Written by bluelover Monday, 26 March 2018 13:25 -

## Spandau Ballet - True (1983)



A1 Pleasure 3:30 A2 Communication 3:36 A3 Code Of Love 5:10 A4 Gold 4:49 B1
Lifeline 3:33 B2 Heaven Is A Secret 4:24 B3 Foundation 4:04 B4 True 6:30 Bass —
Martin Kemp Drums — John Keeble Guitar, Backing Vocals, Written-By — Gary Kemp
Keyboards — Jess Bailey Lead Vocals — Tony Hadley Saxophone, Percussion — Steve Norman

By 1983, with the new romantic movement they'd sprung from a rapidly fading memory, the members of Spandau Ballet showed they had no intention of traveling the same path. Always ambitious, the British guintet really got down to business: Gone were the kilts, frilly shirts, and makeup -- as well as the sometimes chilly electronics of their first two albums. Instead, after recording at Compass Point Studios in the sun-soaked Bahamas, the group turned up in smartly tailored suits, with a sleek and mainstream sound to match. That came courtesy of producers Steve Jolley and Tony Swain, who gave Spandau the sort of pop-R&B sheen that had produced hits for clients like Imagination. And it also reflected the growing skill of guitarist Gary Kemp, the band's primary songwriter, who crafted a set of tunes aimed squarely at the charts. The one that succeeded most spectacularly, of course, was the title cut, a glossily-updated Motown-style ballad that became one of the decade's biggest hits -- aided by a video that cast singer Tony Hadley as a young Frank Sinatra, crooning about the sound of his soul. But Kemp had more arrows in his quiver, as well; the catchy soft disco of "Communication" and "Lifeline" coyly suggests, rather than demands, listeners' presence on the dancefloor, while the suave, spy flick-inspired "Gold" finally gives Hadley an appropriately rich setting for his dramatic warble. Some listeners at the time called the album an MOR sellout, but its slick surfaces remain tough to resist, and while none of the cuts generate the excitement of past singles like "To Cut a Long Story Short" or "Chant No. 1," True remains Spandau Ballet's most consistent and best all-around album. --- Dan LeRoy, AllMusic Review

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Brytyjski zespół synth-popowy Spandau Ballet powstał w listopadzie 1979 roku. Stworzyli go bracia Gary i Martin Kemp oraz John Keeble, Tony Hadley i Steve Norman. Debiutowali w 1980 roku przebojowym singlem "To Cut a Long Story Short". Niebawem ukazała się pierwsza płyta zespołu "Journeys to Glory" (1981), która okazała się znacznym sukcesem.

Niestety kolejny album "Diamond " nie znalazł uznania słuchaczy, poza utworem "Chant No.1". Wtedy Spandau Ballet rozpoczął współpracę ze znanym producentem Trevorem Hornerm. Dzięki Hornowi singiel "Instinction" stał się wielkim hitem w całej Wielkiej Brytanii.

Przełomem okazał się longplay "True" (1983), który wprowadził zespół na szczyty list przebojów nie tylko na Wyspach ale też w USA. W 1984 roku premierę miała płyta "Parade", która jednak nie powtórzyła zawrotnego sukcesu poprzedniczki.

Dwa lata później zespół zaprezentował album "Through the Barricades", na którym brzmienie grupy zdecydowanie ewoluowało w kierunku rocka. Tytułowy utwór znalazł uznanie w rodzinnym kraju, jednak to był koniec sukcesów za Oceanem. W 1989 roku ukazała się ostatnia płyta Spandau Ballet - "Heart Like a Sky". ---rmf.fm

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