

The Shadows
"Boxing The Shadows 1980-1990"
Demon Music Group SHADSBOX01X [11 CD Box]
Released 3 November 2017



CD 1 "Change Of Address" (SHADSBOX01X/01) *Mozart Forte / Midnight Creepin' / Change Of Address / Just The Way You Are / Indigo / Arty's Party / Outdigo / Hello Mr. W.A.M. / Temptation / Albatross / If You Leave Me Now / Equinoxe (Part V)*

CD 2 "Hits Right Up Your Street" (SHADSBOX01X/02) *Telstar / Chi Mai / We Don't Talk Anymore / Imagine/Woman / Hats Off To Wally / One Day I'll Fly Away / Summer Love '59 / Misty / This Ole House / The Winner Takes It All / Sailing / Thing-Me-Jig / More Than I Can Say / Cowboy Café / The Third Man / Nut Rocker / The Fourth Man*

CD 3 "Life In The Jungle" (SHADSBOX01X/03) *Life In The Jungle / High Noon / The Theme From 'Missing' / Treat Me Nice / Cat 'N' Mouse / Chariots Of Fire / No Dancing! / Riders Of The Range / The Old Romantics / You Rescue Me / Lili Marlene / Raunchy / Spot The Ball / The Shady Lady*

CD 4 "'Live' At Abbey Road" (SHADSBOX01X/04) *The Third Man / Thing-Me-Jig / Runaway / All I Have To Do Is Dream / It Doesn't Matter Anymore / Johnny B. Goode / Over In A Flash /*

Summer Love '59 / Oh! Boy / Crying In The Rain / Arty's Party

CD 5 "XXV" (SHADSBOX01X/05) *Africa / Going Home / Up Where We Belong / You Don't Have To Say You Love Me / The Modern Way / Diamonds / Time Is Tight / Memory / Liverpool Days / Queen Of Hearts / A Whiter Shade Of Pale / Elevenis*

CD 6 "Guardian Angel" (SHADSBOX01X/06) *How Do I Love Thee / Hammerhead / The Saturday Western / Look Back On Love / Johnny Staccato / I Will Return / (I'm Gonna Be Your) Guardian Angel / Can't Play Your Game / On A Night Like This / Turning Point / Our Albert*

CD 7 "Moonlight Shadows" (SHADSBOX01X/07) *Every Breath You Take / Hello / The Power Of Love / Hey Jude / Against All Odds / Memory / Dancing In The Dark / A Whiter Shade Of Pale / Moonlight Shadow / Three Times A Lady / Sailing / I Just Called To Say I Love You / I Know Him So Well / Nights In White Satin / Imagine/Woman / Walk Of Life / Dancing In The Dark (7" Remix) / Dancing In The Dark (12" Remix)*

CD 8 "Simply...Shadows" (SHADSBOX01X/08) *I Knew You Were Waiting (For Me) / We Don't Need Another Hero / Walking In The Air / Careless Whisper / Don't Give Up / I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues / A Heart Will Break Tonight / The Lady In Red / Pulaski / Take My Breath Away / The Music Of The Night / The Themes From Eastenders & Howard's Way / I Want To Know What Love Is / The Skye Boat Song / Jealous Guy / Chain Reaction*

CD 9 "Steppin' To The Shadows" (SHADSBOX01X/09) *You Win Again / I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me) / He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother / Candle In The Wind / Farewell My Lovely / Mountains Of The Moon / Nothing's Gonna Change My Love For You / Heaven Is A Place On Earth / When The Going Gets Tough / Alone / All I Ask Of You / Stack-It / Shoba / You Keep Me Hangin' On / Some People / One Moment In Time*

CD 10 "At Their Very Best" (SHADSBOX01X/10) *Apache / Man Of Mystery / Shindig / Wonderful Land / The Rise And Fall Of Flingel Bunt / Theme From The Deer Hunter (Cavatina) / The Boys / The Frightened City / Theme For Young Lovers / Dance On / The Savage / F.B.I. / Guitar Tango / Genie With The Light Brown Lamp / Atlantis / Foot Tapper / Don't Cry For Me Argentina / Kon-Tiki / Geronimo / The Stranger*

