

Created by: Edward F. Nesta

John Ellis and Double-Wide - Puppet Mischief

Whimsical and creative describes [John Ellis & Double-Wide - Puppet Mischief](#), which uses the band's New Orleans musicianship to turn memories from John's childhood experiences in to an innovative sound.



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Puppet Mischief: *Okra & Tomatoes; Fauxfessor; Dewey Dah; Puppet Mischief; Carousel; Dublinland Carnival; Chorale; Héroes De Acción; This Too Shall Pass*

Personnel: John Ellis: Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet; Jason Marsalis: Drums; Matt Perrine: Sousaphone; Brian Coogan: Organ; Gregoire Maret: Harmonica; Alan Ferber: Trombone

John Ellis & Double-Wide - Puppet Mischief was produced by **John Ellis** and released on the [Obliq Sound](#) label; this marks the second release of John Ellis with Double-Wide. **Puppet Mischief** layers in John's New Orleans music influence with his childhood experiences of carnivals, state fairs, and clowns to create an assemblage of music that will have you smiling, laughing, and from time-to-time scratching your head.

John's arrangements utilizing the inimitable sounds of a sousaphone, organ, bass clarinet, harmonica, and trombone are festive, fanciful, imaginative, and artistic. The opening track, *Okra & Tomatoes* is a play on life's perfect pairings and opens with a howling horn section that is like the siren of the Big Top beckoning you to step-right-up and come-on-in the show is just about to begin. Opening the door to a world where reality has taken a break, the band jazzes up the middle sections and gets the crowd warmed up for the ensuing tracks. The track *Fauxfessor* is a frolic New Orleans style where every turn provides a new musical adventure.

Dewey Dah is a melancholic track that coerces the listener into a feeling of fear and bewilderment. John's use of the tenor saxophone layered over the sousaphone and heart-pounding drum beat complemented by the organ interludes builds to a fitting crescendo. Now that Double-Wide has garnered your attention they roll into the title track *Puppet Mischief*, and mischief is what they create with a bit of mockery mixed in with a bit of silliness encapsulated by Gregoire Maret's superb harmonica work.

The track *Carousel* draws its influence from the sounds of the Midway and the music that drew crowds to the shows, games, and rides. He plays with the listener creating a feeling of amazement and astonishment against a blues backdrop. He transitions to the track *Dublinland Carnival* that draws a similarity to that of the barker calling out the next show, "hurry, hurry, step right up, get your ticket the show is about to begin." A soliloquy of drum and saxophone passages produces confusion and worry against a backdrop of wonder.

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The release also includes the tracks: *Chorale*, which is a short beautiful cut that features the horns; *Héroes De Acción*, a fantasy song that John wrote as a soundtrack for an imaginary Spanish cartoon crime-fighting hero, and he truly captures the elements of a Latin hero jumping into and out of danger; and the last track, *This Too Shall Pass* opens with the sobering sound of the sousaphone calming your nerves after a fun filled, frantic, exciting, and rewarding day under the Big Top with John Ellis & Double-Wide.

Websites where you can procure **John Ellis & Double-Wide - Puppet Mischief** are [John Axson Ellis, Play, Obliq Sound, J&R, Barnes & Noble](#), and **Amazon**.

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