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LICORICE SOUL PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROUD MARY: Follow Me. Re-issued by Licorice Soul Records (Cat. No. LSD009).

Release Date: Monday September 5, 2005.

Licorice Soul return with a slice of femme folk-funk perfection.

In the late 1960's, Stephan Sulke, a young German musician, returned to Europe after enjoying a brief pop career in America. Leaving the pop world behind, Stephan worked as an engineer at the Montreux festivals, recording and collaborating with some of the great names of jazz. In his spare time he recorded an album called **Proud Mary**. It was released on the ultra-obscure French label Evasion and fell quickly into relative obscurity and there it remained for over 30 years - until rediscovered by Licorice Soul Records.

The Licorice Soul partners were quick to establish contact with Stephan Sulke, who shared the story of the creation of this remarkable album with them. When asked about the re-issue of his work, Stephan said *"I thought to myself, isn't it great that one and half generations later, people dig this up and want to put it back in the open and you know what? This new generation of music lovers has got taste..."*. Word of **Proud Mary** is spreading quickly among club DJs, with original copies of the album exchanging hands for over £100.

The **Proud Mary** sessions were recorded in Bienne, Switzerland during 1971 and featured a number of famous session musicians, most noticeably French guitarist supremo Pierre Cavalli, and a number of local musicians – including a local gypsy drummer. The vocals were provided by Mary Linn, an English singer who was touring Switzerland with a rock group before being drafted by Sulke to perform on his tracks. Containing 10 original compositions, the **Proud Mary** album contained all of the musical styles that had influenced Sulke during his early – Brazilian music, American pop, Euro beat and folk music.

Follow Me opens with a folk guitar, dancing flutes and an imaginative vocal that builds and builds until the drums kick and power the song through to the finish. It's a sublime and utterly compelling song. **Steal Me** is slightly more conventional in structure, utilising a strong euro-pop sound accompanied by a strong beat and featuring a fantastic break.

Licorice Soul's Sie Watson says: "Proud Mary is a cracking record and we're delighted to have the opportunity to release it again. This is a stunning two-sider that's as fresh now as it was thirty years ago!"

About Stephan Sulke

Stephan Sulke has enjoyed a career in the music industry for over 40 years and is best known in his native Germany for his involvement in the German folk scene. More information about Stephan is available at <http://www.stephansulke.com>

About Licorice Soul Records

Licorice Soul Records is an independent UK-based record label dedicated to reissuing the very best music on high quality, strictly limited edition vinyl formats.

For further information contact:

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