

HUMAN DRAMA



Blurred Images

1. FAREWELL (*Indovina, Szmadzinski*)

I dreamed of the mountains
But never got close enough to feel
That they were a part of me
I remember the river, but I never went back

Every day I could be a step closer
Every day I could give myself the gift
In every way I know just what I need, and what I want
But I just keep walking the other way

So, farewell to the vision, farewell to the hope
And farewell to the moment
That I realized I'll never get home

Farewell to the love, farewell to the hate
And farewell to you my beautiful
I won't ask you to wait any longer
Because I know how that feels

2. DELANCEY STREET 1993 (*Indovina*)

The lights go down on Delancey Street, rain wet pavement beneath our feet
Our muted steps are the only sound that we hear for miles
I try to read your thoughts, I've been wrong before, it came at a cost
You see, I drank that poison willingly, I think I'll drink again

And maybe I can save us both, or at least a single day
I could just leave it up to chance, but I can never, I can never walk away

We are tethered to an unstable string, perhaps by stars aligned or earthly things
Destined for an eternity, and a moment from collapse
I call your name hoping you'll hear somehow, hope shades loneliness but just for now
I know you're near, and I know you're gone, and I've known it all along...

But maybe I can save us both, or at least a single day
I could just leave it up to chance, but I can never, I can never walk away

Silence tears a hole in a heart yet broken
Stillness' touch is cold, in anticipation
Of it over, and the pieces that will forever circle out of reach
Little promises you can never catch, but you can almost hear them laughing

I sit cold on a stranger's steps, on Venice or Adams, I can only guess
I spend my thoughts looking for my home
Trying again to make it real

The sun will rise soon on you and St. Mark's,
and over initials carved in central park
The lengths we both go to justify
A continent away

3. ONE MORE TIME AROUND THE LAKE *(Indovina)*

I guess I should've seen it coming, I should've seen the writing on the wall
I should have felt it no longer mattering, looking back I saw it in their face

This is the failure that keeps failing, where is that breath I struggle for
I'm having trouble forgetting to remember, so one more time around the lake

Mister sun I rise with you and sleep only when you do
Bring me to my feet, my tomorrows I share only with you

I think I'm the question with no answer, and I'm the rising tide that does not fade
I am the king that leads no one to nowhere, abandoning every bed I laid

Where is the love I could not measure, though I said the word a million times
Maybe I can find the definition, one more time around the lake

Mister sun I rise with you...

There are no pieces to pick up, there's not another sign to see
It is not a search for a new beginning, it's not a shout, it's not a plea

Somewhere three hearts beat together without me, sixty seven years brought this reward
As I wait for journeys end, the journey continues, one more time around the lake

I'm not looking for redemption, I'm not hoping to camouflage the guilt
I just keep staring at that same reflection, one more time around the lake

Mister sun I rise with you...

4. KING OF KINGS (*Indovina*)

Fighting all the mornings after, the tears that hid behind the laughter
The years you run away from
Time that ran like waterfalls, onto your shoulders the pressure falls
How could you not see it coming?

King of kings, fool of fools
Your sunny day is turning soon
Funny how a life of lies, will always lead to the truth

See all the pretty little innocent eyes
Those looks that kill they are disguised
So try harder, because I've been fooled before

There's a line I read in a book I've forgotten
"the tortured soul blames the world around him"
When in truth, the torture is of his own hands

King of kings, fool of fools
Your sunny day is turning soon
Funny how a life of lies, will always lead to the truth

Love I know I've kept you waiting for a promise I can't keep
I kept you waiting because I knew you would
I wrapped deception in a bow and paper and handed it to you smiling
Sometimes the devil smiles, when he needs you to feel safe

Pull your hair back and dry your eyes
But leave your deception where it lies
Out in the open for both of us to see
I wonder when you step out into the night
Will you look back believing you got out
With all of your secrets still safely hidden

King of kings, fool of fools
Your sunny day is turning soon
Funny how a life of lies, will always lead to the truth

5. INTO OUR ESCAPE (*Indovina, Balderas*)

She shows me pictures of her broken dreams, scattered in pieces on the floor
And she arranges them as she needs, to tell the story that she needs to tell

To be the martyr, to show the wanderer, whatever she needs to be now

Light the candle, let it flicker slowly, as we fall into our escape
Into our escape

She's selling this idea of a perfect love, I can do nothing but agree
I know I'm just a willing victim, the next in line who chooses to believe

