

Jewel in the Lotus

Journey Without & Within Julian Franks

Glastonbury veteran Julian Franks (tabla player and percussionist) has spread his wings and can now add producer, arranger, songwriter and film maker to his credits as creator and instigator of the **Jewel in the Lotus** project.

The CD includes Tibetan singer **Soname** (performed for the Dalai Llama and played at the Royal Opera House); rising singing star **Carrie Tree** (has supported Damian Rice and Marillion); Jambience players **Enrick Adam** (guitar), **Phil Jackson** (didge) and **Joe Samuels** (violin); Indian virtuoso flautist **Ashok Kumar Mehta** and many other world music performers.

Quotes & Reviews

"On listening to *Jewel in the Lotus* I found myself drifting further and further away on a Soulful Pilgrimage through a richly woven soundscape of Western and Asian music"

"Being privileged to see an advance copy of the *Jewel* DVD I was very touched by it's magnetic warmth, especially as it seems to focus on what as inhabitants of this small planet we all have in common, and not as is usual....Our Differences!"

Dave Meegan, Record Producer (worked with U2 on Joshua Tree, Rattle & Hum; producer of Marillion's new album; worked extensively with Trevor Horn)

"Julian's album appealed to me for its energy, its quality and its obvious path from the heart. Julian is on a journey. There are talented people prepared to be a part of this journey and that's always a good sign"

Al Scott, Record Producer (Asian Dub Foundation, The Oyster Band, The Levellers)

"It's good to see Julian making music about something important to him. Lovely rhythms, and an expansive vista. Well done!"

Arthur Brown (of The Crazy World of Arthur Brown), singer of psychedelic anthem 'Fire'

"As a long term fan of world fusion music, I know what I like and I like Julian Franks new album 'The Jewel in the Lotus' very much indeed"

Lynne Franks, Author, Entrepreneur & Lifestyle Guru

"I really enjoyed your album and will talk about it where I can"

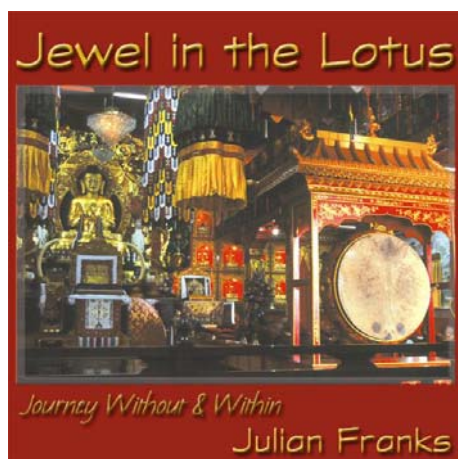
Benjamin Zephaniah, Poet

"Julian's heartfelt musical impressions of his trip make for stimulating and evocative listening and might well make you want to pack your rucksack as well"

Matt Chittock, Wave Magazine

"Recorded in Hove, it sounds more like Nepal - one minute you're in a Buddhist temple and the next in a club"

Marie Sansom, The Insight Magazine



Artist Information: Julian Franks

Biography

Born in London, Julian started drumming early - he had his own drum kit by age 9 and was introduced to the world of jazz and live music by his father. Julian took his first Tabla lesson in Southall, London with **Ismail Sheikh**. Sheikh himself was a student of **Alla Rakha, Ravi Shankar's** long time Tabla player and father of Zakir Hussain.

During the 80's and 90's, Julian studied middle eastern Darabouka (Doubec) in **Greece**, playing with other Greek and Turkish folk musicians - notably the legendary **Ross Daly** - and making his mark as a teacher, performer and maker of percussion instruments. Julian spent a year in **Paris** continuing to teach Tabla and Darabouka, performing regularly with Afro-Jazz fusion group **Nawal** and providing percussion for contemporary dancers' study and performance in studios all over Paris.

Back in the UK, basing himself in **Brighton**, Julian was part of **Lotus Gypsy**, performing at the Avalon stage at **Glastonbury Music Festival** in 1999 and was the founder member of the multi percussion band **Kunundrum**.

Julian has performed with **Nick Pynn** (Steve Harley's Cockney Rebel), as part of **Arthur Brown's 'Crazy World of Arthur Brown'** and with **Jambience** at **Peace One Day** (2002,2003) supporting **Faithless, Starsailor, One Giant Leap, Jimmy Cliff, Nena Cherry, Dave Stewart (Eurythmics), Glastonbury Festival (2002,2003), The Big Chill Festival (2002)** and **Festival of Flight** supporting **Nitin Sawney**.

Julian **teaches** Tabla, Darabouka and multi-percussion in schools throughout the UK. He has given **multi-percussion workshops** and works with participants from many different groups. Julian's work includes continuing collaboration with contemporary dancers in Greece, France and England.

The album 'Jewel in the Lotus' is the culmination of Julian Franks' musical career thus far. Julian was inspired to make the album after his first trip to **Nepal and India**. This journey linked up all the elements of his musical experience and knowledge, his own spiritual journey, his artistic eye and the urge to create. Making the album linked with the return journey to **Nepal and Varanasi** in India with his elder son Joel. It became a pilgrimage, lovingly treading the ancient pathways of jungle elephants, sacred cows, Buddhist monks, Hindu saints and sages, all the while capturing on video the strange richness of sight and sound. These powerful images now illustrate the album and are being crafted for the forthcoming DVD of the album to be launched mid 2005.

Journey Without & Within - extract from Jewel In the Lotus CD booklet.

I came to the lands of Nepal and India as a simple traveller following in the footsteps of many a pilgrim. What I was to receive in the course of my travels by rich "experiences" was beyond my wildest dreams and imagination...

The message I personally received was to return to simplicity, a loving and caring heart, an awareness of the fragility of our planet & learning to fall in love with nature in all its glory. With these new bountiful feelings I began to care more about the welfare of all the other "sentient beings" both animal & human - with whom I share this sacred planet. I started on a journey without, which has led me to a journey within, to find "the Jewel in the Lotus".

Julian Franks. July Full Moon 2004

Website

www.julianfranks.com

Discography

'Jewel in the Lotus - Journey Without & Within' released 1 November 2004
Available to purchase via www.julianfranks.com

Contact details

Tel: +44 (0) 7887 560312 / +44 (0) 1273 241768

Email: info@julianfranks.com

Mail: Jewel in the Lotus, c/o 40 Franklin Road, Brighton, BN2 3AE, UK