

Obscured by Clouds
When You're in

Good afternoon. My name is Björgvin Rúnar Leifsson and this is an episode about Pink Floyd.

Although a certain foundation for "Dark Side of the Moon" had already been laid out in early 1972, it still took the band most of the year to develop the music and, among other things, test it on the audience at several concerts during that year. One of the reasons why Dark Side took so long to emerge is because they suffered some distractions as Mason puts it in his book. To start with the latter, the film "Live at Pompeii" about the eponymous, Pink Floyd's spectator-free concert in the ancient city of Pompeii was released in November 1972, although the concert had taken place more than a year earlier. Then, in early 1972 they took some time to record film music for another film by Barbet Schroeder, the same person who made More in 1969. The film is called La Vallee and is about a woman who goes on a strange self-guided tour in Papua New Guinea's jungles and among other things, meets the Mapuga tribe, who are probably the most isolated people on earth.

The film was released on July 11, 1972, just over a month after the release of the album and got the subtitle "Obscured by Clouds" which was the name that Pink Floyd decided to give the album after a heated argument with the film company.

All the music on Obscured by Clouds was composed and recorded over several days in February and March 1972. Despite this short time and all the work on next year's masterpiece "Obscured by Clouds" is a decent album and in my opinion considerably better than "More" three years earlier but it undeniably disappeared into the shadows between "Meddle" from the year before and "Dark side of the Moon" the year after. Actually, songs from this album were not played much at concerts. The album's opening track, "Obscured by Clouds" by Gilmour and Waters and "When you're in" by all four, which merge on the album and we heard at the beginning of this episode were played several times as one song at 1973 concerts and the song "Childhood's End" by Gilmour was played at a concert in December 1972 and on a tour of the United States in March 1973. Then the song "Wot's ... Uh, the Deal?" by Gilmour and Waters was played at David Gilmour's concerts from 2006 to 2008, both at the "Remember that Night" series and "Live in Gdansk". Let's now hear those two songs and we start with "Childhood's End" which is the last Pink Floyd song where Gilmour wrote the lyrics while Roger Waters was still in the band

Childhood's End

[Wot's ... Uh, the Deal?](#)

Next, let's listen to the songs "Burning Bridges" by Wright and Waters and "Mudmen" by Wright and Gilmour. This is basically the same song mainly by Wright. Waters wrote the lyrics to "Burning Bridges" and Gilmour adds sweet guitar tones in the second version. One more example of the great harmony of Wright and Gilmour, but I was quite surprised when I discovered that besides two songs on Pink Floyd's second to last studio album, "The Division Bell" since 1994 and of course many songs on the last one, "The Endless River" in 2014, this is the only song written by those two PF members alone without any co-authors.

Burning Bridges

Mudmen

Then there's the song "The Gold it's in the ..." by Gilmour and Waters. Some of you may have noticed strange, even incomplete names of some songs on this album, like "Wot's ... Uh, the

Deal?" and "The Gold it's in the ... ". Having seen the film I still do not know any credible explanations for these names. However, it may be mentioned that "The Gold it's in the ..." has been criticized, even harshly, for not being in a correct right Pink Floyd tempo, whatever that means. Criticism of this kind irritates me. All artists must have the right to step out of the box now and then, especially a progressive band.

The Gold it's in the ...

Next, let's listen to Waters' song "Free Four", which is probably Waters' second song after "Corporal Clegg" on "A Saucerful of Secrets", that deals partly with the death of his father in World War II. Immediately after that we listen to "Stay" by Waters and Wright.

Free Four

Stay

Interested listeners may have noticed that almost all of the album's songs are by more than one member of the band except Gilmour's "Childhood's End" and Waters' "Free Four". It's appropriate to end today with the last song of the album, "Absolutely Curtains", which is by all four band members according to the album although Wright probably should have most of the credits. This is one of the band's masterpieces in my opinion and the Mapuga people chanting at the end of the song does not harm it in any way.

Meu nome é Björgvin Rúnar Leifsson e eu sei muito pouco sobre o Pink Floyd. Obrigado e até depois.

Absolutely Curtains