To be a savior, to be a greatest love, whatever I need to be now

Light the candle, let it flicker slowly, as we fall into our escape
Into our escape

6. ANOTHER CRASH (*Indovina*)

There's been another crash, she can't remember who to call
Got a number somewhere she took, never planning to ever call
It's hard to wake, it's hard to sleep, it's hard to step, it's hard to breathe
And it's all because I care too much
I'm part of you, you know it too, maybe not just now,
And maybe not for many, many lives

Been a wife, a child, a beauty, a beast, sinned every sin,
Given and taken the purist love

She wants to cry again, but there are no more tears
She thinks to scream again, but she finds no one's ear
All the open doors now shut, she wonders what will it take,
To force another open now
The anger in her eyes the desperation in her voice,
the little girl disguise no longer works

Been a wife, a child, a beauty, a beast, sinned every sin,
Given and taken the purist love

It's been too long, you danced on the wire without concern
Without understanding why, did you consider the damage,
Or did you even plan to be here?

There's been another crash, she can't remember who to call
Got a number somewhere, will she ever call?

7. LET THE MEMORIES LIVE HERE (*Indovina*)

The whitest glow left blind, feeling safe though in its hold
Your touch sends shivers to my soul, baptism of a different order
When I see her beauty I do feel, and it's the first time
And without knowing I know, this world will never be the same

I see pictures in albums I've not lived, yet I know that I took every one
Her skin feels like I touch my own, and it feels like forever
Oh, in her eyes I feel beauty never known or imagined
I've shown everything I am in just this single moment

To the glory to the pain, and for a love I try to explain
For the moments ever rare, gone in a flash let them live here

Hold this day let it live, you may write about it one day
As the years stack up beside the fear, holding signs that say "*I wish I'd, if I'd*"...
Brought my hand to her cheek one more time, or listened closer to I love you
And maybe not let what I don't understand keep me guarded or running scared

To the glory to the pain, and for a love I try to explain
For the moments ever rare, gone in a flash let them live here

The silence breaking still, either with or without warning
I ride the river, I mind the tide, mostly now in silence though I
Walked with you in dream again last night, I woke and you were still there
I need you to stay in these pages for a while, I need to be on my way...

To the glory to the pain and for a love I try to explain
For the moments ever rare, gone in a flash let them live here

8. SOMETIMES (*Indovina*)

Sometimes it's hard to hear, though you hear every word
Though you hear every word
Sometimes it's hard to hear, even your own words
Even your own words
Sometimes it's hard to feel
And sometimes it's hard to know, it's hard to know it
Play confused, play a role
As long as no one knows, as no one knows it

I'll pretend, to forget, to let go, to forgive
Something lies, behind the truth, behind my eyes
I think I'll let it through

Sometimes it's hard to love, sometimes it's easier to run
Sometimes it's easier to run
But you can never run so far, to escape love
You never escape real love

I'll pretend, to forget, to let go, to forgive
Something lies, behind the truth, behind my eyes
I think I'll let it through

Sometimes it's hard to trust, even harder, to admit it
Sometimes it's hard to forget, sometimes though you find a way
Then one day you realize you can never forget