CD 11 "Reflection" (SHADSBOX01X/11) *Eye Of The Tiger / Crockett's Theme / Right Here Waiting / Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic / Sealed With A Kiss / Uptown Girl / Strawberry Fields Forever / Riders In The Sky '90 / Flashdance...What A Feeling / Something's Gotten Hold Of My Heart / Love Changes Everything / Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now / Bilitis / You'll Never Walk Alone / Shadowmix featuring Apache: Wonderful Land: The Rise And Fall Of Flingel Bunt: Kon-Tiki: F.B.I.: Man Of Mystery: Apache / Always On My Mind*

Previously, there have been just two major collections containing Polydor material exclusively: the 1990 Pickwick 3 CD box set "A Special Collection", featuring three CD's which have also seen individual releases ("The Shadows Collection", "Diamonds" and "Dancing In The Dark") and the 1992 Polytel 3 LP / 3 CD box set "The Shadows Complete", containing three 'themed' collections, the third of which was of special interest, as it was entirely made up of compositions from within the group. The albums were released during the time when the Compact Disc as a music medium was introduced for the first time. The quantities of the CD issues were much less than those of the vinyl issues and so have become quite rare. Previously the eleven albums were issued on CD in the UK as follows:

- "Change Of Address": the Polydor issue from May, 1992 and the Talking Elephant issue from 2012.

- "Hits Right Up Your Street": the Polydor issue from April, 1987 and the Pickwick issue from May, 1992.
- "Life In The Jungle": the Polydor issue from May, 1989, the Pickwick issue from September, 1992 and the Talking Elephant issue from 2013, containing "Spot The Ball" and "The Shady Lady" as bonuses.
- "'Live' At Abbey Road": the Polydor issue from May, 1989 and the See For Miles issue, coupled with "Live At The Liverpool Empire" from July, 2001.
- "XXV": the Polydor issue from January, 1987.
- "Guardian Angel": the Polydor issue from November, 1984 and the expanded See For Miles issue, titled "Guardian Angel...Plus" from December, 1998.
- "Moonlight Shadows": the Polydor issue from May, 1986 and the Spectrum Music issue from September, 1996.
- "Simply...Shadows": the Polydor issues from October, 1987 and 1998 and the Spectrum Music issue from April, 1999.
- "Steppin' To The Shadows": the Polydor issue from May, 1989 and the Spectrum Music issues from June, 1993 and 1996.
- "At Their Very Best": the Polydor issues from December, 1989 and 1994.
- "Reflection": the Polydor issue from September, 1990.

Finally, 27 years since The Shadows' last studio album to date has been released, this comprehensive box set covers (most of) The Shadows' last major period of their career, during which they were signed to Polydor Records. It contains all of the ten studio albums from 1980's "Change Of Address" to 1990's "Reflection" and the live-in-the-studio album "'Live' At Abbey Road" from 1982.

A bonus is the inclusion of non-album B-sides: "The Fourth Man" (the B-side of "The Third Man"), "Spot The Ball" (the B-side of "Treat Me Nice"), "The Shady Lady" (the B-side of "The Theme From 'Missing'") and "Elevenis" (the B-side of "Diamonds").

Making its very first appearance on CD, is the 7" remix version of "Dancing In The Dark", which was promised for the 2001 CD "The Singles Collection", but in the end was replaced by a previously unreleased version of the track. Simultaneously with the 7" single, a second and extended remix of "Dancing In The Dark" was released on a 3-track 12" single, of which about 1000 copies were pressed, making it quite a rare record. The only previous CD issue was on the aforementioned "Guardian Angel...Plus" CD, that is until now.

A curiosity is the implementation of "Spot The Ball". Here it includes some short studio banter and Alan Jones checking his bass guitar sound. Such mistakes have occurred more often with tracks from the EMI period, the result of rather sloppy mastering, but nevertheless, a nice one for the collector.

Another CD first is the implementation of the album "'Live' At Abbey Road". The previous two CD issues had Hank and Bruce's references to a free album edited out, but they are included here.

Absent are two unique tracks which should have been issued here: "Fender Bender" (the B-side of "Equinoxe (Part V)") and "Shadoogie" (the 1983 studio recording from the mail-order only double album "The Shadows Silver Album"). The former could have easily followed "Equinoxe (Part V)" on CD 1, while the latter could have been added after "Elevenis" on CD 5.

