

## Ralfe Band - Son Be Wise

### Release Dates:

June 3rd 2013 - Digital

June 10th 2013 - Vinyl / CD

### Tracklisting

1. Ox
2. Barricades
3. England My Darling
4. Oh My Father
5. Magdalena
6. Come On Go Wild
7. Kings and Queens
8. Dead Souls
9. Hidden Place
10. Ladder
11. Cold Chicago Morning
12. Boy With an Old Tin Drum



Welcome back to the intriguing world of **Ralfe Band**, whose new collection of 12 songs *Son Be Wise* is out on June 3rd. The brainchild of English songwriter **Oly Ralfe**, *Son Be Wise* marks a new chapter in the Ralfe Band story, and draws on a vivid pallet of sounds blending euphoric folk pop, whispering ballads and gothic picaresques to craft its uniquely enigmatic sound.

Infused with images of travel, the album draws inspiration from Oly's life of living between England and Berlin and adventures in Iceland, Mexico and the USA. The album was recorded in the UK, beginning with **Rob Ellis (PJ Harvey, Anna Calvi)** in a remote Wales studio, continuing with **Andy Ramsay of Stereolab** in South London and was completed in rural Oxfordshire. On his writing process Oly muses, "I've been a nomad these last few years, writing my songs on the move. I find different locations make me feel alive and conjure up ideas."

The album's musical journey takes us from the sweeping opener 'Ox', to the striking anthem 'Barricades', through hushed vocals and echoing synths on 'Magdalena', expansive eastern strings on 'Oh My Father', delicate motifs in 'Ladder' and the stormy finale of 'Cold Chicago Morning', closing with the introspective waltz "Boy With an Old Tin Drum". The album is underpinned throughout by Oly Ralfe's signature piano playing.

The album's lead single 'Come On Go Wild' dances its way through an infectious bossa nova rhythm, imbued with an English eccentricity that is unmistakably Ralfe Band. On penning the surreal tale, Oly says "I wanted to cheer myself up with a fun song. It came to me while jamming to an old '80s drum machine, and it made me laugh whenever I played it.

*Son Be Wise* marks a new chapter in Oly Ralfe's songcraft, drawing on a kaleidoscope of inspiration from Erik Satie's music to Borges's Labyrinths and Emily Brontë's poems. Of his lyrics Oly continues, "I like my songs to be slightly mysterious. I'm inspired by lyrics that possess puzzling intrigue, straddling places and perspectives."

# RALFE BAND

*Son Be Wise* also features backing vocals from **Alessi Laurent-Marke** aka **Alessi's Ark** who appears on four songs, including album openers 'Ox' and 'Barricades', with **Piney Gir** lending her voice to 'Dead Souls'. Oly says "It's the first time I've used female vocals. I love the interplay of male and female voices like Serge and Jane."

Alongside Oly's vocals, piano, guitar and accordion, the key players are Nick Fowler (bass, guitar), Garo Nahoulakian (guitar) and Mike Monaghan (drums), who also make up the live line-up. Long-term Ralfe Band players John Greswell (strings, viola, mandolin), Andrew Mitchell (guitar) and Ben Nicholls (lap steel guitar) add to the sound, along with guests Rob Ellis (drums on *Cold Chicago Morning*), Blur and Radiohead brass and woodwind player Steve Hamilton, saxophone by Pete Wareham of Polar Bear and Acoustic Ladyland and Garance Louis on accordion.

Ralfe Band's musical journey began in 2005 with debut album *Swords*, a madcap voyage praised by Mojo and The Independent and earning the band an early cult following. Second album *Attic Thieves* strengthened Ralfe Band's reputation for blending ingenuity and intrigue in their wholly original sound. *Son Be Wise* follows Ralfe Band's acclaimed soundtrack and album to 2010 feature film *Bunny and the Bull* (Warp Films).

As well as extensive tours of the UK and Europe, Ralfe Band have played at many festivals including **SXSW**, **CMJ**, **Reading and Leeds**, **End Of The Road** and two of the main stages at **Glastonbury**. Their unique songs have drawn wide-reaching radio support including multiple live sessions for **Mark Radcliffe**, **Marc Riley** and **Tom Robinson**.