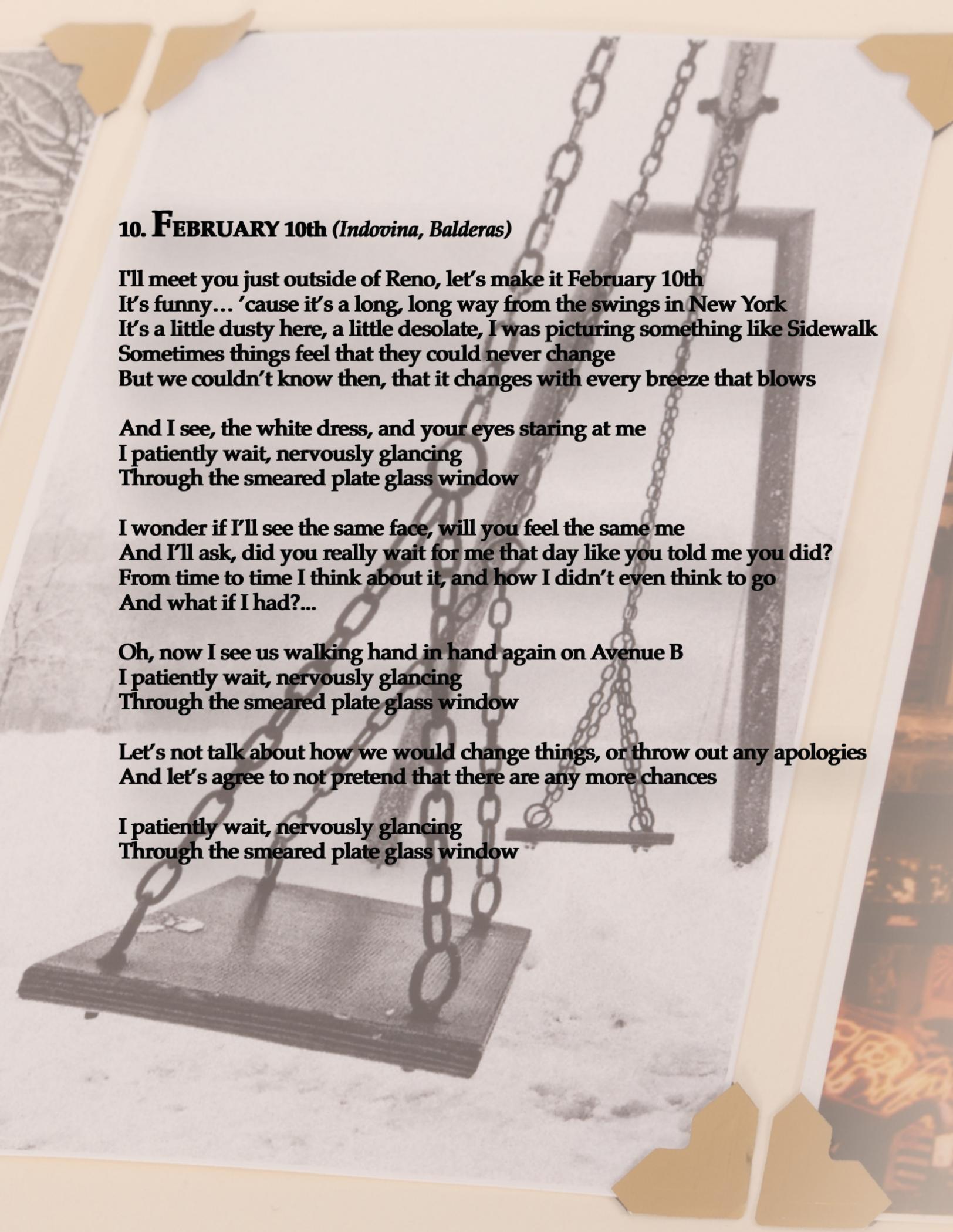
9. I'M LOOKING (*Indovina*)

I'm looking for someone, someone to hold
I'm looking for someone from a story old
Looking for someone to walk along
Walk with me everywhere I walked before
I'm looking for wisdom, I'm looking for change
Looking for someone, to help re-arrange
I'm looking, I guess I'm just looking for someone to blame

I'm looking for the magic while I'm looking to hide
I'm searching all the same places
For something never mine
I'm looking to right, to right a wrong
I'm looking for salvation, left to search alone
I'm looking, I think I'm just looking for someone to blame

This is all that there is left, I see how it could confuse you
But like all that came before, this is just a single moment
I know I still love you, but I simply hate the thought of "that" love
Because it mattered I stand facing love and hate

I'm looking for something, something new to feel
And for someone to tell me, what's fake or real
I'm looking toward the heavens, but I just see a sky
God help me I think I forgot to look inside



10. FEBRUARY 10th (*Indovina, Balderas*)

I'll meet you just outside of Reno, let's make it February 10th
It's funny... 'cause it's a long, long way from the swings in New York
It's a little dusty here, a little desolate, I was picturing something like Sidewalk
Sometimes things feel that they could never change
But we couldn't know then, that it changes with every breeze that blows

And I see, the white dress, and your eyes staring at me
I patiently wait, nervously glancing
Through the smeared plate glass window

I wonder if I'll see the same face, will you feel the same me
And I'll ask, did you really wait for me that day like you told me you did?
From time to time I think about it, and how I didn't even think to go
And what if I had?...

