



Top Scores #9: Combustible Edison & Four Rooms (1995)

Description



Happy New Year!

Whether youâ??re powering through your new resolutions or still shaking the confetti out of your hair, our first **Top Score** of the year is a tribute to the NYE season.

Four Rooms is the 1995 anthology film which features a star-studded cast of that decadeâ??s talent, both in front of and behind the camera. **Tim Roth**, **Antonio Banderas**, pop megastar **Madonna** and **Marisa Tomei** are just some of the starring actors, while **Allison Anders**, **Alexandre Rockwell**, **Robert Rodriguez** and **Quentin Tarantino** each take on a segment of the movie as writer/director.

Four Rooms is loosely based on the short fiction writings of **Roald Dahl**, and is set in a Los Angeles hotel on **New Year's Eve**. Tim Roth plays the main character, a bellhop whose first night on the job unfolds through four encounters with hotel guests.

The four parts of the film are woven together by a soundtrack written and performed by **Combustible Edison**. The seven-piece outfit from Providence, Rhode Island, was at the forefront of the resurgence of **lounge music** in the 1990s, alongside contemporaries like **Love Jones**, **Pink Martini**, **The High Llamas** and **Don Tiki**. Rising in counterpoint to the popularity of grunge music, the '90s lounge trend embraced – if not a little ironically – the sound of midcentury easy-listening music, sharp vintage fashion styles and retro cocktail culture.

Combustible Edison formed in 1991 and disbanded in 1999, having released three artist albums with renowned indie label **Sub Pop**. The *Four Rooms* soundtrack earned them even more cool points, via the producer credit: **Devo** frontman **Mark Mothersbaugh**.

Despite the film's top quality ingredients, *Four Rooms* was not met with the warmest of receptions. The movie earned a 14% critics rating on Rotten Tomatoes, Madonna's work in the film won a **Razzie Award** for Worst Supporting Actress, and "Vertigogo", the theme song, was submitted for consideration for an **Academy Award**, but disqualified because Combustible Edison's lyrical content was deemed to be "incomprehensible".

Watch the video for Combustible Edison's song "The Millionaire's Holiday" which appeared on the *Four Rooms* soundtrack, below.