Oly Ralfe's distinctive artwork and videos have shaped a unique image, from his animated video for single 'Women of Japan' - winner of Best International Music Video at SXSW - to his artwork for Ralfe Band's singles and albums. Past creative collaborations with **Noel Fielding** and **Julian Barratt** have seen Oly contributing songs and cameos to **The Mighty Boosh** TV shows, and in 2010 he directed the film *The Mighty Boosh On Tour - Journey of the Childmen*. Oly Ralfe also won the Raindance Award at the British Independent Film Awards for BBC4-screened *The Ballad of AJ Weberman*, a documentary about the notorious Bob Dylan obsessive.

**Ralfe Band's** music takes us to a place vibrant with impulse and emotion. Sons and daughters, listen and be wise.

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## Websites:

[www.ralfeband.com](http://www.ralfeband.com)

[www.highline-records.com](http://www.highline-records.com)

# RALFE BAND

## Tour dates 2013

Tue 12 Mar – NL, AMSTERDAM, The Paradiso w/ I AM KLOOT  
Wed 13 Mar – DE, COLOGNE, Luxor w/ I AM KLOOT  
Thu 14 Mar – DE, HAMBURG, Uebel & Gefährlich w/ I AM KLOOT  
Fri 15 Mar – DE, DRESDEN, Beatpol w/ I AM KLOOT  
Sun 17 Mar – DE, BERLIN, Lido w/ I AM KLOOT  
Mon 18 Mar – DE, MUNICH, Backstage Halle w/ I AM KLOOT  
Tue 19 Mar – AT, VIENNA, WUK w/ I AM KLOOT  
Wed 20 Mar – AT, DORNBIRN, Conrad Sohm w/ I AM KLOOT  
Fri 22 Mar – BE, BRUSSELS, Botanique w/ I AM KLOOT  
Sat 23 Mar – FR, PARIS, La Maroquinerie w/ I AM KLOOT  
Tue 9 Apr – UK, LONDON, The Vortex (single launch)  
Sat 13 Apr – UK, SHEFFIELD, Leadmill w/ I AM KLOOT  
Sun 14 Apr – UK, BIRMINGHAM, Institute 2 w/ I AM KLOOT  
Tue 16 Apr – UK, YORK, Grand Opera House w/ I AM KLOOT  
Wed 17 Apr – UK, MIDDLESBROUGH, Empire w/ I AM KLOOT  
Thu 18 Apr – UK, EDINBURGH, Liquid Room w/ I AM KLOOT  
Sat 20 Apr – UK, NORWICH, Waterfront w/ I AM KLOOT  
Sun 21 Apr – UK, OXFORD, O2 Academy w/ I AM KLOOT  
Tue 23 Apr – UK, LONDON, Purcell Room w/ ALESSI'S ARK  
Wed 24 Apr – UK, NOTTINGHAM, Bodega w/ ALESSI'S ARK  
Thu 25 Apr – UK, LEICESTER, O2 Academy w/ I AM KLOOT  
Fri 26 Apr – UK, HOLMFIRTH, Picturedrome w/ I AM KLOOT  
Sat 27 Apr – UK, LIVERPOOL, O2 Academy w/ I AM KLOOT  
Sun 28 Apr – UK, NEWCASTLE, The Think Tank w/ ALESSI'S ARK  
Mon 29 Apr – UK, LEEDS, Brudenell w/ ALESSI'S ARK  
Tue 30 Apr – UK, BRISTOL, Louisiana w/ ALESSI'S ARK  
Wed 1 May – UK, BIRMINGHAM, Hare & Hounds w/ ALESSI'S ARK  
Sun 19 May – UK, OXFORDSHIRE, Wood Festival  
Fri 31 May – UK, OXFORD, Wilderness In The City @ The Ashmolean Museum  
Mon 3 Jun – UK, MANCHESTER, The Castle  
Tue 4 Jun – UK, LONDON, Madame JoJo's  
Sun 9 Jun – UK, BRISTOL, Rise Music in-store show. Performance starts 3pm  
Thu 13 Jun – UK, SOUTHSEA, PORTSMOUTH, Pie & Vinyl in-store show. Performance starts 7pm  
Fri 14 Jun – UK, MARLBOROUGH, Sound Knowledge in-store show. Performance starts 6.30pm  
Sat 15 Jun – UK, OXFORD, Irregular Folk Summer Sessions @ The Perch, Binsey  
Wed 3 Jul – UK, TOTNES, South Devon Arts Centre w/ ETHAN JOHNS  
Sat 6 Jul – UK, CALSTOCK (Cornwall), Calstock Arts Centre w/ ETHAN JOHNS  
Sat 10 Aug – UK, OXFORDSHIRE, Wilderness Festival  
Fri 30 Aug – UK, DORSET, End Of The Road Festival (main stage)