Two other absent tracks would also have been very welcome: the edited single version of "Equinoxe (Part V)" and the edited promo single version of "Going Home".

Not from the period 1980 to 1990, but from The Shadows' more recent reunion period, are the tracks "Life Story", recorded in 2004 and issued on that year's Universal double CD "Life Story – The Very Best Of The Shadows" and "The Appointment", recorded in about 2013 and issued on Brian Bennett's 2016 solo album "Shadowing John Barry". These could have been added to CD 11, but then the title of the entire set should have been changed.

The sound quality is first-rate, as all tracks come directly from the original master tapes and is comparable with the original Polydor CD's. However, the mean volume is somewhat higher here. The sound of the "'Live' At Abbey Road" album is a little less dynamic as compared to the earlier two CD issues of the album.

The box set is presented like a book, with every CD housed in its own sleeve, the front of which shows the original front cover of the album and the back shows the album track listing and credits in white on a black background on the right hand side. The sleeve notes, written by Mike Read, are printed on the left hand side in white on a red background. They mainly sum up the contents of the albums, but also offer some interesting anecdotes from Hank, Alan Jones, Cliff Hall and Dick Plant.

There are some factual errors in the text:

- The Shadows' second album "Out Of The Shadows" charted at number one, not at number two.
- "Hits Right Up Your Street" was recorded at Brian's Honeyhill Studios in Hertfordshire, not at Abbey Road Studios in London.
- "XXV" is The Shadows' 18th album, not the 15th.
- "Reflection" was released in September, 1990, not October of that year.

The album credits are also not always correct:

- "Misty" was also composed by Johnny Burke.
- "Raunchy" was composed solely by Bill Justis and Sidney Manker.
- "Can't Play Your Game" was co-composed by Anthony Wimshurst, not 'Wilmhurst'.
- Tony Rivers also provided backing vocals on "(I'm Gonna Be Your) Guardian Angel" and "Can't Play Your Game".
- On the "Moonlight Shadows" album, Alan Jones features not just on "Memory" and "A Whiter Shade Of Pale", but also on "Sailing" and "Imagine/Woman".
- The track "A Whiter Shade Of Pale" is erroneously listed on the "Moonlight Shadows" album as "Whiter Shade Of Pale", as it was on the original issue of the album.
- "Guitar Tango" was composed solely by Norman Maine and Georges Liferman.
- "Shadowmix" was also composed by Jet Harris ("F.B.I.") and John Rostill ("The Rise And Fall Of Flingel Bunt").

The discs themselves are made up to look like vinyl records, with the typeface and design of the album cover title printed as well. However, the release date on the disc of "Change Of Address" should be 1980, not 1989.

The music from the Polydor period has received very mixed reviews. The majority of the material was derivative, which was not welcomed by most fans who had followed the group since the beginning of their career. Malcolm Campbell's book "The Shadows At Polydor" details in depth all of the material and I agree with him that there are good covers and not so good covers, as there are good originals and not so good originals. Personally I think most of the album "Guardian Angel" is one of the highlights of the Polydor material. Other highlights include most of the originals and interpretations of "Indigo", "Hello Mr. W.A.M.", "Equinoxe (Part V)", "Telstar", "Chi Mai", "Imagine/Woman", "Misty", "This Ole House", "The Winner Takes It All", "More Than I Can Say", "The Third Man", "Nut Rocker", "High Noon", "The Theme From 'Missing'", "Treat Me Nice", "Chariots Of Fire", "Lili Marlene", "Raunchy", "All I Have To Do Is Dream", "Johnny B. Goode", "Oh! Boy", "Crying In The Rain", "Africa", "Going Home", "Time Is Tight", "Queen Of Hearts", "Every Breath You Take", "Moonlight Shadow", "Three Times A Lady", "I Knew You Were Waiting (For Me)", "The Lady In Red", "The Music Of The Night", "You Win Again", "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother", "When The Going Gets Tough", "You Keep Me Hangin' On", "Eye Of The Tiger",

"Crockett's Theme", "Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic", "Flashdance...What A Feeling" and "Bilitis".

The box set has been issued in two editions, a 'standard' one and an Amazon Exclusive, which includes a 6"x6" signed photo of Hank, Bruce and Brian (see the pictures above). Pick them up while there are still available!

Ivo Koers