



Wicked-fun. Wallet-smart.  
See it now at MazdaUSA.com

Features | Columns | Blogs | News | Music | Film | TV | DVDs | Books | Comics | Multimedia | Events | Moving Citations  
 about contributors submissions book series advertising contests tour dates Mixed Media PopMatters Picks

Search  **GO**

CALL FOR PAPERS: Pop Past? It's 'Past', But It's Never 'Over'. The past is a vast, swirling landscape of liquor, literature, art, music, film, fashion...



2010 MAZDA 3  
 2010 MID-SIZE WALLE AWARDS  
 HIGHEST PROJECTED RESALE VALUE IN THE MID-COMPACT CAR SEGMENT\*

Wicked-fun. Wallet-smart. MAZDA3  
 See it now  
 MazdaUSA.com

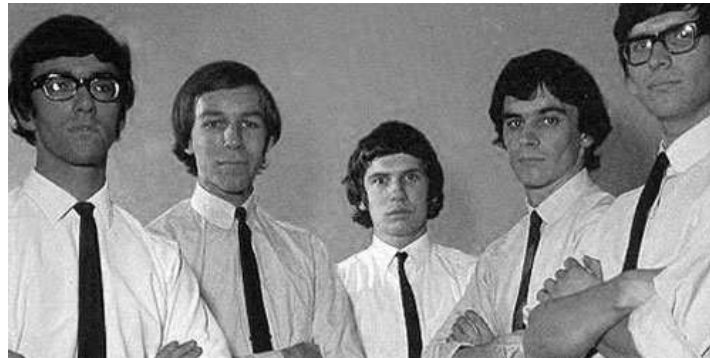
\*Source: 2010 ALG Residual Value Award

**PopMatters Feeds**

- PopMatters**  
All PM content, except news
- Think**  
Features, columns and essays
- Blogs**  
All PM blog posts
- Listen**  
Music reviews/news
- Watch**  
Film, TV and DVD reviews/news
- Read**  
Book and comic reviews/news
- Play**  
Video game reviews
- In Person**  
Live event articles
- News**  
PopWire news/commentary



DVDS > REVIEWS > THE ZOMBIES



**The Zombies**

**Odyssey and Oracle (Revisited): The 40th Anniversary Concert [DVD]**

(MVD)  
 US release date: 17 November 2009

By **Christel Loar**

Share Print Comments (1) Feeds

*Odyssey & Oracle* is often cited as one of the most influential records in the history of pop music, discussed in reverential tones along with other masterpieces like *Pet Sounds*, *Revolver* and *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. The album was made all the more mythic by the fact that it was released after The Zombies broke up in 1968.

Forty years later, in March of 2008, the four surviving original members of The Zombies (guitarist Paul Atkinson passed away in 2004), Rod Argent, Colin Blunstone, Chris White and Hugh Grundy reunited for a three night series of concerts at The Shepherd's Bush Empire in London, which became *Odyssey and Oracle (Revisited): The 40th Anniversary Concert*. The show is divided into two sets, the first featuring The Zombies' Touring Band, a lineup that includes Argent, Blunstone, Jim Rodford (from Argent), Steve Rodford, Keith Airey and a string quartet. The second section of the show is the performance by Argent, Blunstone, White and Grundy of *Odyssey & Oracle* in its entirety.



**AMAZON**

Because the primary reason for this show and DVD is the track by track performance of a legendary record, you might be inclined to dismiss the first half, rather like choosing to arrive late to the venue so as to skip the opening band. This would be a mistake. Mixing early Zombies songs like "I Love You" and Argent hits such as "Hold Your Head Up" with Blunstone's solo work and well-chosen covers, this set is far from filler and much more than a warm up. Argent and Blunstone seem to be truly enjoying themselves as they share tales of musical history and inspiration between songs, and the musicianship is unparalleled while never seeming forced or too polished.

The highlight among many in this set is a beautifully captivating arrangement of Tim Hardin's "Misty Roses". Blunstone's voice, in particular, is astounding. Though somewhat deeper and softly weathered by the years, it still retains that hauntingly unique quality, which Blunstone delivers with amazing, though quietly commanding, power. This sets the tone of the evening and serves to heighten the anticipation for the second set even more.

After a brief break, the second set is introduced by Al Kooper, who



Wicked-fun. Wallet-smart.  
See it now at MazdaUSA.com

**NOW ON POPMATTERS**

Today Popular Commented

**FEATURES**

- [Tao Lin Has a Neutral Facial Expression](#)
- [20 QUESTIONS: Patty Larkin](#)

**COLUMNS**

- [KICKIN' UP DUST: The Arrogance of Toby Keith](#)
- [RE-PRINT: Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places](#)

**BLOGS**

- [NOTES FROM THE ROAD: St. Vincent: 18.Feb.2010 - Chicago](#)
- [RE-PRINT: Borders Books: Coporate Media Heroin in Las Vegas, Part Two](#)
- [MIXED MEDIA: Has Hollywood Run Out Of Ideas? \(trailers\)](#)
- [SOUND AFFECTS: Verse-Chorus-Verse: The Mutant Blues of Devo and James Blood Ulmer](#)
- [SHORT ENDS AND LEADER: 'House' vs.. No House: The Sorority Row Films, Then and Now](#)

