



# GRAHAM PARKER DON'T TELL COLUMBUS

RELEASE DATE: MARCH 13, 2007

"WHERE MOST PERFORMERS WILL SNAP THEIR FINGERS IN TIME, GP WILL SLAM HIS FIST INTO HIS PALM."

—A fan on the Bloodshot website

Sometimes an artist is anointed a "legend." Sometimes this artist's body of work is so consistently lauded, of such ongoing interest and creativity, the audience might be tempted

to take the level of craft for granted. Sometimes such an artist, after a time of flying beneath the radar, emerges with a run of stunning material ascending beyond time and genre. Sometimes this artist casts a shadow large enough they are known by just their initials. GP is such an artist and this is his time.

Thirty years into a storied career in rock 'n' roll that began with his band **The Rumour** (pre-saging new wave, pub rock and punk) Graham Parker finds himself at the absolute top of his game and in the midst of an extended creative hot streak. Hot on the heels of the Bloodshot releases *Your Country* (2004), *Songs of No Consequence* (2005), the seething digital-only single about Iraq—the now sadly outdated "2000 Funerals"—and the blistering live album *103 Degrees in June* (2006), *Don't Tell Columbus* crackles with desperation and redemption sung with rich, passionate power. And hooks. Lots and lots of effortless hooks. Yes, the new millennium has thus far been very good to GP and music fans reap the rewards.

Suffused with the heft of the epic, *Don't Tell Columbus's* lyrical and emotional resonance straddles the Atlantic and evinces GP's stature as one of the most gifted writers in rock 'n' roll. From the personal and metaphorically grand "The Other Side of the Reservoir" to the overtly political and swinging "Stick to the Plan," this album ripples with tension between the melancholic, the urgent and the hopeful. Best of all, it's wrapped in his gifted brawny pop and blue-eyed soul smarts. Only GP can have you happily humming along to songs swaddled in desperate loneliness and internal mayhem.

It is unhealthy, perhaps even obscene, that someone should be able to come up with an album this good this far into their career.

#### About GP:

Graham Parker emerged from England's vibrant mid-70's music scene, annoyingly referred to most often as Pub Rock, and was tagged as the quintessential angry young man. His musical style informed the likes

of Elvis Costello and Joe Jackson as well as earning raves from rock critics everywhere. His records with The Rumour are legendary, earning two spots in **Rolling Stone's "Top 100 Albums of All Time,"** and Bruce Springsteen (who provided vocals on 1980's *The Up Escalator*, produced by Jimmy Iovine) said that GP was the only performer he'd paid to see. After recording for numerous labels throughout the 70's and 80's Parker scored a top 40 hit with "Wake Up (Next To You)" in 1985. A wordsmith of his caliber cannot be limited to one creative outlet—he is also a published writer of fiction, with a short story collection titled *Carp Fishing on Valium* and a novel, *The Other Life of Brian*.

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## What they're saying about the "Angry Young Man":

"On [*Howlin' Wind and Heat Treatment*], the rasp-throated ruffian combined soul, skiffle, R&B, pop, reggae and classic rock with an angry, high-octane adrenaline that was, in essence, punk in its rawest, most naïve form. And he's still ratcheting up the angst, two decades into his career." —PASTE

"... impressive 30-year streak of stinging social commentary, melodic craft, confessional wordplay and passionate performances with healthy dose of piss and vinegar."  
—AMPLIFIER

"Parker's pub-rock snarl has worked its magic for a generation."  
—VILLAGE VOICE

"Graham Parker, as the singer himself once put it, has made a career of turning clichés into sensations."  
—WASHINGTON POST

"Graham Parker made his mark in the mid-Seventies as an English protopunk who composed brilliant songs infused with rancor and wit." —GUITAR WORLD ACOUSTIC

"He remains more at home with the resentments and recriminations that have long fueled his artistry than at home on the range." —NO DEPRESSION

"Parker hasn't lost any of his acerbic wit or observational skills over the years." —STEREO-TYPE

"Through it all, Parker maintains an attitude, a wry lyrical wit and a frankness that's distinctly Graham Parker, the same guy stamped as the archetypal 'angry young man' when he burst forth from England's pub-rock scene in the mid-1970s."  
—GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

"He may no longer be rock's angry young man, but that doesn't mean that he's morphed into Billy Ray Cyrus."  
—CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"Parker's songs are as direct and comprehensible as a firm and friendly handshake." —GHETTO BLASTER

## GP DISCOGRAPHY:

HOWLIN' WIND	1976	MERCURY
HEAT TREATMENT	1976	MERCURY
STICK TO ME	1977	MERCURY
THE PARKERILLA	1978	MERCURY
SQUEEZING OUT SPARKS	1979	ARISTA
THE UP ESCALATOR	1980	ARISTA
ANOTHER GREY AREA	1982	ARISTA
THE REAL MACAW	1983	ARISTA
STEADY NERVES	1985	ELEKTRA
THE MONA LISA'S SISTER	1988	RCA
LIVE! ALONE IN AMERICA	1989	RCA
HUMAN SOUL	1990	RCA
STRUCK BY LIGHTING	1991	RCA
BURNING QUESTIONS	1992	CAPITOL
12 HAUNTED EPISODES	1995	RAZOR & TIE
GP & THE EPISODES: LIVE	1996	RAZOR & TIE
BBC LIVE IN CONCERT	1996	WINDSONG
ACID BUBBLEGUM	1996	RAZOR & TIE
THE LAST ROCK'N'ROLL TOUR	1997	RAZOR & TIE
NOT IF IT PLEASURES ME	1998	HUX RECORDS
LOOSE MONKEYS	1999	UP YOURS RECORDS
THAT'S WHEN YOU KNOW	2001	MERCURY/ UNIVERSAL
DEEPCUT TO NOWHERE	2001	RAZOR & TIE
KBFH PRESENTS ...	2002	KING BISCUIT FLOWER HOUR
BLUE HIGHWAY	2003	ALCHEMY MAGIC
PIERSON, PARKER, JANOVITZ: FROM A WINDOW – LOST SONGS		
OF LENNON & MCCARTNEY	2003	GALLERY SIX
LIVE CUTS FROM SOMEWHERE	2003	PUNK HART PRODUCTIONS
YOUR COUNTRY	2004	BLOODSHOT
SONGS OF NO CONSEQUENCE	2005	BLOODSHOT
103 DEGREES IN JUNE	2006	BLOODSHOT
DON'T TELL COLUMBUS	2007	BLOODSHOT



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