



m e d i a i n f o r m a t i o n

Thomas Dolby

The Thomas Dolby of today is a more open, less manic man than we knew in the Eighties. *Astronauts & Heretics*, Thomas' first album in four years, evokes a self-assured sense of maturity that is the culmination of a long period of eager exploration. From directing videos to composing film scores to producing favorite artists, Thomas has been blissfully unaware of pop deadlines. Now, he is once again ready to present himself as the public focal point of his creative work.

Some eighteen months ago, Thomas began his preoccupation with *Astronauts & Heretics*. Dolby now compares the album to a journey he took while recording it: "It took me from the Louisiana swamp to a warehouse in the San Francisco Bay Area where the Grateful Dead store their PA equipment. It's an American travelogue by an Anglo refugee." Along the way, he recorded with Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, Ofra Haza, Beausoleil, Wayne Tups, Eddie Van Halen, and Eddi Reader (Fairground Attraction).

The songs on *Astronauts & Heretics* are varied and complex; the lyrics are incisive, peppered with Dolby's characteristic humor and taste for understatement; the moods are mercurial, shifting from the uplifting whimsy

of “Silk Pyjamas” and “That’s Why People Fall In Love” to the disturbing images of “Neon Sisters” and the haunting melodies of “Cruel.”

Thomas’ fascination with music began in his childhood. After he had mastered his keyboard technique on the piano, he soon became intrigued with synthesizers and was one of the first exponents of the bedroom phenomenon that has been dramatically exposed through the dance music explosion of the past few years. He very quickly graduated from his bedroom to a railway platform -- busking in the Parisian Metro, after which he went even further afield to America. Things started to happen pretty quickly Stateside and he soon toured with Lene Lovich playing keyboards. Thomas wrote her hit single “New Toy.” Upon returning to England he released his debut single “Urges” independently, resulting in the album deal with EMI in 1981.

Before releasing his first album, **The Golden Age Of Wireless**, in 1982, he played keyboards on album by artists such as Foreigner, Def Leppard, Joan Armatrading and Malcolm McLaren. He also later wrote and produced “Magic’s Wand” for Whodini, one of the first ever platinum selling rap 12”s. After his debut LP release, there was a successful one man show tour, which NME compared to “performance art.” The album went Top 20, driven by the Top 5 success of “She Blinded Me With Science.” Thomas wrote and directed the video for the song, as well as an hour-long special for the BBC entitled “Live Wireless.”

The release of his second album in 1984, the double-Grammy nominated **The Flat Earth**, marked the start of a particularly prolific period in his career. The

first single, "Hyperactive," charted worldwide and the inevitable world tour soon followed. The following year he co-produced Joni Mitchell's Dog Eat Dog album and composed his first film score, under the supervision of Quincy Jones, for Fever Pitch. This led to other film projects, including the orchestral score to Ken Russell's Gothic and a rap performed by Robin Williams (!) for the animated feature, Ferngully The Last Rainforest. Thomas has also participated in a number of landmark musical events, including Live Aid with David Bowie and Roger Waters' Berlin The Wall Concert.

As a producer, Thomas has kept a full schedule, working with Prefab Sprout, Ofra Haza. George Clinton and Eddi Reader (Fairground Attraction). In 1988, Thomas released his third album, the delightfully titled Aliens Ate My Buick. The record spawned another sold out North American tour with his backing band, The Lost Toy People, and gave rise to a variety of TV appearances, most notably on Soul Train and The Muppets

Thomas Dolby's last 12 years add up to precocious body of work. Astronauts & Heretics finds Thomas at his musical, eloquent best. With a past of incredible artistic experimentation and stylistic expansion, Thomas has once again created an amazing musical text that will surely influence the sounds of years to come.

10 fun facts about Thomas Dolby

1. 1982's The Golden Age Of Wireless yielded the big hit, "She Blinded Me With Science."
2. He produced records for (this is a partial client list) Whodini, George Clinton, Joni Mitchell, Ofra Haza, Prefab Sprout.



3. He's the man responsible for "New Toy" (oy-yee-oy).

4. 1984's The Flat Earth nominated for two Grammys, charted worldwide.

5. He played keyboards for Roger Waters, David Bowie, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Def Leppard, John Armatrading, Foreigner, among others.

6. Composed a score for Ken Russell's "Gothic" and "Ferngully The Last Rainforest."

7. Besides stacks of press in keyboard magazines, he's the kind of guy *computer* magazines do profiles on.

8. 1988's Aliens Ate My Buick spawned a sold-out tour and many interesting TV appearances, including "Soul Train" and "The Muppets."

9. He's married to an actress from a epic television show (we won't say which).
10. Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, Ofra Haza, Beausoleil, Wayne Tups, Eddie Van Halen and Fairground Attraction singer Eddi Reader are some of the guests on his new album. What new album?!

Astronauts & Heretics

The new Thomas Dolby album. Featuring the first single:
"I Love You Goodbye,"
which is already climbing up the U.K. charts.



Photo: C. Wall, Leslie S. J. / J. S.

Thomas
Dolby

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