**MUSIC**

- [These New Puritans: Hidden](#)
- [Tunng: And Then We Saw Land](#)
- [Dee Dee Bridgewater: Eleanor Fagan \(1915-1959\): To Billie with Love from Dee Dee](#)
- [Cave In: Planets of Old + Live Performance DVD](#)
- [Chef and Ramadanman: DubStep Allstars Vol. 07](#)
- [Le Vent du Nord: La Part du Feu](#)

**FILM**

- [Prodigal Sons](#)

**DVDS**

- [The Box](#)
- [Ian McKellen: Acting Shakespeare](#)
- [The Pleasure of Being Robbed](#)
- [Superjail! Season One](#)

**BOOKS**

- [Veracity by Laura Bynum](#)
- [Posthumous Keats: A Personal Biography by Stanley Plumly](#)

**MULTIMEDIA**

- [Stoked: Big Air Edition](#)

**NEWS**

- [In James Cameron's worlds, women lead the charge](#)



**SHOUT OUT LOUDS | WORK**



worked as an A&R man in the late '60s. He tells the amusing tale of how he discovered *Odyssey & Oracle* and brought it to the attention of Clive Davis, thereby securing its American release long after the band's demise. Next the four original members of The Zombies take the stage, backed by touring band guitarist Keith Airey, and Darian Sahanaja (Of Brian Wilson's band), and launch into the blissful harmonies of "Care of Cell 44".

As they lovingly recreate each of *Odyssey & Oracle* remaining tracks, it's obvious how pleased these guys are to be playing these songs live—remember, because The Zombies disbanded in 1968, this is effectively the first time they've performed them—and it's clearly gratifying for them to be so warmly received. It's nearly impossible to pick any standouts in this set, as each song is so gorgeously, perfectly presented. However, "A Rose for Emily" is especially stunning and the harmonies on "Maybe After He's Gone" and soaring vocals of "Hung Up on A Dream" cannot be praised highly enough. The Zombies close out the *Odyssey & Oracle* tracks with a spectacular version of "Time of the Season", which may be even more arresting than the one on the album, then they end the show with an encore of sorts comprised of the earlier hits "Tell Her No" and "She's Not There".

With such timeless music and such passionate performances in *Odyssey and Oracle (Revisited): The 40th Anniversary Concert*, there's little fault to find with the DVD. The only complaints one might have are relatively minor. The concert is presented in Dolby 2.0, which sounds great, but a 5.1 option would have been welcome, as well. The multi-camera editing and split-screen effects are a bit distracting at the outset, but they are not too overused and soon forgotten as the music eclipses all other concerns. Obviously, there's no need for bonus features, although a short documentary with interview clips is included.

Forty years after creating one of the most ravishing records of all time, The Zombies resurrected that remarkable sound, on *Odyssey and Oracle (Revisited): The 40th Anniversary Concert* so it can astonish us all over again.

RATING:

— 26 February 2010

SHARE

1  
tweet

retweet

6

Share

Stumble It!

#### RELATED ARTICLES



[The Zombies: Live at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London](#)

**By Jennifer Kelly**  
20.Apr.07

Forty years after their groundbreaking, wonderful, alternatively-spelled *Odyssey and Oracle*, Colin Blunstone and Rod Argent form a cheesy Zombies cover band.

[The Zombies](#)

**By Kevin Pearson**  
22.Sep.06

It's that time of the season, but the love's run dry.



[The Zombies: Odyssey & Oracle](#)

**By Dominic Umile**  
01.Sep.04

*Odyssey & Oracle* is the weekly record, a compiling of sentiment that's comfortable enough for anytime, be it free weekend space or during mundane cubicle labor.

#### COMMENTS

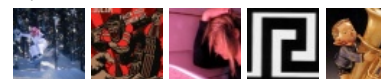
this is a truly awesome music dvd.  
in fact, along with leonard cohen's 'live in london', the best two live



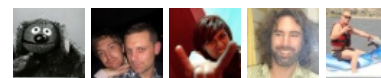
PopMatters on Facebook

Become a Fan

PopMatters has 1,465 Fans



Ryan Mrb Marisa Russell Vincent



Gabby Grant Sharmia Mark Jesse

performance dvd's  
of 2009.

Comment by ed h — February 26, 2010 @ 7:48 am

***Add a comment***

Please enter your name and a valid email address. Your email address will **not** be displayed. It is required only to prevent comment spam.

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Location:**

**URL:**

Remember my personal information

Notify me of follow-up comments?

[advertising](#) | [about](#) | [contributors](#) | [submissions](#)  
© 1999-2010 PopMatters.com. All rights reserved.  
PopMatters.com™ and PopMatters™ are trademarks of PopMatters Media, Inc.