

Gilbert O'Sullivan - Back To Front (1972)

Written by bluesever

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01. Intro - 0:20 02. I Hope You'll Stay - 2:24 03. In My Hole - 2:43 04. Clair - 2:58 05. That's Love - 2:59 06. Can I Go With You - 2:42 07. But I'm Not - 2:30 08. I'm In Love With You - 4:20 09. Who Was It? - 2:25 10. What Could Be Nicer - 3:00 11. Out Of The Question - 2:55 12. The Golden Rule - 2:31 13. I'm Leaving - 2:33 14. Outro - 0:24 Personnel: - Gilbert O'Sullivan (Raymond Edward O'Sullivan) – vocals - Frank Barber, Johnny Spence - arrangers - Gordon Mills – producer

A sudden switch in image accompanied Gilbert O'Sullivan's second album, 1972's *Back to Front* and its simultaneously released separate single "Alone Again (Naturally)." Gone was the mischievous little scamp sporting a jaunty cap and hand-me-down tweeds, in was a slick, hairy-chested lothario and along with this visual makeover came an aural overhaul, with O'Sullivan's sprightly show tune-inspired pop sounding slicker than before. And it's not just that *Back to Front* is given a gloss that would not have seemed out of place on a televised variety show from 1972, it's that O'Sullivan is taking great care to write sprightly theatrical tunes, songs that take great pride in their clever-clever twists, smiling, crowd-pleasing melodies, and the proudly cheeky sentimentality that drips off of "Clair," to name the most obvious example here. In many ways, the unabashed showbiz cheer of *Back to Front* trumps the bedsit introspection of *Himself*: in his heart Gilbert O'Sullivan is a song-and-dance man possessing a way with a snappy hook or tearjerking melody, qualities that are amply -- and charmingly -- displayed here. [Salvo's 2012 reissue of *Back to Front* is remastered, has its fair share of expanded packaging, and adds three bonus tracks: the smash hit single "Alone Again (Naturally)" and its flip side "Save It," and the single "Ooh-Wakka-Doo-Wakka-Day."] --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, All Music Guide

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