

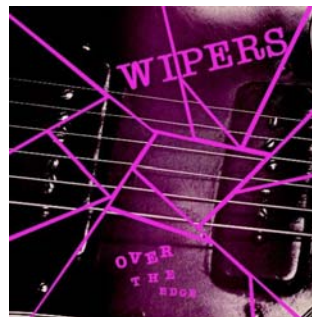
ABECEDARIANS | The Misery of Cities



from the EP *Eureka*
c. 1986 Caroline Records

Most people will recognize Abecedarians from their 1985 debut single "Smiling Monarchs" which was mixed by Bernard Sumner of New Order and released on Factory Records. The band formed in 1983 in Los Angeles with Chris Manecke (guitar, vocals, keyboards), John Blake (bass), and Kevin Dolan (drums). Abecedarians moved to Caroline one year later for their debut EP *Eureka*. *Resin* followed in 1987. Two compilations have since been released: *AB-CD* (1988), which is a collection of nearly all of *Eureka* and *Resin*, plus the Factory single "Smiling Monarchs," and *The Other Side of the Fence* (which includes unavailable early demo tracks).

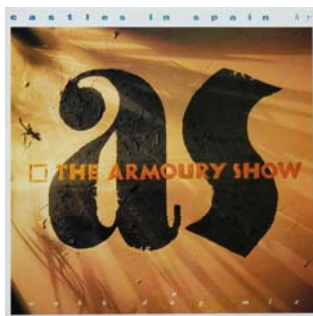
the wipers | over the edge



from the LP *Over The Edge*
c. 1983 Restless Records

The Wipers were a punk band formed in Portland, Oregon in 1977. The group's tight song structure and use of heavy distortion has been hailed as extremely influential by numerous critics and musicians, including the Melvins, Dinosaur Jr., and Nirvana (Kurt Cobain was a massive fan.) Guitarist Greg Sage, the Wiper's creative brainchild, became known for his strict DIY ethic and domineering approach to the band's creative process. In total, the Wipers released six studio albums throughout the 1980's - with 1983's *Over The Edge* the first to expose the band to a wider national audience through release on Restless Records. The band called it quits in 1989, however Sage reformed the Wipers in 1993 and recorded three additional full-length albums through the remainder of the decade.

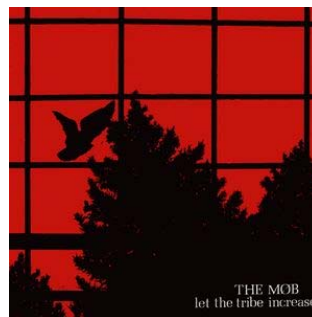
The Armoury Show: Castles in Spain



from the LP *Waiting for the Floods*
c. 1985 Parlophone

The Armoury Show formed in 1983 with Richard Jobson and Russell Webb (of The Skids) and John McGeoch and John Doyle (of Magazine). The band released six singles and one studio album in their brief existence. Their debut single, "Castles in Spain", was released in 1984, followed later that year by "We Can Be Brave Again". Given the green light to record an album, the band spent four weeks at Manor Studios in rural Oxfordshire, with producer Nick Launay at the controls. The resultant album, *Waiting for the Floods*, and accompanying singles "The Glory of Love" and a re-release of "Castles in Spain" came out in 1985.

THE MOB | WITCH HUNT



from the LP *Let The Tribe Increase*
c. 1983 All The Madmen Records

Archetypes of the anarcho punk genre, The Mob formed in Somerset, UK in 1979 with an initial line up consisting of Mark Wilson (vocals, guitar), Curtis You'e (bass guitar) and Graham Fallows (drums). Their first release was the 1980 "Crying Again" single on their own All The Madmen label, followed later that year by the *Ching* cassette. 1983 marked the release of their one and only full-length *Let The Tribe Increase*, an album that saw them moving away from the constraints of the punk sound as they continued to push the musical boundaries. The band broke up in 1983 but reformed in 2011 and played a number of concerts with the original members.

