



Cannery Row Records presents

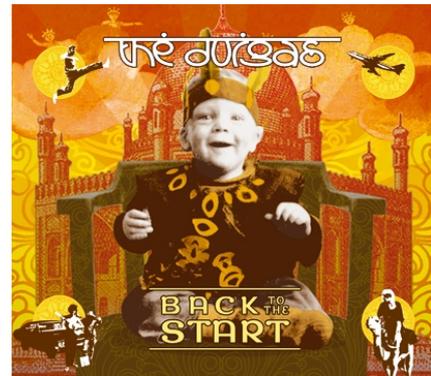
**The Durgas**  
**Back To The Start**

Digital release: Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 2007, itunes, Amazon & Co  
Germany release: Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 2008

Style: Global Rock

**"The songs on Back To The Start are about a feeling of community, a feeling of engagement, and a kind of collective optimism."**

-Rolling Stone Magazine, Germany. February 2008



**"A reason for unbridled celebration!"** -WOM Magazine, Germany, February 2008

The title *Back to the Start* refers to a new beginning for Benjii and Christopher Simmesbach as **The Durgas**, after playing for many years as **A Subtle Plague**. Their first rehearsal in the new configuration including Rainer Baumgartner, one of Berlin's best, was in 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand, where they were invited to perform at the *XV International Aids Conference*.

The songs on **Back To The Start** reflect the musical symbiosis of this diverse collective. The musical backbone of The Durgas' stems from the American underground, drawing from blues, soul and early rock, while seamlessly folding in African and Eastern European folk elements. This characteristic style was influenced by the brothers' international upbringing and is continuously evolving as their dedication to performing off-the-beaten-track has taken them to remote locations around the world.

**"The Whiskey Tree"**- How many times has a friendship turned sour because of alcohol? This song is about that point in our lives when we have to make a choice.

**"Sleep Vivian"** is written about the late Cameroon soccer player Mark Vivienne Foe who died on the soccer field playing the game he loved so well. The National team players of Cameroon are also called "the Lions", a symbol often used in Africa to symbolise strength and determination. After Mark Vivienne passed away, fans waved banners bearing the phrase "The Lion does not die, he just sleeps."

**"Julia"** Benjii wrote late one night in San Francisco, while staring out the window down onto Mission St., watching an old friend get into a strangers car.

**"Passage To The Milky Way"** speaks about the transition to the afterlife, **"...with a guitar solo flying up into the sky"** (*Rolling Stone*), was written in Thailand in 2004 after visiting the Mercy Centre, and playing for the many children dying from Aids.

At the end of the album are **3 live recordings** from the **People's Theatre Honoka'a/Hawaii**, including **'Commercial Job'** (from A Subtle Plague times), **"a 13 minutes long jam, reminding me of the Allman brothers."** (Jörn Schlüter, *Rolling Stone*), and includes a bonus **video clip** of **"The Whiskey Tree."**

The album was recorded in the **Claustrophobia Sound Studios** in **Berlin**, mixed by **Boris Wilsdorf** (producer of legendary band *Einstürzende Neubauten*), mastered by **Noa Winter Lazerus** (*The Rolling Stones, Tom Waits, Joe Cocker, Pink Floyd*). The video clips consist of super-8 recordings by **Maomi** (Monika Neven DuMont) and live recordings by **Iris Stark**, and was edited by **Iris Stark** and **Omar Abdulzahab**.

*Back to the Start* also features **Chuck Prophet** on "Wish I Could" and **Patrick Simmersbach** (from **A Subtle Plague**) reunites with his brothers for the live shows recorded in Hawaii.

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