Oh, now I see us walking hand in hand again on Avenue B
I patiently wait, nervously glancing
Through the smeared plate glass window

Let's not talk about how we would change things, or throw out any apologies
And let's agree to not pretend that there are any more chances

I patiently wait, nervously glancing
Through the smeared plate glass window

Blurred Images credits:

Johnny Indovina: Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Vibes, Percussion
Mark Balderas: Moog Synthesizer, Keyboards, Hammond B-3, Piano,
Hammond Jazz Organ, Fender Rhodes Electric Piano, Mellotron, Wurlitzer
Steve Fuxan: Bass Guitar
Timothy Grove: Electric Guitar
Greg Collister: Drums and Percussion

With:

Pinky Turzo: Backing vocals on "Delancey Street 1993", "King of Kings",
"Into Our Escape", "Another Crash", and "Sometimes"
Crissy Guererro: Backing vocals on "Delancey Street 1993"
Michael Ciravolo: Electric guitar on "February 10th", and "I'm Looking"
Gerardo Pozos: Violin on "Another Crash"
Ann Maurice: Cello on "Farewell"
Bessy Muevanhall: Violin on "Farewell"
Jennifer Alan: Violin on "Farewell"

"Farewell" written by S.J. Indovina Jr., and Jamii Szmazdzinski,
"Into Our Escape" and "February 10th" written by S.J. Indovina Jr.
and Mark Balderas, "Delancey Street 1993", "One More Time Around the
Lake", "King of Kings", "Another Crash", "Let the Memories Live Here",
"Sometimes", and "I'm Looking" written by S.J. Indovina Jr.

Recorded in Los Angeles, CA, Mexico City, MX, and UKH Productions,
Nashville, TN.

Engineered by Charles Bouis, Michael Rozon, Johnny Indovina,
and Ray Aaron.

String Arrangement - Contractor on "Farewell": Paul Allen and Oliver Skaut.
Mixed by Mark Lonsway. Mastered by Daniel Hersch at D2 Mastering.

About Blurred Images

"It was a section of my life that I tried to forget. Then one day I heard a piece of music. I started to speak over this music. I dreamed of the mountains...I said. Two minutes later I realized I had said goodbye to something that I hardly ever (maybe never) consciously let surface. So, I brought something to a final resting place? No... I finally fully admitted that it had been lying beside every moment of my life since 1996. It kind of sat there adjusting things, so to speak. So, I looked it in the eye, and said "Farewell". But it couldn't simply end there. It was now time to let every aspect of that time in my life, all the little moments that contributed to the monumental event that would guide my life from far beneath the surface, to the surface.

So, I strategically next sang about a beautiful night on Delaney Street in 1993. Beautiful. Look what I found. Something beautiful and miles away from my ability to feel now. Then it got dark. No surprise. I was ready for it, and the conversation was more easy this time. I guess this story may make a cohesive piece of music...another concept album. So, I continued the story. King of Kings, One More Time Around the Lake, Into Our Escape, Another Crash, Let the Memories Live Here, Sometimes, I'm Looking, and February 10th. All pieces of a whole. There are many layers in responsibility in most situations, and layers of responsibility to the damages suffered. My goal was that this album be an examination of a relationship on all levels".

-Johnny Indovina 2021



HUMAN DRAMA 2021



Human Drama is a band that has endured and ultimately triumphed. Musical troubadours who have weathered countless storms, both personal and professional, while continuing to create their unique brand of music.

Their latest offering is **Blurred Images**, ten songs that were written and released as stand-alone singles, now gathered together into one collection by Los Angeles based Sunset Blvd. Records.

The album documents the latest musical offerings of singer/songwriter /guitarist Johnny Indovina, reflections of both his life and the world around him. It's the latest of Human Drama's concept albums (The World Inside, Songs of Betrayal, Broken Songs for Broken People) created by a band and a songwriter that prefer to work in this genre. Joining Indovina on *Blurred Images* are original band members Mark Balderas on keyboards and Steve Fuxan on bass guitar, along with guitarist Timothy Grove and drummer Greg Collister. Also appearing on the album is original Human Drama guitarist Michael Ciravolo, Pinky Turzo on backing vocals, Christie Guerrero on backing vocals and Gerardo Pozos on violin.