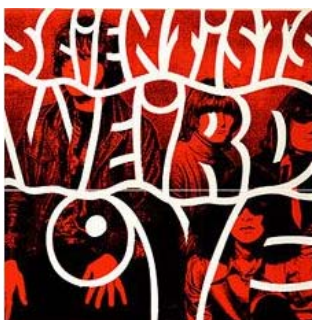
The Johnnys ☼ Bleeding Heart



from the LP *Highlights of a Dangerous Life*
c. 1986 Mushroom/Enigma Records

Johnnys founders Graham Hood (formerly of the Allnites) and guitarist Rod Radalj both met in 1982 after unsuccessful tryouts for the Hoodoo Gurus. The duo ultimately bonded over the idea of starting a band that took country music stylings played at a break neck punk pace. In 1985, the band signed with Mushroom Records which released their debut single, "Injun Joe" in November. Their debut full-length *Highlights of a Dangerous Life* appeared in 1986 and was produced by Ross Wilson of Daddy Cool. Wilson produced their second album, *Grown Up Wrong*, released in August 1988 which included two further singles, "Motorbikin" and "Anything Could Happen". The band ultimately broke up in 1989 with various members continuing new musical ventures.

THE SCIENTISTS SWAMPLAND



from the LP *Weird Love*
c. 1986 Karbon Records/Big Time

The Scientists were an influential post-punk band from Perth, Australia, led by Kim Salmon, initially known as *Exterminators* and then *Invaders*. The band had two primary incarnations: the Perth-based punk band of the late 1970s and the Sydney/London-based swamp rock band of the 1980s. The Scientists were much more influential than their minimal commercial success would indicate, lending their influence to artists such as Mudhoney and New York's downtown indie scene of the early 1990s. In total, the band released numerous singles, two mini albums and five full-lengths; the high water mark being 1986's *Weird Love*, a post-punk-meets-psychedelic freak fest, and the band's only release to see major distribution in the U.S.

FACE OF CONCERN • Brighter Days



from the EP *Brighter Days*
c. 1986 Press Records

Face of Concern was an Atlanta-based New Wave band formed in the early 80s by local musician and songwriter Marc Stowe. The band released two 12" singles on the Press Records label prior to the *Brighter Days* EP in 1986. A subsequent self-released album *Wait* emerged in 1992 before the band ultimately dissolved. Later in the 90s Stowe fronted the band *Heathen Girls* and also released "Get Off the Cross We Need the Wood," his first solo project, that was received to critical acclaim.

Kingdoms Heartland



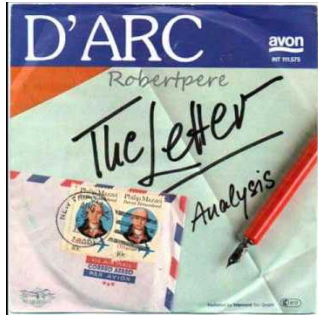
7" single
c. 1984 Regards Records

This UK-based band, formed by *House of Love* frontman Guy Chadwick, released only one 7" single during its supremely brief existence. After RCA distribution ultimately dropped the band following the single's release, Chadwick met guitarist Terry Bickers in 1987 through an advertisement, and formed the *House Of Love* - a band that went on to much greater success through the late 80s and early 90s.

w/ The Johnnys

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D'ARC * THE LETTER



7" single
c. 1982 Flying Record Co.

This incredibly obscure synth-pop single from 1982 was released on four different labels in six different countries (UK, Germany, France, Netherlands, Portugal, and Australia). The UK-based four piece consisted of Paul Watson - Guitar/Vocals, Chris Lock - Keyboard/Vocals, Mik Lock - Bass/Backing Vocals, and Vince Carter - Drums. According to a recent Facebook entry it appears the band reunited in 2012 with a new iTunes single as well as various reunion shows around Sussex, England.

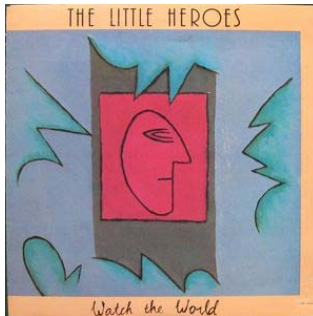
LOOK BLUE GO PURPLE Cactus Cat



from the EP *LBGPEP2*
c. 1986 Flying Nun Records

One of Flying Nun's most critically-praised and well-loved bands of the first ten years. LBGP made their beginnings in 1983 in a Dunedin, New Zealand practice room under a motorcycle shop, using borrowed instruments they didn't really know how to play. But it didn't take these five women long to weave a bit of magic with the pieces of musical puzzle they were starting out with. They layered vocal harmonies, keyboards and even a touch of flute over their trademark Dunedin guitar strum and backbeat to create a distinctive sound of their own. Guitarist Denise Roughan went on to play bass in The 3D's and Ghost Club. LBGP's brief history yielded only three short EPs, which were ultimately compiled into a single compilation album in 1991.

