The Danny Morris Band

Look What You Did!

DCM; 2008

Look what he did, indeed.

This new CD's title is indicative of Morris' well-known humility, a quality that's made him one of the beachside's most beloved performers since he hit our shores in 2003.

Marked by ringing flecks of '60s surf guitar and glinting flourishes of sun-drenched reggae, this latest release finds Morris and his solid band (comprised of accomplished drummer Frank Hetzler and solid bassist Mike Tolnay) soaring over the sand swept environs of Mexico and Central America ("Lime and Salt"), California (the menacing, Dick Dale-inflected "Surfin' Girl"), and the Caribbean ("Let's Build A Condo"). Florida, of course, is all over the album, in the breezy approach to each tune and in the humid immediacy of the images each evokes.

But it's that particular Danny Morris humility that shines the brightest on Look What You Did! It's that rare generosity of musical spirit that lifts the band, pelican-like, far up over the heads of lazier "beach" bands who simply go through the Corona-fueled motions. Morris and his cohorts clearly love the music, yet despite the tethered discipline on showcase (opener "Tequila Beach," and covers of the "Exodus" theme and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumble Bee"), the band also manage to have loads of fun, illuminating Morris' often playful lyrics with inventive thematic motifs.

Morris, while a phenomenal guitarist on par with the likes of Adrian Belew and Dick Dale himself, also proves himself to be an incredibly creative lyricist on "We Real Cool" and the aforementioned "Lime and Salt," to name just two. The 7 tracks that make up the first "side," are all Morris originals, while Lennon and McCartney's "Nowhere Man" is given the band treatment on "Side 2," along with "Mountain Dew," Michael Carr's "Man of Mystery," and a rousing cover of... wait for it...the "Green Acres" theme. The album winds to an incredible close with the "Pops" Morris-penned and sung "Goat Talkin'." Along with appearances by "Pops" (Danny's father), the album also features special guests "Saxman", Stan Morris and Pat Batz.

What you get, then, is a record packed full of fabulous moments (remember records like those?), making it seem more like a palpable adventure than some vaguely pleasant lawnchair diversion. So much so, in fact, that you may need to rinse off your feet before settling in for the night.

Catch the Danny Morris Band at these venues throughout the month of November: 11/9: The Crowne Plaza in Melbourne Beach from 2 to 6 p.m.; 11/13: Coconuts in Cocoa Beach from 7 to 11 p.m.; 11/14: Norman's Grill in Cocoa from 6 to 10 p.m.; 11/15: The Beach Shack in Cocoa Beach from 8 p.m. to Midnight; 11/16: Redhead's in Port Canaveral from 3 to 7 p.m.; 11/28 in the Ron Jon's store, Cocoa Beach from Noon to 4 p.m.; 11/28: Rum Runners in Cocoa Beach from 8 p.m. to Midnight; 11/29: at the Cocoa Beach Art Festival from 3 to 5 p.m.; 11/29: The Key West Bar in Indialantic from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and at Captain Hiram's in Sebastian on 11/30 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. For more information on the band, including detailed gig schedules, sound clips, and links to purchase Look What You Didl, go to www.dannymorrisband.com. You can also here Danny host "The Big Surf Show" every Saturday morning from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Dawn Patrol, 89.5 FM WFIT (www.wfit.org)