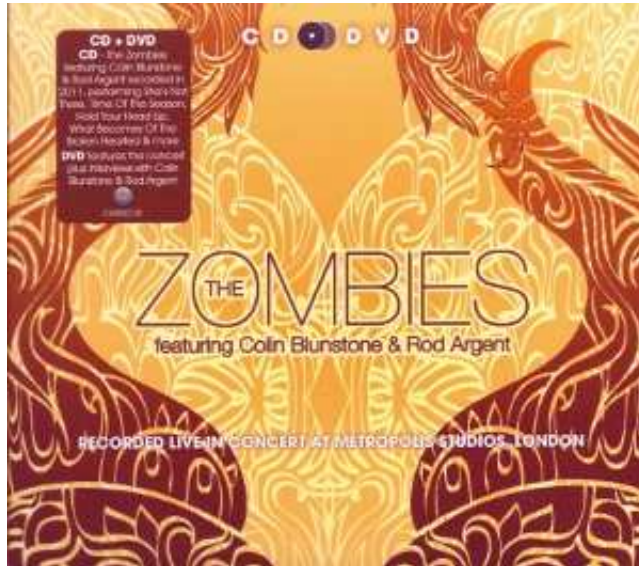


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The Zombies – LIVE @ Metropolis Studios, London (CD + DVD) (<http://www.rocksbackpagesblogs.com/zombies-live-metropolis-studios-london-cd-dvd/>)

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(<http://www.rocksbackpagesblogs.com/author/apatterson/>)
21 Jul 2012



(<http://www.rocksbackpagesblogs.com/2012/07/the-zombies-live-metropolis-studios-london-cd-dvd/zombies-metropolis-3/>)

It was 50 years ago that the Zombies played their first gig. I was only 13 years old and I remember it as if it were yesterday; in 1964, that I first heard "She's Not There" on KYNO AM radio. That mysterious minor-key melody, ethereal harmonies and breathy voice, singing about love lost, imagined or unrequited. Add the short, jazzy piano break and the whole thing sounded completely unlike any other British Invasion band. I was hooked. I bought every Zombies single that came out on the (US) Parrot label, and (UK) import Decca singles as well.

Flash forward to the modern era and the Zombies rising from the dead to miraculously tour the USA once again in 2001. I witnessed that reincarnation. It was amazing just how great the band played; their music as well seemed not to have aged. Back then, the Zombies sound was not of its time in many ways, 40 years later if they were a new band, it would still be a creation out of time with the rest of what is being produced.

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Vinyl: Love It To Death + Killer + School's Out + Billion Dollar Babies = Alice Cooper's quadruple whammy

The Zombies concert is the first in a series of brand new audio/ video productions to be released by ConveXe Entertainment out of Canada, devoted to brand new in-studio concert recordings by some of the great artists and bands from the classic era of rock. This release showcases The Zombies 2011, 50-year reunion concert at Metropolis Studios in London for 120 invited guests. There are 5 others set for release: Van Der Graf Generator, Bill Nelson, Barclay James Harvest, Caravan & Roy Harper.

They perform classics as well as deep catalog songs, along with a couple from Colin Blunstone's solo albums and their latest band album. Two observations perfectly sum the event up. Firstly, the band sounds better than they did back when. Rod Argent's keyboard playing is masterful, from his jazzy solos to classic melodic progressions its perfection. Secondly, Colin's vocals still flow like liquid honey, and his 4-octave range is breathtaking. The arrangements are faithful to the original, yet also totally alive with the musical energy of here and now. The 6 tracks from *Odessey & Oracle* are perfection. You see by the looks on their faces as they play that they are having great fun playing the music they still clearly love.

The accompanying interview with Rod and Colin offers new insights into the actual formation of the band, i/e. choirboy Rod was initially to be vocalist, and "new guy" Colin auditioned for rhythm guitar. Both talk of their love of the music, and the joy of playing it again so many years later as older men bringing them even greater pleasure. The warmth they exude for what they do, and for their fans, is a wonderful counterpoint to the music itself. Listening to this music again will "bring you joy" as well! Love Live The Zombies!



About Archie Patterson

Got into the music business in 1970 on FM radio in California, hosting his Eurock radio program. In 1973, created the first issue of Eurock Magazine, which published until 1990. Concurrently helped found two of the leading import music companies in the USA, Intergalactic Trading Co. & Paradox Music. From 1980-2009 Eurock evolved from being one of the first Indie distributors and promoters of Euro Rock with its own D.I.Y. Cassette & CD label into one of the earliest WWW distribution networks. Recently, in 2010, Eurock morphed into a Webzine featuring Multimedia Podcasting, Interviews & Reviews.

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