

U2 – Boy (1980)

Written by bluesever

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01. *I Will Follow* - 3:34 02. *Twilight* - 4:18 03. *An Cat Dubh* - 4:46 04. *Into The Heart* - 3:27
05. *Out Of Control* - 4:11 06. *Stories For Boys* - 3:01 07. *The Ocean* - 1:33 08. *A Day Without Me* - 3:11 09. *Another Time, Another Place* - 4:33 10. *The Electric Co.* - 4:47 11. *Shadows And Tall Trees* - 4:32
Personnel: - Bono (Paul David Hewson) – lead vocals - The Edge (David Howell Evans) – guitar, backing vocals - Adam Clayton (Adam Charles Clayton) – bass - Larry Mullen Jr. (Lawrence Joseph Mullen, Jr.) – drums

From the outset, U2 went for the big message -- every song on their debut album *Boy* sounds huge, with oceans of processed guitars cascading around Bono's impassioned wail. It was an inspired combination of large, stadium-rock beats and post-punk textures. Without the Edge's echoed, ringing guitar, U2 would have sounded like a traditional hard rock band, since the rhythm section and Bono treat each song as an anthem. Of course, that's the charm of *Boy*: all of its emotions are on the surface, delivered with optimistic, youthful self-belief, yet the unusual, distinctive guitar textures give it an unexpected tension that makes it an exhilarating debut. The songs may occasionally show some weakness -- the driving "I Will Follow," the dark "An Cat Dubh," and the shimmering "The Ocean" stand out among the sonic textures -- yet the band's musical and lyrical vision keep *Boy* compelling until the finish. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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