

RAYA NOVA

BAND STORY

"Raya Nova is a five-piece rock band based out of Berkeley that formed in 2001 in a different configuration. Venezuelan native, Eduardo Gamboa (lead guitar and vocals) teamed up with Grae Ryder (rhythm guitar and vocals) in both individual and collaborative song writing accompanied by Chile native Leonardo Cartes on percussion. After various incarnations of the original group under several names and a changing line up of bass players and drummers (Spinal Tap's no lie!!!) they honed their performance and evolved their music. Raya Nova combines the unique styles of Eduardo Gamboa and Grae Ryder's original melodic and harmonic vocals superimposed on the backdrop of a rhythmic, genre-bending hybrid of music. Their sound runs the gamut from early Pink Floyd (Meddle, Dark Side era) to the Buena Vista Social Club, Santana to U2 and much more. The lyrics have a depth and consciousness that has become a rarity in a darkening world. Sometimes they're ambient psychedelic and at other times folk influenced or the danceable rhythms of Latin music. The music is at times dark and brooding and at others melancholic and sweet. Sometimes they're just good ole **** kicking' rock n roll. Yet throughout this wide range of influences they maintain a consistent identity and original sound. In 2007 with the help of previous bass player Paul Durst and previous drummer Navek Ceja, they completed their first full length CD, "and Darkness held sway", an album in the tradition of the '70's concept records with the songs loosely tied together conceptually and physically through track cross fading so that the whole stands alone as a piece but the songs can be enjoyed individually too. The



STATS

Visits	Plays
210	17
Streams	Downloads
17	0

Featured Songs

- 1 **THE LONG STAIRS** Rock
- 2 **BLOOD AND PRIDE** Rock

can be enjoyed individually too. The record was recorded and mixed by Eduardo Gamboa, which was his debut experience as a producer and finally mastered by Gary Hobish at A. Hammer Studio San Francisco. The CD contains over an hour of music that takes you on a trip. In summer of 2007 Raya Nova was joined by Manuel Rodriguez, a bass player from Napa, CA with over 15 years experience who later recruited drummer Jason Petek to join the band for the then upcoming CD release party. Jason, who also has over 15 years experience was a former band mate of Rodriguez' from previous projects. Thus the Alchemy was completed and a successful CD party was held at the Starry Plough in Berkeley on January 31st 2008. The band is currently working on a video project and will be continuing to play throughout the Bay Area. On December 14th 2008 Raya Nova had their last show with Grae Ryder. Another chapter is yet to be written... For info about upcoming gigs and projects or to purchase a copy of RAYA NOVA "and Darkness held sway" CD go to: www.myspace.com/rayanova Eduardo Gamboa 925-2508942 "

LATEST NEWS

Album Review by Alex Green



Raya Nova

And Darkness Held Sway...
Independent
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Filled with princesses, knights, astronomy and references to Plato, Raya Nova's debut *And Darkness Held Sway...* is a winning collection of thoughtfully crafted indie prog rock. Although the Berkeley quartet is a relatively new outfit, they have the kind of expert musicianship that makes them sound as though they've been around for years. Virtuoso rhythm section aside, singer Eduardo Gamboa is the kind of charismatic frontman they don't make anymore-loaded with presence and self-possession, Gamboa sounds completely at home in these compositions. Whether he's singing in English or Spanish (of the latter, there are three numbers), Gamboa's appeal is infectious. The wistful "Around The Sun" is plaintive and affecting; "The Long Stairs" is a gruff and crunchy blast of urban ska that sounds like The Samples via Led Zeppelin and the acoustic "11 de Abril" is just stunning. Elsewhere, "Sweet Maria" is a compelling rocker; "Inside Out" is a blast of ethereal blues and "Blood And Pride" is filled with swagger and muscle. What makes Raya Nova such an impressive band is their willingness to experiment with rhythms and instrumentation; guitarist Grae Ryder plays a mean Lap Steel and both percussionist Leonardo Cartes and drummer Navek Ceja are deeply inventive rhythmists.

Within the course of a composition mandolins and saxophones appear out of nowhere, harmonicas add touches of Americana and classical guitar flourishes give each number a complex layer of sonic expertise. Bookended by an eerily apocalyptic spoken word piece that chronicles the war between darkness and light and a tender album closer sung in Spanish, *And Darkness Held Sway...* is an ambitious and striking beginning. You'll be glad you were there from the start.

Àçâ, ~â€ Alex Green-AMOEBA RECORDS

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