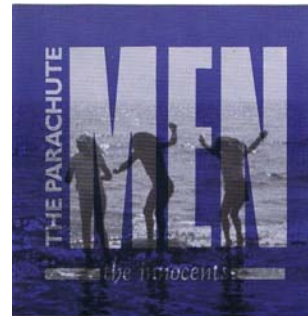
LITTLE HEROES Whose Turn to Cry



from the LP *Watch The World*
c. 1983 EMI Records

The Little Heroes were an Australian band formed in 1980 by founding mainstay Roger Hart (aka Roger Wells or Roger Hart-Wells, ex-Secret Police) on lead vocals and guitar. They released three studio albums, *The Little Heroes* (August 1981), *Play by Numbers* (August 1982) and *Watch the World* (September 1983). Their highest charting hit, "One Perfect Day", which was released in 1982, reached No. 12 on Australia's Kent Music Report singles chart. Their other charting singles are "Young Hearts" (1982), "Watch the World" and "Bon Voyage" (both 1983). They disbanded in June 1984.

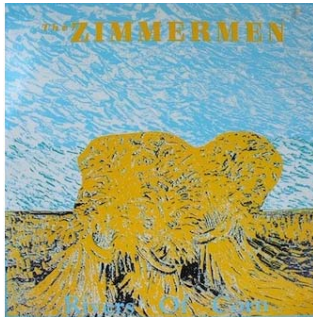
the parachute men • goodbye



from the LP *The Innocents*
c. 1988 Fire Records

Formed in Leeds UK in 1985, The Parachute Men consisted of Fiona Gregg (vocals), Stephen Gregg (guitar), Andrew Howes (bass & keyboards), and Mark Boyce (drums & keyboards). After two years of gigging, the band signed to large London indie label Fire Records and released a debut 4-track EP in May 1988. This was followed in August of the same year by debut album *The Innocents*, which made NME's top 50 albums of that year. Howes and Boyce departed soon after, with the Greggs continuing as an acoustic duo. 1990 saw the release of a second LP *Earth, Dogs, and Eggshells* - as well as additional line-up changes. Having lost much momentum out of the gate, the band split in the early 1990s.

THE ZIMMERMEN † HAPPY HEART



from the LP *Rivers of Corn*
c. 1986 Au Go Go Records

Melbourne, Australia's The Zimmermen spanned the great Rickenbaker divide between The Records and the Rain Parade, but sadly failed to register with anyone beyond the land down under. *Rivers of Corn*, the Zimmermen's debut album was preceded by the "Don't Go to Sydney" single, which *Encyclopedia of Australian Rock and Pop* author Ian McFarlane opines, "An instant classic, an exceptional slice of harmony-drenched guitar pop." As one of 1986's independent success stories, the song carried over to side-one of *Rivers of Corn*, kicking things off in superb fashion, almost outdone by the accompanying "Happy Heart." (Wilfully Obscure)

THE WIND | Wake Up



from the LP *Living in a New World*
c. 1986 Midnight Records

The Miami based Wind's debut album, *Where It's At With the Wind*, from 1982 has long been regarded as a low-key power pop classic amongst such tastemakers. The Wind sadly failed to make any commercial headway and burned out in the mid-80s, eventually launching singer/guitarist Lane Steinberg's, follow-up act, Tan Sleeve, but not before releasing this second album in 1986 on the New York indie imprint Midnight Records. *Where It's At...* was utterly red, white, and Mersey all over, with the early Fab Four being heavily employed as the template, but by the time they got around to *Living in a New World*, their Brit Invasion punch was spiked with the fresher, stateside leanings of the dB's and the Bongos. (Wilfully Obscure)

KIRILIAN CAMERA | Blue Room



12" single
c. 1985 ZYX Records

Kirilian Camera were early pioneers of the Italian electronic and darkwave scenes. Starting in 1979 as Suicide Commando, the band morphed into Kirilian Camera in 1980 releasing its first demo-tape *Dawn* and then a self-titled mini-album in late 1981. The early records contain a mix of synth pop and new wave/dance songs. As the 80s progressed, Kirilian Camera's music became darker, turning toward more electro-gothic and darkwave sounds. Nearly every release since then has explored different fields, from industrial to ambient and trip-hop.

