

AUGUST, 1980

## SPLIT ENZ

**E**ven the most devoted Frenz of the Enz will be bowled over backwards by the band's new album "True Colours". Split Enz have stepped into the new decade with a new direction, a new-found confidence and with "True Colours", an album that has moved into the vanguard of Australian releases for the 1980's.

Upon delivery of the album everyone connected with the band was quietly ecstatic about the results of the collaboration between Split Enz and whizz-kidd producer David Tickle.

There was no need to remain "quietly ecstatic". "True Colours" and the initial single, "I Got You", debuted at the top of the Australian charts, a position both maintained for well over two months, holding Pink Floyd's *The Wall* to the #2 slot, and in the process Split Enz emerged as the hottest musical entity Down Under.

Fresh from his success as engineer for Blondie and The Knack (working alongside expatriate Aussie, Mike "Platinum Fingers" Chapman) Tickle has given focus and guidance to new avenues the band were already exploring.

We'd hate to say The Enz are becoming NORMAL, but over the past year those costumes have been getting noticeably less outrageous, the haircuts slightly less geometrical and it's been said that singer Tim Finn actually stood still for more than 15 seconds at one of their recent gigs.

"I got sick of looking like a parrot when I was trying to sing love songs", explains Tim. "We all got sick of it. Now we are simpler and more effective. We are just trying to get across the board, but we've only scratched the surface."

Without losing any of their quirky wit or musical skill, The Enz have streamlined their songs into perfect modern pop tunes.

As anyone who has followed the band's career will know, this has been a natural progression since their second visit to England in May of 1977. Prior to that, the band has recorded in England with Roxy Music's Phil Manzanera (producing the album "Second Thoughts") but had stuck mainly to the style of their brilliant debut, "Mental Notes".

Their second visit lasted 18 months and new influences, different record producers and line-up changes combined to alter both visuals and musical style.

They lost their original member—and prolific songwriter—Phil Judd and replaced him with Tim's young and inexperienced brother Neil. This was a gamble that is now paying off in spades, as Neil rapidly gains in confidence. The original New Zealand rhythm section also left, to be replaced by Englishmen Malcolm Green (drums) and Nigel Griggs (bass).

Unlike many bands from the Antipodes, Split Enz got a warm reaction from critics and fans alike.

"This group is totally original, deco art rock. One gets the feeling that this is not just a bunch of guys sitting in a studio making their bid for stardom, but people who are in love with ideas." *Sounds*, U.K.

"I've never known an audience contributing so much energy—the rapport was amazing." *Melody Maker*, U.K.

The next Split Enz album was "Dizrythmia," produced by Paul McCartney's engineer, Geoff Emerick, and the band promoted it by becoming a major concert attraction in Europe and the U.K. from December 1977 to February 1978.

Unfortunately, the rest of 1978 is a period that would rather be erased from the Split Enz memory-bank. Phil Judd rejoined the band only to leave shortly afterwards after realizing he no longer fit in with the new Enz sound. Saxophone player Robert Gillie also left and the band found themselves without a record contract when they parted with Chrysalis.

"In many ways we were just too sophisticated", said Tim Finn later. "In England at the time there seemed a desperate need for everyone to reassure themselves there was life in rock 'n' roll, hence, the punk thing and that return to vital energy. It sounds arrogant, but we were ahead of our time in some ways."

(over please)





Undaunted, the band re-signed to Mushroom Records in Australia and cut the "Frenzy" album at Virgin's Manor Studios in Wales with American producer Mallory Earl (Jimi Hendrix, Steely Dan, Jefferson Starship).

However, midst their stay in the U.K. the band had met up with one David Tickle, then engineer for Mike Chapman, he of many chart topping acts. Tickle liked Enz, Enz liked Tickle, result—one single called "I See Red". Upon the group's return to Australia the single was Top 10 and Tickle was in as producer.

From September through December '79, the band practically lived at Melbourne's Armstrong Studios with Tickle and a whole sackful of new songs. They emerged with the tapes to "True Colours" and the results proved that years of experience had taught the band how to pack all their idiosyncratic ideas and musical skills into short, incredibly catchy pop songs.

"True Colours" includes six Tim Finn songs including "I Hope I Never", one of the most beautiful ballads he has ever written. "I Hope I Never", "Shark Attack" and "Poor Boy" confirmed that Tim's attitude to romance was not entirely serious. Among the catchiest songs were three by Neil Finn: "I Got You", "What's The Matter With You?", and "Missing Person". Two instrumental tracks, "Double Happy" and "Choral Sea" sounded positively futuristic, thanks mainly to Eddie Raynor's amazing multifarious keyboard talents.

The Split Enz's story would be incomplete without mention of the irrepressible Noel Crombie, percussionist extraordinary, gong-hitter and undoubtedly the greatest living spoons player in the universe. Noel doubles as the band's one-man advertising agency, spending his waking hours dreaming up concepts for ads and film clips, and designing the clothes that have made the band trendsetters in high rock fashion.

In June 1980, A&M heard the sonic ripples from Australia and signed the band worldwide. Thus, at last the world at large has caught up with Split Enz, who are about to raise their "True Colours" around the globe.

SPLIT ENZ are:

TIM FINN	Vocals, guitar, piano
EDWARD RAYNER	Keyboards
NOEL CROMBIE	Vocals, miscellaneous noises, percussion
MALCOLM GREEN	Drums
NEIL FINN	Guitar, vocals
NIGEL GRIGGS	Bass

## DISCOGRAPHY:

### SINGLES

MAYBE, 1/9/75  
LATE LAST NIGHT, 1/3/76  
MATINEE IDOL, 6/12/76  
ANOTHER GREAT DIVID, 28/1/77  
MY MISTAKE, 15/8/77  
BOLD AS BRASS, 12/12/77  
I SEE RED, 6/11/78  
GIVE IT A WHIRL, 14/5/79  
THINGS, 1/10/79  
I GOT YOU, 21/1/80

### ALBUMS

MENTAL NOTES, 28/7/75  
SECOND THOUGHTS, 16/8/76  
DIZRYTHMIA, 29/8/77  
FRENZY, 19/2/79  
BEGINNING OF THE ENZ, 12/11/79  
TRUE COLOURS, 28/1/80

