new heights, incorporating full orchestration and adding a cinematic, theatrical quality to many of the songs. At the same time, many of the tracks possess the quality of a live recording, remaining loose and spontaneous. The-matically, Franklin succinctly explains that the album, "explores the search for self-validation through the ups and downs of relationships, financial burdens, and the journey of an artist."

The first single, "Masterpiece", is a Broadway-esque ballad about the bevy of possibilities of new love and, musically, brings to mind Paul McCartney's triumphant "Maybe I'm Amazed". Franklin explains that the song is about, "*that moment when you first begin something or you're first meeting someone and it could go so many ways. Could be a masterpiece, possibly a disaster, could be over before you begin.*"

Standout tracks include the gorgeous "Fairytale", a number about the illusions and false promises that love can instill. The song floats on beautiful piano and dramatic orchestration, further accentuated by a nostalgia-inducing French horn solo, all pushed along by a valiantly marching snare drum. On "Poconos" Franklin let's his musical theater roots shine in this playful two-step ditty that addresses class differences and self-discovery as he croons, "Poconos, Poconos, I can't afford you. But, I've got friends. I won't be alone even if your phone won't answer."

Perhaps the most overtly, rapturously romantic track on the album is the poignant New York love song "He and He", which envisions details of what's to come of a potential long-term, committed relationship, chronicling the future Brooklyn apartment, the lovable children and the forthcoming birthdays. These milestones are all laid out over Franklin's heartfelt, velvety vocals and thoughtful guitar picking. Tapping into the darker, more bitter underbelly of l'amour are album tracks "Queen of the Boat", a nightmarish carnival ride through a hard-to-shake break-up and "Nothing On Me", a scathing, yet upbeat, pop/rock song that finds a scorned lover going for the jugular, even calling out the ex's tacky lack of taste.

The album was recorded with all local talent in Franklin's hometown of Colorado Springs, CO and features a production team headed by world renowned musician and producer Thomas Dawson Jr. of The Commodores. Franklin released his self-titled debut pop album in 2013, produced by Grammy award winner Peter Wade.

RIYD: Joe Purdy, Jack Johnson, Joshua Radin, Brett Dennen, Michael Buble, George Michael, Matthew Morrison, Ben Folds, Il Divo, Seth McFarland, Jason Mraz, Josh Groban