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Ricky Ross

"THIS IS THE LIFE"

Release Date: April 08, 2002
Label: Papillon Records
CD Catalogue number: BTFLYCD21

After the hugely successful return of Deacon Blue in 2001 (with the release of two albums and two sold out national tours), you'd easily be forgiven for assuming that **Ricky Ross** would be sitting back and relaxing with a contented smile on his face... But you'd be wrong.

Returning with a brand new solo album, **This is the Life** (released through Papillon on April 8th and accompanied by a full UK tour), Ricky has produced what he feels to be the strongest set of songs he has ever gathered together on one album. Six years in the writing and edited down from twenty tracks to the final thirteen, **This is the Life** shows Ricky's song-writing in an entirely new light.

Recorded live in **Park Lane Studios**, Glasgow, the album features Mick Slaven (guitar), Scott Fraser (bass), Jim Gash (drums) and was produced by Ricky and Kenny MacDonald, with additional production from Davie Scott (guitar, keyboards and vocals).

Whilst taking it's lead from his two previous solo albums (*What You Are* and *New Recording*), **This is the Life** proves that Ricky's music is as relevant now as it has ever been, perhaps even more so. Deacon Blue were always a highly charged act with huge anthemic songs, but Ricky's solo material is markedly more personal and introspective; perfectly crafted contemporary material that easily rivals that of acclaimed acts such as Rufus Wainwright and Ryan Adams, and is just as essential in any music collection.

Dates for the forthcoming tour are:

April 13	Ayr Gaiety Theatre	Box Office: 01292 611222
April 15	Aberdeen Lemon Tree	Box Office: 01224 642230
April 16	Glasgow Cottier Theatre	Box Office: 0141 3324400
April 17	Stafford Gatehouse	Box Office: 01785 254653
April 19	Spalding South Holland Centre	Box Office: 01775 725031
April 20	Colchester Arts Centre	Box Office: 01206 500902
April 21	Southampton Brook	Box Office: 02380 555366
April 23	London Union Chapel	Box Office: 0207 3444444
April 24	Reading Concert Hall	Box Office: 0118 9606060
April 25	Worcester Huntingdon Hall	Box Office: 01905 611427
April 26	Newtown Theatre Hafren	Box Office: 01686 625 007
April 27	Milton Keynes Stables	Box Office: 01908 280800
April 29	Burgess Hill Martlets Hall	Box Office: 01444 242888
April 30	Birmingham Academy	Box Office: 0870 9032222
May 01	Liverpool Neptunes Theatre	Box Office: 0151 7097844
May 02	Manchester Lowry	Box Office: 0161 8762000
May 03	South Shields Customs House	Box Office: 0191 4541234

Ricky Ross is currently available for interview. For further information or for review copies of the album call Nigel at Quite Great Publicity on 01223 880111 or e-mail nigel@quitegreat.co.uk

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Ricky Ross

The 1996 release of Ricky Ross' debut solo album, **"What You Are"**, saw the long awaited return of Glasgow's prodigal son, two years on from the departure of the hugely popular **Deacon Blue**. The singles **"Radio On"** and **"Good Evening Philadelphia"** perfectly showcased an album that saw a noticeable shift to a more live, personal approach to song-writing that Ricky felt had been inappropriate to indulge in whilst within a band context.

Since 1994 Ricky has been concentrating on his solo career and has established himself as a much sought after composer, writing for both theatre and television - his first foray into which was **"On The Line"**, Dundee Rep Theatre's production based on the story of Timex in Dundee. "On The Line" went on to win the TMA Martini Award for the Best Overall Production.

Ricky's first solo shows in May '97 saw him playing two nights alone at Glasgow's Tramway and led to his first short UK solo tour. October of the same year saw the release of **"New Recording"**, an acoustic album recorded simply on guitar and piano, with no guest musicians and only sparse backing tracks provided by loops (programmed by co-producer Paul McGeeechan). Later that year, Ricky went back to his theatre work in order to compose the music for **"Much Ado About Nothing"** on behalf of Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum.

"The Undeveloped Heart EP" was released in early 1998 and saw Ricky undertook his first nation-wide solo tour, going on to play further shows in Spain and Ireland. In September, he played on the bill at the Royal Festival Hall to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Chilean coup that took the life of singer songwriter Victor Jara. Hosted by Emma Thompson and with Jara's widow Joan in attendance, this was the highlight of Ricky's solo career so far and spurred him to further his involvement with various charitable organisations. Thus, in November '98 he visited Promissao in Sao Paulo state, Brazil on behalf of **Christian Aid** to help publicise the work of the landless movement in Brazil **(MST)**.

After playing two shows at Celtic Connections in Edinburgh and Glasgow in 1999 Ricky embarked on a national tour accompanied by long-time collaborator Mick Slaven, and in May **Deacon Blue** were persuaded to reform in the name of charity for what turned out to be a sell-out gig. The follow-up show went on to sell out in just half an hour. Encouraged by the overwhelming success of these performances, the band went on to tour nationally.

In July '99 Ricky signed a new publishing deal with **Warner Chappell Music** giving him the support he felt he needed to get a label to release a new album, and in 2000 he embarked on a short solo tour with the band that would soon come together to record.

In the meantime Ricky composed and recorded his first TV soundtrack for **"Easter Tales"** providing the theme track and incidental music for 7 short monologues, featuring contributions from Claire Bloom, Joss Ackland, Eileen Atkins, Helen Baxendale and others.

The first tracks recorded by Warner Chappell encouraged **Papillon** to offer a solo album deal and in August and September the tracks for the album were recorded with Mick Slaven (guitar), Scott Fraser (bass) and Jim Gash (drums). The album was cut live in **Park Lane Studios** in Glasgow, produced by Ricky and Kenny MacDonald, with additional production from Davie Scott (guitar, keyboards and vocals).

2001 was an extremely busy year, seeing the release of a new Deacon Blue studio album, **"Homesick"**, a **"Best of..."** compilation and two national tours. Ricky also wrote the music for Giles Havergal's production of **"A Midsummer Night's Dream"** (at The Citizens in Glasgow) and was commissioned to write a second TV soundtrack for ITV Drama premieres. Starring Sarah Lancashire and written by acclaimed playwright Jonathan Harvey, **"The Lucky Ones"** is to be screened in October 2002 and features original songs and incidental music by Ricky Ross.

Now comes the release of **"This Is The Life."** Six years in writing and edited down from twenty tracks to the final thirteen, Ricky feels that this is the strongest set of songs he has ever gathered to make an album. The release is followed by a national tour, starting on April 13th 2002.