

## **THE TUBES SHOCK ROCK WITH THE MUSICAL QUESTION “WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM LIFE?” ON NEW “BEST OF” COMPILATION**

Marilyn Manson is a Girl Scout compared to the Tubes. In the mid-‘70s, frontman Fee Waybill would leap into audiences with a chainsaw; perform an X-rated Apache dance dressed in Frederick’s of Transylvania leather; portray Dr. Strangekiss, a disabled neo-Nazi possessed by the spirit of Tom Jones; reincarnate as Johnny Bugger, the world’s most obnoxious punk; and become crazed rock star Quay Lewd, staggering onstage in spandex and stilt-like platform shoes, so stoned he could barely handle his giant Q-shaped guitar.

Tubes stage shows featured strippers, animal acts, marching bands, graffiti artists, breakdancers, skaters and ballerinas, and transformed into events such as The Streakers Ball, to which all naked members of the audience were admitted free. Before the band ever had an album, it opened for Led Zeppelin at a 60,000-seat stadium. On record, the Tubes became rock’s most extreme satirists of popular culture, from musical trends (“Slipped My Disco”), superstardom (“White Punks On Dope”) and sexual perversity (“Mondo Bondage”) to chastity (“Don’t Touch Me There”) and greed (“What Do You Want From Life?”). Oh yeah, and the Tubes were pioneers of the rock video too. If John Waters had invented a rock band, it would have been the Tubes.

With **The Best Of Tubes** edition of **20<sup>th</sup> Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** (A&M/UME), released October 17, 2000, the most outrageous sideshow of the rock ‘n’ roll circus is celebrated with 11 selections from their first four studio albums.

Formed in San Francisco, the Tubes debuted in 1975 with a self-titled album featuring “White Punks On Dope,” “What Do You Want From Life?” and “Mondo Bondage.” 1976’s Young And Rich included “Don’t Touch Me There,” “Slipped My Disco” and “Tubes World Tour.” Now, in 1977, was a concept record (with “Pound Of Flesh”) so over-the-top even The Tubes were said to have thought it excessive. But the band’s banned performances in England only increased their infamy. (The next year they released the double live What Do You Want From Live.) 1979’s Remote Control, exploring the influence of television, was produced by Todd Rundgren and included “Turn Me On,” “Prime Time,” “I Want It All Now” and “Love’s A Mystery (I Don’t Understand).”

The Tubes exposed, enlightened and entertained by astutely mixing art with trash, comedy with tragedy, bullshit with ballet. They also went on to enjoy a handful of hits in the '80s and today they continue to record and tour. Future stars of shock rock are probably in the audience talking notes.

The series **20<sup>th</sup> Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** features new “best of” albums from the most significant music artists of the past century.

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