

LIVED IN PORTUGAL DURING A FASCIST REGIME. THERE WAS DEFINITELY
A HEAVY WEIGHT ON ALL OUR LIVES. THE FIRST MANIFESTATION OF THE REGIME
WAS POLITICAL AND MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO INITIATE
CHANGE INTO A FAIRER AND MORE HUMANE SYSTEM, GOT SECRETLY WATCHED
AND ENDED UP IN A POLITICAL PRISON AND POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE
OFTEN TORTURED.

THE 25TH OF APRIL 1974 REVOLUTION WAS THE MOST EXHILARATING EXPERIENCE THAT
A COUNTRY COULD GO THROUGH COLLECTIVELY. EVERYONE RAN OUTSIDE, SMILED
BELIEVED AND ENJOYED THAT FREEDOM. SUDDENLY IT SEEMED THAT CENSORSHIP
HAD DISAPPEARED AND EVERYTHING COULD BE DISCUSSED OPENLY. THERE WAS SO
MUCH HOPE!

IN DECEMBER 1974 I MOVED TO LONDON, WHICH GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO
STUDY ART AND TO FORM THE BAND. A BAND IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE, AND
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE BEST RESULTS COME MOSTLY FROM
EACH PERSON BEING ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN THOUGHTS, IDEAS
DESIRES AND DREAMS MUSICALLY WITHIN THAT GROUP.

ROUGH TRADE HAS PLAYED AN ENORMOUS PART IN MY LIFE. IN 1977
I FELT HONOURED WHEN GEOFF TRAVIS ASKED ME TO WORK
AT THE SHOP AS HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A
WOMAN THERE. BANDS WERE FORMING, PHONE NUMBERS
EXCHANGED, FRIENDSHIPS MADE, MUSIC, FANZINES, BADGES
WERE BOUGHT.

WE STARTED THE RAINCOATS LATE THAT SUMMER AND, IN 1979,
GEOFF OFFERED TO PUT OUT OUR 1ST EP. WE WENT ON TOUR IN MAY
AND I STOPPED WORKING AT THE SHOP. THE RAINCOATS BEGAN
A PARTNERSHIP WITH ROUGH TRADE, WHICH ALLOWED US
THE SPACE TO FLY OUR WAY AND WE RELEASED FOUR
ALBUMS TOGETHER.

ANA DA SILVA



YOU CROSSED THE STREET THINKING
THIS WAY OR THAT WAY
YOU CHOSE THE THIRD
YOUR HEART SILENTLY
BLEEDING



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OUR THOUGHTS ARE CONFUSED
HOVERING ABOVE CONFUSION
SHIVERING IN TWO RHYTHMS OF STRANGE
UNEXPECTED COMBINATIONS



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