

CREAM: PEEL SLOWLY AND SEE

It is 1964 when Wales, UK-born John Cale first encounters Lou Reed at a NY party. Cale is on a [Leonard Bernstein](#) scholarship, and is performing in avant gardist La Monte Young's group The Dream Academy. They join forces and play under a variety of names. Eventually Reed brings Sterling Morrison into the band as guitarist, while Cale adds Angus MacLise on drums.

As the [Primitives](#) they release several singles for Pickwick Records and eventually call themselves The Velvet Underground (a name taken from a porno paperback). Mutual friends bring them to the attention of [Andy Warhol](#) in 1965 and he becomes the group's manager. He decides that Nico (a West German-born club performer), who is singing at New York's The Blue Angel Lounge, should join the Velvets. Not all the group are smitten with the singer, and MacLise quits. He is replaced by Maureen Tucker.

In November, 1965 the band debuts live as the opener for The Myddle Class at a Summit, NJ high school dance. In 1966 the band begins a residency at Cafe Bizarre in Greenwich Village. They eventually became the house band at Warhol's notorious Factory, and then the musical base for the artist's multi-media show "The Exploding Plastic Inevitable." The band signs a contract with MGM's Verve label in 1966.

In March, 1967 the band releases its debut album *The Velvet Underground and Nico* (with its peelable banana cover designed by Warhol) which goes to 171 on the national charts. Nico goes on to record a collection of covers for her solo record Chelsea Girls. In January, 1968 the band releases *White Light, White Heat* recorded in a day following an extensive tour. *Heat* reaches 199 on national charts. In March of 1967 frictions between Cale and Reed result in Cale's departure. He is replaced by bassist Doug Yule. In April, 1969 the band releases *The Velvet Underground*, recorded in Los Angeles. MGM drops the band and [Atlantic](#) signs them. Cale produces Nico's second solo effort *Marble Index*.

Group returns to New York for a month of shows at Max's Kansas City. Tucker becomes pregnant, and Yules' brother Billy now plays drums. In August, 1970 band's *Loaded* is released. Reed, having left the band to go solo, complains that *Loaded* has been remixed without his input. Band tours East Coast with Yule on lead vocals with singer Walter Powers added to the line-up. In 1971 Willie Alexander replaces Morrison. Tucker departs to raise a family. Yule keeps The Velvet Underground name until 1973, recording album *Squeeze*, released in the UK only. Nico releases another solo effort *Desertshore*--again with Cale at the helm. Atlantic releases *Live at Max's Kansas City* taken from supra-fan Brigit Polk's cassette recording of Velvet's last show with Lou Reed. *Double live 1969-The Velvet Underground* is released on Mercury in 1974, which contains previously unrecorded material. Reed, Cale and Nico join in an improptu 1974 "reunion" of sorts in Paris, France. It is filmed.

In June, 1974, Nico joins John Cale for his London concert. It is released as *June 1st 1974*. This collaboration is followed by Nico/Cale effort *The End*. In 1979 the Velvets' "Rock and Roll" resurfaces on the soundtrack of *Rock and Roll High School* - a classic spoof of 1950 teen movies. In 1980, Tucker releases *Playin Possum* - a solo effort on Spy Records. In 1980 Nico's *Drama of Exile*, containing Reed and Bowie covers is released. This is followed in 1983 by her *Do or Die* In 1985 [Polydor](#) releases remixes of unreleased material (*V.U.*) which hits the U.S. charts at 85, and the UK charts at 47. Cale and Nico combine once again to record *Camera Obscura*. In May 1986 Polydor UK releases The Velvet Underground box set *Another View*. In July 1988, Nico dies of a brain hemorrhage-- having fallen off her bicycle while on holiday in Ibiza.

In June, 1993 Reed, Cale, Tucker and Morrison reunite one more time at the Olympia Theatre, Paris, to record the live album *LIVE MCMXCIII* for Sire/[Warner Bros.](#)

The Banana Ripens in 1995

Peel Slowly and See is a 5-CD set which contains more than six hours of digitally remastered music featuring newly remastered versions of the band's four original albums recorded during the period 1963-70 including:

- *The Velvet Underground and Nico*
- *White Light/White Heat*

- *The Velvet Underground* (also presented in a rare "closet mix" alternate version)
- *Loaded* (presented for the first time with full-length restored versions of "Sweet Jane" and "New Age")

And also presented for the first time, 25 Previously Unreleased recordings including:

- 6 demos recorded in July, 1965 prior to *The Velvet Underground and Nico* album
- 5 demos recorded early 1967 prior to the *White Light/White Heat* album
- 1 demo recorded late 1969
- 7 out-takes recorded during the 1970 *Loaded* sessions

And there's more:

- 6 live performances recorded 1966-70:
 - November, 1966-Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus, Ohio
 - April, 1967-Gymnasium, NYC
 - October, 1968-La Cave, Cleveland, Ohio
 - October, 1969, The End of Cole Ave, Dallas, Texas
 - August, 1970-Max's Kansas City, New York City (the Velvet's final performance)

Plus:

- A mono single version of "All Tomorrow's Parties"
- Highlights from Nico's solo album *Chelsea Girl*
- Highlights from *VU* and *Another View*

Peel Slowly and See is packaged in a sturdy 6 x 12 laminated box with cover featuring a re-peelable banana (in pink this time) replicating the original Warhol banana cover. Each compact disc is jewel boxed with booklets replicating the original art work and liners.

[Velvet Underground: Peel Slowly and See at Polygram Records](#) features excerpts from David Fricke's cover booklet essay, "[The History of the Velvet Underground](#)".