

# Biography



The Tubes are a perplexing band. You see them live and they knock your socks off with one of the most invigorating and innovative live rock shows of the Platinum Age. You listen to any of their three albums and you're hit with blazes of brilliance shooting sporadically through the clouds of confusion. You sense that there's something exceedingly rare and affirmative about this unlikely collection of rockers, jocks and sentimental cynics, but they've had a persistent problem--trying to keep a firm grip on their careering energies, insights and ambitions. Well, as luck would have it--and just in the nick of time--the Tubes have risen like a Phoenix (the band's original hometown, fittingly enough) out of their dusty dilemma, propelled by the concentrated force of a monumental live album. When there's a will, there's a way, even for undisciplined perfectionists.

There was a time, there was a place,  
When all the good things in life disappeared without a trace  
Sat up in bed, eyes open wide  
Saw only once place left I could crawl, that was inside

Just let me rock, I got a shot, I got a chance  
To make it reel-to-reel this time--it's our last dance  
So many times it's all gone wrong  
And left me broken and burnt down, but not for long

I won't give up--I never would  
I just get quiet when it's bad and scream when I'm feeling good

I got a shot, it may not last  
It never bothered me too much until you asked  
Now that you ask, I'm feeling fine  
Just put the pen in my hand and show me where to sign

You got yourself a deal  
--from "Got Yourself a Deal" (Spooner/Waybill)

They call the album *What Do You Want From LIVE*. Its four sides barrel along like the "runway express train" one admirer has likened the band to. The live-document situation reveals--with immediacy and bite--the Tubes' approach, one that relentlessly mixmasters chunks of the *Big Picture* and the small screen, grimy gags and acid melodrama, casual skepticism and the martial chaos of rock & roll--their game is truth and consequences. As Richard Dreyfuss once observed about a mound of masked potatoes: This means something.

The album was recorded in London; the Tubes make their homes in San Francisco. But wherever the Tubes are, the Tubes are . . . Sputnik Spooner on rude guitars and VO vocal . . . Roger Steen on hi-beam guitars and vocals . . . Prairie Prince and Mingo Lewis, together as the Thump Lords (blacksmiths of the backbeat)...Vince Welnick on ivories and every ilk and rousing vocals in the clutch . . . Mike Cotten (D. Middle) manning the helm of the Starship Synthesizer . . . Gator Anderson firming up the foundation with his bulldozer bass...the beautiful versatile, and inimitable Re Style . . . and John Waldo FEE Waybill (his real name), rubber-faced stuntman, lead vocalist, emcee extraordinaire, and generally considered to be the "Peter Townshend of Chainsaw."

--Bud Scoppa

The Tubes may be heard on the following A&M albums:

*What Do You Want From LIVE* / Produced by Pete Henderson and Rikki Farr  
*Now* / Produced by John Anthony  
*Young and Rich* / Produced by Ken Scott  
*The Tubes* / Produced by Al Kooper

