

Captain Beefheart - Trout Mask Replica (1969)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 18 January 2012 19:25 - Last Updated Monday, 11 December 2017 09:27

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01. Frownland - 1:39 02. The Dust Blows Forward 'N The Dust Blows Back - 1:52 03. Dachau Blues - 2:21 04. Ella Guru - 2:26 05. Hair Pie: Bake 1 - 4:58 06. Moonlight On Vermont - 3:55 07. Pachuco Cadaver - 4:38 08. Bills Corpse - 1:48 09. Sweet Sweet Bulbs - 2:21 [play](#) 10. Neon Meate Dream Of A Octafish - 2:25 11. China Pig - 4:00 12. My Human Gets Me Blues - 2:45 13. Dali's Car - 1:24 14. Hair Pie: Bake 2 - 2:23 15. Pena - 2:33 16. Well - 2:06 17. When Big Joan Sets Up - 5:18 18. Fallin' Ditch - 2:07 19. Sugar 'N Spikes - 2:30 [play](#) 20. Ant Man Bee - 3:54 21. Orange Claw Hammer - 3:34 22. Wild Life - 3:08 23. She's Too Much For My Mirror - 1:40 24. Hobo Chang Ba - 1:59 25. The Blimp (mousetrapreplica) - 2:04 26. Steal Softly Thru Snow - 2:16 27. Old Fart At Play - 1:51 28. Veteran's Day Poppy - 4:29 - Don Van Vliet (Captain Beefheart) – vocals, tenor & soprano saxophones, bass clarinet, simran horn (10,20), musette oboe (10,20), arranger - Bill Harkleroad (Zoot Horn Rollo) – glass finger guitar (slide guitar using a glass slide), flute - Jeff Cotton (Antennae Jimmy Semens) – steel-appendage guitar (slide guitar using a metal slide), vocals (15,25), french horn (04) - Victor Hayden (The Mascara Snake) – bass clarinet, additional vocals - Mark Boston (Rockette Morton) – bass guitar, narration (10,27) - John French (Drumbo) – drums, percussion + - Doug Moon – guitar (11) - Frank Zappa – producer

Trout Mask Replica is Captain Beefheart's masterpiece, a fascinating, stunningly imaginative work that still sounds like little else in the rock & roll canon. Given total creative control by producer and friend Frank Zappa, Beefheart and his Magic Band rehearsed the material for this 28-song double album for over a year, wedding minimalistic R&B, blues, and garage rock to free jazz and avant-garde experimentalism. Atonal, sometimes singsong melodies; jagged, intricately constructed dual-guitar parts; stuttering, complicated rhythmic interaction -- all of these elements float out seemingly at random, often without completely interlocking, while Beefheart groans his surrealist poetry in a throaty Howlin' Wolf growl. The disjointedness is perhaps partly unintentional -- reportedly, Beefheart's refusal to wear headphones while recording his vocals caused him to sing in time with studio reverberations, not the actual backing tracks -- but by all accounts, the music and arrangements were carefully scripted by the Captain (aided by John "Drumbo" French), which makes the results even more remarkable. As

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one might expect from music so complex and, to many ears, inaccessible, the influence of Trout Mask Replica was felt more in spirit than in direct copycatting, as a catalyst rather than a literal musical starting point. However, its inspiring reimagining of what was possible in a rock context laid the groundwork for countless future experiments in rock surrealism, especially during the punk/new wave era. --- Steve Huey, allmusic.com

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