



## ALÓWAN - "Feathers"

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*„I have music playing in my head all of the time. It has to get out one way or another! It was a long time coming album, but it's here now and there is more coming as well.” - Jean Yves Tola*

**We're more than happy to release the debut album by ALÓWAN on Glitterhouse Records in April 2024. „Feathers“ is the first official album from Jean Yves Tola since 16 Horsepower separated in 2005.**

**ALÓWAN** is the side of **16 Horsepower** that has not been heard before. As a founding member of the alternative country band from Denver, Colorado, Tola's arrangements, music and influence in the band was always clearly present through their career. This is a more personal and intimate vision. In collaborations with a few friends and musicians **“Feathers”** is a body of work to be reckoned with. Tola presents 10 beautiful and dark folk songs. **Chantal Acda**, the main vocalist, will carry you to the clouds with her light but deep tones and poetic lyrics. **ALÓWAN** takes her to new territories and her talent shows. The Texan **Calvin Dover** (Dover Brothers) accompanies her on a couple of tracks making the duet irresistible. A few others join Tola in this project, such as **Steve Taylor** (former 16 Horsepower guitar player) and **Theo Hakola** of the famed **Orchestre Rouge** and **Passion Fodder**.

With **„Feathers“**, Tola shows his versatility as a composer, a producer but also as a musician. *“I was always very much involved in the creative process of all the bands I have been in. Even more so with 16 Horsepower, in the writing- and arrangements process with David Eugene Edwards but also in the production and recording of the albums. I was working closely from the first take to the mastering sessions with the producers and the engineers”* he says, *“I ended up learning a lot and it has helped me tremendously for the realization of this project”*.

**Jean Yves Tola** started playing music when he was six years old, learning solfège and classical music at the conservatory. Surrounded by four older siblings who all played music from piano, to guitar, to violin, and bathed in a multitude of music styles from Mozart to Dylan, Miles Davis to 70's Rock, Jean Yves, at the age of 15, started drum lessons. He also then switched his attention to the punk rock and cold wave scene, becoming a member of several Parisian punk and rock bands until he joined **Passion Fodder** (former **Orchestre Rouge**) in the late 80s and moved to Los Angeles, following a worldwide record deal with Beggars Banquet and RCA. After three albums and a few tours, Tola moved on and joined Edward's band, **The Denver Gentleman**, then also based in LA. Tola and Edwards (along with Pascal Humbert) founded **16 Horsepower** shortly after and after only one show, they decided to move to **Denver, Colorado**, where the band would really start its serious career, signing with A&M records in 1994.

*"16 Horsepower was my life" says Tola. "I played in it, created and arranged the music with David, took care of the business side of things and finally also managed the band on and off the road after we left A&M and joined with **Glitterhouse Records**. It was a 24/7 deal and I loved it. Signing with Glitterhouse was a great move. The whole team were amazing to work with, very efficient, and gave us the real freedom to soar in Europe... and we did!"*

Regretfully, **16 Horsepower** dissolved in 2005 but gained a cult-like reputation for this genre of music in Europe and the US. To this day, their body of work is still alive, being thought out and revered by the press and the public at large. **David Eugene Edwards** has kept his light on with his impressive collection of **Wovenhand** recordings. And now **Jean Yves Tola** is back, too.

After a move to Kentucky and a lapse in the public eye, he did not stay idle. *"It took a while for me to recover from the breakup. It was very hard. But music never stopped in my mind. I started to write some of the ,Feathers' songs fairly early after I moved to Kentucky. Our horse farm was in full swing so my time was limited but the music kept coming. Eventually, I started to write it down and do little demos over a couple of years on very simple equipment. When that body of work became significant enough and showed some potential, I started building my home studio, piece by piece, and started to record properly in 2019 - and then it really flowed out of me. Lots of time had passed, thoughts, emotions and feelings were plentiful".* For the past two years, Tola has been very busy writing, recording and producing. The result is this debut album ,**Feathers'**. Each song has its own character and style but the link between them is obvious. *"Chantal and I clicked right away" he says. "I liked her vocals and was not sure if she would be willing or interested to collaborate with me but she dove in right away. As we worked and talked, we soon realized how much we had in common besides the music. Horses, wolves, cold weather, nature, space".*

The first single "**Let It Flow**" is about letting things take their natural course and accepting them as they are. Tola says of the songs lyrics: *"Chantals lyrics add a little mystery with the souls and the continuity of life and death. A bit cryptic for sure but I think the result works well."*

He wrote the music for the second single "**Guitar Man**" some time ago, but was never really satisfied with the end result, so one day he picked up his acoustic guitar, started all over again and composed a completely new song. The lyrics are a tribute to a very close friend and musician of **Chantal Acda**, who sadly passed away a few years ago.

The story of the third single "**Horsewind**" is set in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. It is about the sailors' fear of too little wind to cross the 30th latitude. Because they had too little water on board for their horses, they were forced to throw them overboard. Different times, different existential problems. Side note: **Jim Morisson** wrote a poem on this subject back in 1967, from which **The Doors'** song "Horse Latitudes" emerged.

**ALÓWAN's** ,Feathers' can be very sparse and very intricate at times... from one instrument to quite a few, creating a very full sound. Tola's influences are clearly diverse, which could lead to a lack of cohesion - but not here. It is concise and homogenous. *"I would like to think that I am a musician before being a drummer or even to be more accurate a percussionist. I will usually have the music before the*

*drums or percussions. The melody and the vocals will dictate what the drums will do. They need to be simple, not getting in the way of anything. Without having a singer to work with right away, as I did in previous bands, and as a composer, you can mess around with the music, push everything in all directions. It's very cool but can also get pretty messy. Then the singer has to fit in this mess you created! That's where Chantal was really amazing. She would just fit it. Almost helped me understand what I was trying to achieve at times. I would send a track to her and was dreading a bit what she would be able to do with it. But almost every time, she would send it back and I would be floored. Just so good. I would rework a few things obviously but the main vocals would be there. I spend a lot of time outside, mostly alone with horses. They teach you to listen and focus on your surroundings. When finally you do and hear...man...nature can actually be very loud! And also very musical...and the silence is deadly...amazing and huge when it comes. I really thought about that when I worked on these songs", Tola finishes.*

**Chantal Acda** ads: *"It has been wonderful working on this beautiful music. In a way exciting because this music was inviting me to do different things and adapt to Jean Yves world. Both connected through horses surrounding us, we also found ourselves in the same place while making this album. Such a joy!"*

*„ALÓWAN is Lakota Sioux and is a ceremony involving singing over individual/s and ascribing status to him/her/them. Some people are sung over, honored, for deeds they accomplished“ says Jean Yves about the name.*

After we had the honour to release **16 Horsepower**, **Wovenhand**, as well as **David Eugene Edwards'** side project **RISHA** we're more than happy to welcome **Jean Yves Tola** and **ALÓWAN** to the **Glitterhouse Records Family of Music**.

**ALÓWAN "Feathers"** will be released on LP, CD and digital on April 19th, 2024 via **Glitterhouse Records**.

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