

STEVE FAIRCLOUGH



Captain Sybian & The Dropclutch Dolphins

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Hi.

My name's Steve Fairclough, and pretty much every day of my working life is spent in the studio. That's cool. I'm a musician, producer, and engineer, and consequently, it could be argued, it's the best place for me ☺

I create music for Television, Radio and Cinema.

You can look at some of it here.... www.stevefairclough.com

But this ain't about that.

My friend Matt Smith bought me a book.

It was called 'Behind the Glass'.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Behind-Glass-Record-Producers-Craft/>

In it, great engineers and producers talk about how they achieved some of the sounds they did back in the day.

Out popped my Geek.

He couldn't put the book down.

We decided to take some of my songs, (some from the past, some recent, but from all different styles and genres) and apply some of these techniques to the songs.

It would have been impossible to track down all the original gear from that time, but thanks to the wonders of modern technology, many of these compressors, distorsors, flangers, phasers, desk channels etc. are available as high quality plug-ins.

Paradise.

My regular rhythm section of Brian Hargreaves & my brother Neil Fairclough, tracked the songs with the help of the very wonderful Mark Jones. Then I fleshed most of the tracks in own sweet time, and Neil arranged the vocals.

We both sang whatever was required, and endeavoured to try to get some of those 'big' '70's type harmonies so beloved of Queen or 10cc.

Here are a selection of the tracks.

If you think the guitar sound is a bit 'different' to how we would record today, that was the effect I was going for.

If you think the tracks are a bit busy, I tried to keep everything within the realms of 16 track recording, using a combination of 'stem' mixes and 'grouping' within the DAW.

Anyway, I can bore you with that, another time.

For now, just have a listen and tell me what you think.

We really enjoyed the experiment.

Hope you do too.

Steve Fairclough (A.K.A. Captain Sybian...)

P.S. A few people have asked me where the Album title came from.

The Album title came from a VERY stoned evening involving those long stupid discussions that can only happen when all parties are rigorously baked.

In this case we had to consider seriously what our 'SuperPower' would be, however, it had to be based on an actual Physical thing you were good at.

After hours of deep contemplation as you do when your legs don't work, it was decided very earnestly, that my only physical skill was lying back with an erection, hence the 'Captain Sybian' title.

The Dropclutch Dolphins part came from a further very earnest discussion about the intelligence of Dolphins (fellow stoners will appreciate this kind of conversation happens a lot..)

Someone also posited that they had a strong sense of Rythym. This got taken to a logical conclusion that they were immensely good drummers, and that the only reason they don't do it anymore is because they had trouble with the Dropclutch on the Hi Hats on account of their flippers.