crash course in science no more hollow doors



from the LP *Near Marineland*
c. 2011 Schematic (original recording c. 1981)

Crash Course in Science were a post punk band formed in 1979 in Philadelphia. They avoided the sounds of conventional instrumentation by using toy instruments and kitchen appliances to augment the distorted guitar, drums and synthesized beats. Championed by local radio station WXPN DJ Lee Paris they recorded their debut single "Cakes in the Home" (with the B-side containing "Kitchen Motors" and "Mechanical Breakdown") for his Go Go label. This was followed by "Signals from Pier Thirteen" in 1981 produced by John Wicks at Third Story Recordings. The bulk of the band's subsequent catalog was recently re-issued via the album *Near Marineland* (released in 2011 on Schematic Records).

w/ The Zimmermen

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FURNITURE | Brilliant Mind



12" single
c. 1986 Stiff Records

Furniture takes the nod on this compilation for the least 'deepest cut' with "Brilliant Mind", by far the band's most popular and enduring song. The track has become a staple of many 1980s compilation albums, and was nominated by Boy George as his favorite record of the period. It has also been used as TV incidental music, and was re-recorded for use in the John Hughes film, *Some Kind of Wonderful*. After the success of "Brilliant Mind" in 1986, Furniture soldiered on through the remainder of the decade, releasing three full-length albums before finally calling it a day in 1991.

UNCLE GREEN - He's The Man



from the LP *You*
c. 1989 DB Records

Uncle Green formed in New Jersey in 1980 and ultimately relocated to Atlanta to record their debut single "Holes" b/w "Heaven", in 1986 and two independent albums, for New Vision Records in 1987 and 1988. The band soon met an ascendant Brendan O'Brien, near the beginning of his producing career, with whom they recorded the albums *You* and *What An Experiment His Head Was* for DB Records. The band eventually signed with Atlantic Records in 1992 and recorded *Book of Bad Thoughts*. Like all of their efforts, the album was lauded by critics, but eluded commercial viability. Disappointed with their limited success, the band renamed themselves 3 Ib. Thrill, releasing the album *Vulture* on Sony Records in 1995.

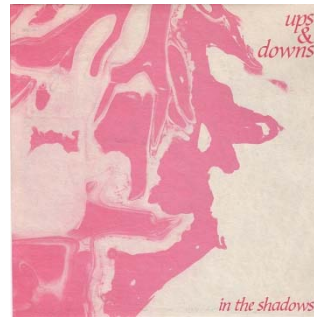
PRIMARY COLOURS | Talking in My Sleep



from the EP *Paint Love Blue*
c. 1985 After Hours Records

Primary Colours was essentially a songwriting and production vehicle for Northeast Ohio musician and aspiring producer Jim DeMain. In the early 80s, DeMain was a member of a proper band called The Somatics who played frequently around the state and his hometown of Kent, OH. When the Somatics called it quits in 1984, DeMain headed into the studio and tracked the music for what would essentially be Primary Colours' one and only EP. He enlisted the vocals of his then girlfriend (and later wife) Jeannette DeMain and released the EP on local indie After Hours Records in 1985. After unsuccessful attempts at shopping the material for a major record deal, the duo called it quits within a year of the EP's release.

ups and downs | IN THE SHADOWS



7" single
c. 1986 Waterfront Records

Formed in 1983, Brisbane band Ups and Downs played a brand of ethereal, well-crafted, jangly guitar pop that called to mind Australian post-punk icons The Church, as well as the American underground jangle of REM. The band derived their name from a track on the Flamin' Groovies' 1978 album *Now* and they even supported them on their Australian tour of 1987. Following the release of this 7" single on the Australian label Waterfront Records in 1986, the band went on to release two full-length albums - 1987's *Sleepless* (Truetone/ Polygram) and 1988's *Underneath the Watchful Eye* (Mushroom Records). In 1990, the band split up and reformed as Big Heavy Stuff.

w/ Abecedarians

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TRAY CARD

80s UNDERGROUND deepest cuts vol. 5

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80s UNDERGROUND deepest cuts vol. 5