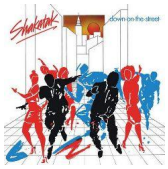
Shakatak - Down on the Street (Deluxe Edition) [2015]



01. Down on the Street 02. Holding On 03. Summer Sky 04. Hypnotised 05. Don't Blame It on Love 06. Photograph 07. Watching You 08. Fire Dance 09. Lady (To Billie Holiday) + 10. Down on the Street (Dance Mix) 11. Don't Blame It on Love (Extended Mix) 12. Down on the Street (Extended Mix) 13. Holding on (Extended Mix) Gill Saward - Vocals Keith Winter - Guitar George Anderson Junior - Bass Guitar Bill Sharpe - Keyboards Simon Morton - Percussion Roger Odell - Drums Chris White, Martin Dobson - Saxophone, Flute Bill Eldridge, Stewart Brookes - Trumpet, Flugelhorn Tracey Ackerman - Backing Vocals

Containing their last sizeable UK hit single (the title track peaked at No 17 in August 1984), Down On The Street was also Shakatak's final Top 10 UK album and marked the start of a slide in the collective's commercial fortunes. With radio programmers now largely ignoring the band's output, this reissue comes as a refreshing excursion to that decade's dancefloor, now largely remembered for brasher, more cutting-edge acts.

Ethereal, soprano-pitched vocals and melodic, jazz-influenced piano riffs are largely the order of the day here, so, even back then, Shakatak was considered something of an oddity in the pop charts, despite their enjoying six UK Top 40 hits over a three-year run. Reissued here with four bonus 12" mixes, including should-have-been-a-smash Don't Blame It On Love, this is the latest in the act's reissue programme and complements their continuing success on the touring circuit and the more recent On The Corner release. Nothing here will likely win any new converts, but this is a polished, hard-to-characterise collection that demonstrates why the band deserved its slice of mainstream success – and continues to find an audience to this day. --- recordcollectormag.com

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