

= House of Rufus =

House of Rufus is a collection of six studio albums , two live albums (one being a double album) , four additional albums of previously unreleased material , and six DVDs recorded by Canadian @-@ American singer @-@ songwriter Rufus Wainwright , reissued as a 19 @-@ disc box set in the United Kingdom on July 18 , 2011 . Wainwright 's official site claimed that the collection " spans Rufus ' entire career and represents the most complete collection of Rufus Wainwright recordings to date . "

The box set 's title commemorates his five @-@ night residency of the same name at London 's Royal Opera House during July 18 ? 23 , 2011 . Only 3 @,@ 000 copies were produced for worldwide distribution . The collection contains " hard @-@ to @-@ find " tracks and is encased in a red velvet @-@ covered book . While some reviewers questioned the need for such an extensive collection , critical reception of the box set was mostly positive .

= = Background = =

The box set 's release was confirmed on Wainwright 's official site on March 21 , 2011 . Only 3 @,@ 000 copies were produced for worldwide distribution . Box sets were sold for £ 150 in the United Kingdom , ? 170 throughout Europe , and were available as imports in the United States for \$ 350 . As part of the marketing strategy to promote the collection and concert series , Universal Music Catalogue developed a " treasure hunt " video for YouTube where visitors identified clues , and navigated links within a collage of Wainwright 's music videos . According to Wainwright , the rarities box set was a " little Rufus blast " before he began work on his next pop album . Wainwright also said the following of the collection : " There 's my old demos , a lot of them were recorded in Montreal ... when I had a very , very different voice , I kind of sounded like a little old man . There 's that and there 's a lot of fabulous collaborations with my mother , my father and some other great artists . " Wainwright had originally intended to call the box set The Rufus Cycle . After being told the title was " too sophisticated " , he went with House of Rufus , partly inspired by Lady Gaga 's Haus of Gaga . Wainwright claimed the box set 's release shortly after his father 's (Loudon Wainwright III) box set 40 Odd Years was " totally serendipitous " .

The box set 's title commemorates Wainwright 's five @-@ night residency at London 's Royal Opera House during July 18 ? 23 , 2011 , also referred to as the " House of Rufus " (sometimes the " Haus of Rufus ") or billed as " Five Nights of Velvet , Glamour and Guilt " . During the first night , Wainwright performed his tribute concert to Judy Garland , recorded previously in June 2006 , and released as Rufus Does Judy at Carnegie Hall in 2007 . The production was repeated on July 22 , the fourth concert of the series . The July 19 and 21st shows included performances alongside his sister Martha Wainwright and father Loudon . The residency 's final night included a program called " Rufus Does Rufus " , and featured Wainwright performing selections from his 2009 opera Prima Donna . Stephen Oremus conducted the Britten Sinfonia for three of the performances , and soprano Janis Kelly was featured in the " concert version " of Prima Donna . Reception of the residency performances was mixed .

= = Contents = =

The box set contains six studio albums : Rufus Wainwright (1998) , Poses (2001) , Want One (2003) , Want Two (2004) , Release the Stars (2007) , and All Days Are Nights : Songs for Lulu (2010) . Each of the albums contain material that was not released previously . Also included are two live albums ? the Grammy @-@ nominated 2007 double album Rufus Does Judy at Carnegie Hall , and Milwaukee at Last ! ! ! , released in 2009 ? each with previously unreleased tracks , along with four additional albums of rarities and six DVDs . Musicians described as " friends and family members " who appear on one disc of collaborations include Kate & Anna McGarrigle , The Pet Shop Boys , Teddy Thompson , Martha Wainwright , and Loudon Wainwright III . Another disc contains demo tracks from the tape which earned Wainwright a recording contract . DVD recordings

include : Live at the Fillmore , Rufus ! Rufus ! Rufus ! Does Judy ! Judy ! Judy ! : Live from the London Palladium , Milwaukee at Last ! ! ! , a collection of Release the Stars commentary and live performances , All I Want and Prima Donna : The Making of an Opera . House of Rufus contains approximately thirty unreleased or " hard @-@ to @-@ find " tracks . The collection is encased in a " red velvet @-@ covered 90 @-@ page hardback book " featuring lyrics , photos , hand @-@ drawn tour posters , art prints , and liner notes by Neil Tennant , Linda Thompson , Lenny Waronker , Martha Wainwright , and Rufus himself . Wainwright dedicated the box set to publicist Barbara Charone , " without whom it wouldn 't have been possible " .

= = Reception = =

Critical reception of the box set was mostly positive , though some reviewers questioned the necessity for such an elaborate collection , especially given Wainwright 's age , and the higher @-@ than @-@ expected price . Will Hodgkinson of The Times wrote that a box set for Wainwright , whom he described as a " not yet middle @-@ aged artist " , was unnecessary , but that the collection " shine [s] a spotlight on its creator 's rare , remarkable songwriting " . Hodgkinson called Wainwright and the box set " charming " overall , but thought that the " excess of material stops the great moments from really shining out " . Hive magazine contributor Luke Hannaford complimented Rufus and Loudon 's performance of Richard Thompson 's " Down Where the Drunkards Roll " , which was recorded specifically for this collection , describing it as " achingly beautiful " . Martin Aston 's review for BBC Music was positive ; in addition to other tracks , Aston complimented " Get Out of Town " (Cole Porter , 1938) and " Sweet Repose " , both demos he considered to be " unreleased stunners that betray [Wainwright 's] show tune soul " .

Though she noted the higher @-@ than @-@ expected cost of the box set , Helen Brown of The Daily Telegraph wrote that it served as an " impressive array " that showcased Wainwright 's range and hard work . Evening Standard contributor David Smyth wrote that " this luxurious treasure chest will be too deep for almost anyone apart from its creator " . Smyth found the Rufus Family and Friends album to be " most charming " , specifically " What 'll I Do " which features the whole Wainwright family . Brian Boyd of The Irish Times considered the box set to be " sensory overload " , and thought that the quality of the previously unreleased material appearing on the studio albums varied , but called the collection " magnificent ... from a delightfully unorthodox and consistently engaging performer " . Boyd also noted the cost of the box set , but complimented the quality of its packaging and " extras " .

= = Track listing = =

Studio albums

Live albums

DVDs

Box set albums

(*) designates previously unreleased material

Track listings adapted from Allmusic , Hive magazine and Universal Music .