

# HERZOG

# MOUSE



# SESSIONS

# ON MARS

## MOUSE ON MARS Herzog Sessions

Label

**SONIG**

Format

**LP**

Catalog Number

**SONIG 094LP**

UPC

880918267135



Store Price

**\$21.39**

Release Date

**10/25/24**

Territory

**NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE**

Genre

**FILE UNDER - M - SOUNDTRACK**

# SONIG

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## DESCRIPTION

In 2007 an Italian film festival invites **Mouse on Mars** to score a film of their choice. The organizers claim to be able to clear the rights for any movie the band chooses. **Werner Herzog's** fictional documentary *Fata Morgana*, which merges footage of several desert explorations by Herzog and his team into one continuous association, has long been a band's favorite. The film comes with a soundtrack by **Mozart, Leonard Cohen, Third Ear Band** and field recordings. **Andi Toma** and **Jan St. Werner** are sent a DVD to Düsseldorf and start working. The idea is to score the film in real time so instrumentation has to be readily at hand: guitar, percussion, electronics, mouth harp, pedals, software, tapes, samplers. Once the arrangement for the three-part film is sorted Mouse on Mars bring their score to stage. *Herzog Sessions* is performed twice: first when the band still thought the rights had been cleared, and a second time at London's Southbank Center knowing that Herzog would have never approved a new score. Filmed in 1971, *Fata Morgana* is perhaps not one of Herzog's best-known works, but then Mouse on Mars have never been ones to embrace the mainstream, quietly letting their modern, experimental take on krautrock do the talking over the years, thus producing some quietly brilliant electronica that far outweighs their modest profile. The film itself is not altogether dissimilar to the wonderful, **Phillip Glass**-scored *Koyaanisqatsi*, with sweeping landscape shots and no obvious plot or narrative, though *Fata* is concentrated purely in one place – in and around the Sahara Desert, switching from images of barren wasteland to desert tribes and dead, skeletal cattle. The obvious thing to do when soundtracking such powerful imagery is to vie for dreamy electronic soundscapes which can be sustained for a long period, and whilst this ambient shoegaze approach was present and correct (also carefully constructed and highly effective), Mouse on Mars added a human element to the performance, incorporating a live dimension by using and looping guitars, harmonicas, processed vocals and even a live horn player for the final section of the film. Some of the most interesting points arose when the duo suddenly switched from solemn, ambient tones to glitchy, bouncing electro (reminiscent of their more upbeat work) whilst on the same film shot – causing the audience mood to flick from tripped-out bliss to attentive semi-wired, utterly subverting any idea of a narrative the film may have possessed.

## TRACKLISTING

01. oergHz (14:55)
02. ozgreH (7:05)
03. ergoHz (2:55)
04. zeHrog (4:38)
05. goerzH (6:57)
06. rHegoz (8:19)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mouse on Mars's** score for **Werner Herzog's** fictional documentary *Fata Morgana* (1971).
- Mouse on Mars added a human element to the performance, incorporating a live dimension by using and looping guitars, harmonicas, processed vocals and even a live horn player for the final section of the film.
- Some of the most interesting points arose when the duo suddenly switched from solemn, ambient tones to glitchy, bouncing electro (reminiscent of their more upbeat work) whilst on the same film shot.

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