Human Drama grew out of the new wave/rock band The Models, which formed in New Orleans in 1980, and included Indovina, guitarist Michael Ciravolo, bassist Steve Fuxan, and drummer Charlie Bouis. The band relocated to Los Angeles in 1985, added keyboardist Mark Balderas, changed their name to Human Drama, and soon became an integral part of the legendary "Scream Scene" - a handful of bands including Jane's Addiction and Guns 'n Roses that regularly performed at the infamous downtown Scream club. Human Drama signed to RCA Records and released their debut EP, **Hopes, Prayers, Dreams, Heart, Soul, Mind, Love, Life, Death**, followed by **Feel** in 1989, both produced by Ian Broudie (Echo and the Bunnymen, The Fall, The Lightning Seeds). *Feel* is an edgy, viscerally emotional collection of alternative rock with strong melodic hooks, deeply introspective lyrics, sweltering guitar and vocals ranging from tortured whispers to throat-shredding howls. Unfortunately, *Feel* was a victim of label mishandling and did not approach its commercial potential. Tracks like "Death of An Angel", "I Could Be a Killer", and "Heaven on Earth", could have been major hits on alternative radio, but the album went largely unnoticed. Undeterred by their disappointing experience with a major label, Human Drama chose the independent route for their next album, and despite working with a fraction of the budget, the result was their masterpiece, 1992's **The World Inside**. Human Drama set aside the searing rock of *Feel* for a more acoustic-based sound made magical by dazzling strings and Indovina's powerfully resonant voice. Brilliant from start to finish, standouts include the single "Fascination and Fear," the melodic folk-rock gem "Tears", and the propulsive rocker "Look into a Stranger's Eyes". The album was showered with critical acclaim, and although commercial success remained elusive, Indovina and Human Drama had found their path for success.

The 1993 covers album **Pin Ups**, an homage to David Bowie's 1973 classic of the same name, has Indovina taking on songs by Bowie as well as Leonard Cohen, Lou Reed, The Rolling Stones, and Tom Waits, and features a breathtaking reimagining of Joy Division's "Love Will Tear Us Apart". A year later the band released the **Human Drama EP** including the newly arranged version of their epic "The Waiting Hour" utilizing only piano, strings and flute. In 1995 Human Drama unveiled **Songs of Betrayal**, a 25 track master class in songwriting with tense and raucous electric guitar-driven tracks like "Another Fifty Miles" and "It Is Fear", and piercingly beautiful ballads like "Blue" and "This Forgotten Love". The album was reissued four years later as two separate discs with the addition of several bonus tracks.

Human Drama's blistering 1996 live album **Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Four Days Later**, which refers to the exact number of days Indovina had been alive up until the date of the recording, then captured the full power of the band's electrifying live performances. Particular highlights are a white-hot rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Who by Fire", and a fervid take on their own early gem "Wave of Darkness". Another studio album followed, 1999's **Solemn Sun Setting**, a deep, diverse collection, ranging from the exquisite ballads "Single White Rose" and "Love's Way", to the expansive and dramatic "March On", to the deliciously eerie psychedelia of "My Denial". Human Drama's intended farewell album arrived in 2002 with **Cause and Effect**,

where they set the strings aside and came out with guitars blazing on feverish rockers like “Goodbye Sweetheart” and “I Am Not Here”. However, Indovina did not abandon his gift for stunning balladry, and “Lonely”, swirling with sumptuous piano, is one of the finest of his career.

Human Drama then disbanded, and Indovina pursued a side project, **Sound of the Blue Heart**, with whom he released two albums: **Beauty?...** and **Wind of Change**. Indovina finally released his first solo album in 2014, **Trials of the Writer**, an intimate and deeply personal look at the intense emotional connection between the songwriter and the soul-bearing compositions that document his life with honesty, poignancy, and sometimes heartbreak.

But Human Drama’s fanatical following would not let their band die. Their relentless encouragement brought the band back together for two triumphant performances. The first was in August 2012 at El Plaza Condesa in Mexico City, and then again three years later, when the band marked their 30th anniversary by delivering a marathon performance on Halloween night at the Circo Volador in Mexico City. Forty two songs were played that night, concluding with the first new Human Drama track in 13 years, “The Liar Inside”.

The fans enthusiasm and the successful recording of “The Liar Inside” led Indovina into an intensive period of songwriting, which resulted in **Broken Songs for Broken People**, their 2017 release which delivers the essence of Human Drama - songs of both delicate beauty and aching pain.

An important moment in Johnny’s career was then captured in the 2020 documentary film **Seven Days in Mexico**. The film follows Johnny’s journey into rediscovering his musical purpose after years of feeling his creatively slowly drained by the music industry. A special bonus disc containing music from the film will be packaged along with Blurred Images to complete the two CD set.

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