

# SNOW BUD AND THE FLOWER PEOPLE

## FLASHBACK



9 Songs

Killer Bud  
Rat Fink  
Stoner Girl  
Flashback  
Uppers Downers Inners Outers  
Bonghit  
Mary Jane Brown  
No Shake  
Seeds For Thought

In their 1966 scholarly report, *The Varieties of Psychedelic Experience*, authors R.E.L. Masters & Jean Houston, Ph.D. described the effects of psychotropic substances on human perception as an unfolding, multi-layered, "...near-infinite spectrum of tone and feeling." This is also a pitch perfect description of **SNOW BUD AND THE FLOWER PEOPLE's** new release *Flashback* [CSR62].

Allowed to soar with **Jack Endino's** straight forward and clear cut production, songwriter, guitarist and vocalist **Chris Newman** is presenting Snowbud fans the record that has always been floating just over on the other side. With bassist **Nathan Jorg** and drummer **Lance Paden**, Newman took his legendary four track recordings from an evening in 1985 and gave them the treatment they have always surely deserved. Newman's guitar work steps into virtuoso territory, his vocals range from crooner to madman, and the lyrics are peppered with humor, but always sincere. The tunes play with elements from rock n roll to jazz to folk to metal with ease. And underneath it all is the deep biography of a man that has seen good times, hard times and in between times – and a man that has smoked a lot of weed.

Opener "*Killer Bud*" drops in with doom in a minor key. Heavy riffs and pounding drums. Newman growls out the varieties that have passed through his lips as distorted, swirling guitars scream behind him. Dark blues – a murderer after you. Here it is all about the weed though. The notes hold high and drop, bringing a flush to the cheeks. Even if you haven't partaken you get a serious contact high. No shit.

The title track "*Flashback*" kicks in with rootsy, twangy guitar, verging on the brink of country. Chris recounts stories of comical horror – standing in the welfare line, driving drunk, dinner with the girlfriends parents - all while experiencing unexpected alterations of consciousness. It is enough to make one laugh out loud. Then the band launches into outer space hard, far and in hyperdrive – visions of geometric shapes, a chorus of operatic angels, unexpected and breathtaking. Beauty dances all around and *it is a trip*.

The album closer "*Seeds for Thought*" has Newman playing with pop structures and idioms of the 1960s. His voice is sincere, weathered, human and beautiful. He sings of his need for weed, his efforts to grow a crop and it causes a chuckle. Then he sings, "I was gonna say something smart but I forgot / I need to plant some seeds, seeds for thought... / Seeds for thought will blank my head, I won't know nothing..." It is clear – this isn't funny – this is real – it is all of us.

**SNOW BUD AND THE FLOWER PEOPLE's** *Flashback* is a document that expands on Chris Newman's work from 1985 – a lifetime to some. Musically the space it traverses is wide, long and deep while being simultaneously wryly humorous. Lyrically, topically and sonically it feels so much different from that underground cassette of yesteryear – maybe Chris has grown in his ability to express himself. Maybe the world is big enough to hold these ideas. Maybe time has finally caught up with the idea that music can be multi-dimensional and contain many opposing thoughts and tones and feelings. Or maybe, just maybe, you have just smoked some really amazing weed.

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