



RICHARD TEITELBAUM *Asparagus*

Label

BLACK TRUFFLE

Format

2LP

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Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - T - SOUNDTRACK



DESCRIPTION

Black Truffle announces a major archival release from legendary American composer and live electronics innovator **Richard Teitelbaum**, centered around his soundtrack for **Suzan Pitt**'s cult 1978 animation *Asparagus*. Best known to some listeners for introducing Europe to the Moog synthesizer as a founding member of **Musica Elettronica Viva** in Rome, Teitelbaum's extensive and radically experimental body of work includes collaborative recordings with master improvisers like **Anthony Braxton**, **Andrew Cyrille**, and **George Lewis**, intercultural experiments combining electronics with non-Western instruments such as the shakuhachi, works for computer controlled piano, and large-scale multimedia operas. Recorded at York University, Toronto in 1975-1976, "*Asparagus* (European Version)" sprawls across both sides of the first LP. Discovered by composer **Matt Sargent** in Teitelbaum's tape archive, this is a previously unheard major work for Moog modular and Polymoog synthesizers, unique in Teitelbaum's oeuvre for its lushness and gently melodic quality. Teitelbaum incorporated much of this material into his soundtrack for Suzan Pitt's *Asparagus*, which receives its first official release here. *Asparagus*, famously paired with **David Lynch**'s *Eraserhead* for a two-year run of midnight screenings at New York's Waverly Theatre, uses hand-drawn and stop animation to unfurl an oneiric succession of images, beginning with a sequence in which the female protagonist defecates two stalks of asparagus, which multiply and float out of the toilet bowl to form the letters of the title. Teitelbaum's soundtrack interweaves delicate drifting tones from the "European Version" with contributions from **Steve Lacy** and **Steve Potts** on saxophones, George Lewis on trombone and **Takehisa Kosugi** on violin. The final side of the set presents a new realization of Teitelbaum's text score "Threshold Music," performed at a memorial concert at Roulette, New York in 2022 by **Leila Bourreuil** (cello), **Alvin Curran** (sampler and objects), **Daniel Fishkin** (daxophone), **Miguel Frasconi** (glass objects), and **Matt Sargent** (lap steel). Here the players use a field recording taken at Teitelbaum's home in Bearsville, New York, their long tones and shimmering, glassy textures delicately emerging from the white noise of the location recording. Released with the full approval of both Richard Teitelbaum and Suzan Pitt's estates, *Asparagus* is illustrated with striking images from Pitt's film and accompanied by detailed liner notes by **Francis Plagne**. These previously unheard pieces shed new light on the work of a key composer in the American experimental tradition, offering up some of Teitelbaum's most beautiful and engaging music.

TRACKLISTING

- A1. *Asparagus* (European Version Part I) (16:43)
- B1. *Asparagus* (European Version Part II) (15:48)
- C1. *Asparagus* (Original Soundtrack) (18:20)
- D1. *Threshold Music* (21:39)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Black Truffle announces a major archival release from legendary American composer and live electronics innovator **Richard Teitelbaum**, centered around his soundtrack for **Suzan Pitt**'s cult 1978 animation *Asparagus*.
- Features a previously unheard major work for Moog modular and Polymoog synthesizers, unique in Teitelbaum's oeuvre for its lushness and gently melodic quality.
- *Asparagus* is illustrated with striking images from Pitt's film and accompanied by detailed liner notes by **Francis Plagne**.

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