THE WHO QUADROPHENIA





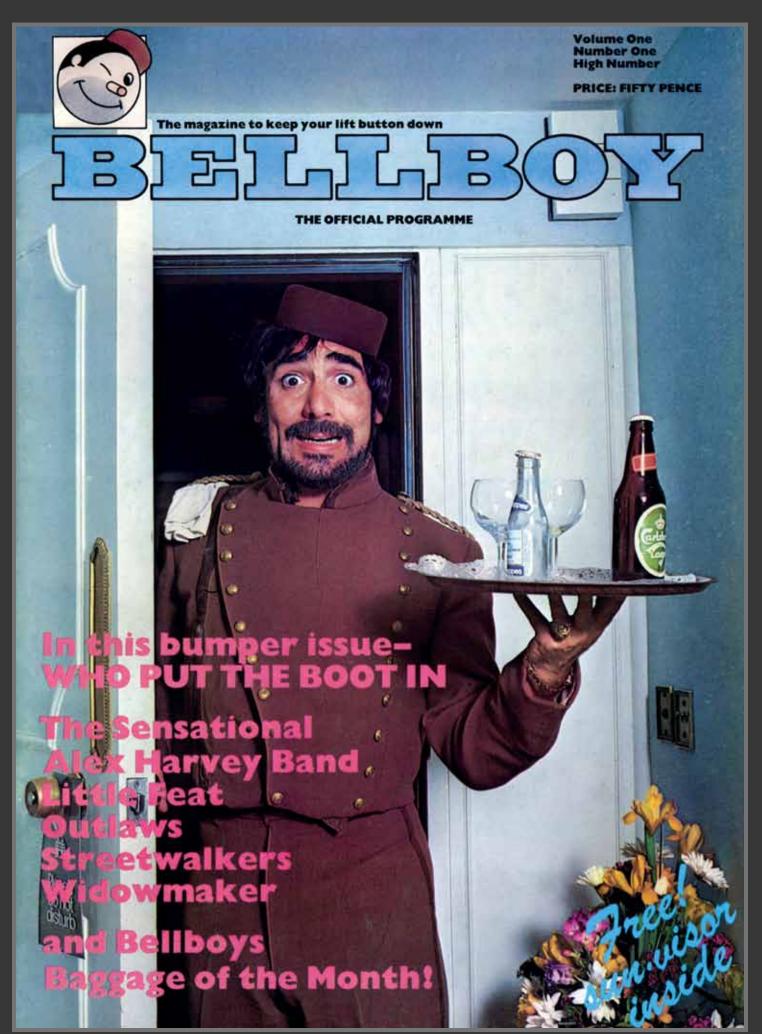
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Keith Moon. This is the cover of the concert program from The Who's 1976 U.K. stadium tour with Little Feat, The Outlaws, The Sensational Alex Harvey Band, and the Streetwalkers. Photo: © Trinifold Management



Phil Daniels, who plays Jimmy in the 1979 Quadrophenia film, with Pete Townshend during the filming. • Photo: © Moviestore Collection/Rex/Rex USA

HIS 2011 REVISIT to The Who's 1973 Quadrophenia recording is inspired by current and continuing interest in

INTRODUCTION

Pete Townshend

down various bits of music that got lost along the way. I'm not trying to rewrite history so much as enjoy this trawl back through the two and half

the project. The Who performed a concert version of the piece at the Royal Albert Hall in 2010 for the Teenage Cancer Trust with excellent reviews, and the success of that event led to the prospect of a Who tour in 2012 based on the album. The last such tour was between 1996–1997. There is a sequel to the 1979 film planned, that will continue Jimmy's life after his Mod days, which will go into production in 2012–2013. The original 1979 film is being restored for Blu-Ray with surround sound. An orchestral score is being developed by Rachel Fuller that could see the piece performed as part of the repertoire of international orchestras around the world. A youthful and explosive musical theatre adaptation successfully toured the UK for six months in 2009 and a revised version is in development in New York. *Quadrophenia*, as much as *Tommy*, continues to excite interest in new listeners.

The original vinyl album, released in late 1973, was powerful, but compromised in some ways by the rigours of life in and around The Who at the time. A remix for CD was released in 1996. That attended to the fact that on some songs, Roger's wonderfully powerful vocals had been crushed on the vinyl version.

Since then a DVD release has featured a concert version performed in 1997, but with a mono soundtrack. The time has come for me and my team to honour *Quadrophenia* with a carefully presented package that features examples of the impact surround sound (quadraphonic) would have on the music, to remaster the vinyl mixes, and to collect and restore my demos.

What will last a lot longer than me talking or writing about my music is the music itself, and only the best of that will survive. So I'm busy here enjoying myself, wading through files of paper, press releases, reviews, letters and photos—and also tracking

years or so when *Quadrophenia* was gestating and emerging. I am making some surprising discoveries.

Those of you who enjoy Quadrophenia just as it was first released partly have the limits of the vinyl album to thank. Hard and grandiose rock music demanded a lot of this delicate medium and about 17 minutes on each side was close to the maximum that made sense if you wanted your record to be anarchically loud. I might have left all the padding off the album, even if I had been allowed more vinyl time. Quadrophenia proved to me that rules can be broken and new ones established. The rule that was established on the original album as recorded by The Who, was that energetic musical rage could convey the entire gamut of human emotion. We didn't need throwaway tracks for light relief, we didn't need light and shade, we didn't need irony or humour, we hardly needed sadness. Hearing Roger literally scream 'Love reign o'er me'—a lyric I had written to demonstrate the most extreme and miserable pathos of the soul ridiculed and abandoned by everyone and everything—I learned that such an iconic Daltrey bellow can symbolically carry withering sadness, self-pity, loneliness, abandonment, spiritual desperation, the loss of romance, of love and of childhood as well as the more obvious rage and frustration. The angst of those teenage years, in which all of us feel misunderstood, is easy to make fun of but it is real and brings my hero, Jimmy, to consider suicide. As the composer and author of the story, I realised that I had no right to decide whether or not Jimmy ended his own life. As a jaded rock star without any rights to the travails of youth in the '70s and as an always nostalgic ex-Mod, I had a duty to let Jimmy decide for himself.

That is one right decision I made, that I will not revise.

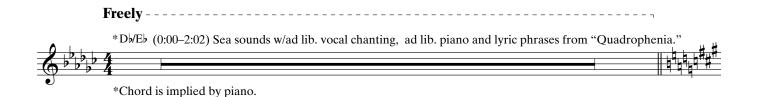
CONTENTS

	TITLE	PAGE	TITLE	PAGE
	I Am the Sea	6	5:15	83
	The Real Me		Sea and Sand	
	Quadrophenia		Drowned	
	Cut My Hair		Bell Boy	
			Doctor Jimmy	
	The Punk and the Godfather		The Rock	126
Residence	I'm One			
100	The Dirty Jobs		Love, Reign O'er Me	147
HORSESSON !	Helpless Dancer			
SECURIOR A	Is It in My Head?			
HEERE I	I've Had Enough	70		
SECONS -		14		
1	200	11.	e.	
100				
7.48	724	Maria Maria Maria		CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
and the second	-		1	BOUNDAY MINERAL MANAGEMENT OF THE PARTY OF T
1900	-			The state of the s
THE RESERVE	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	The same of the		
				NEW BERNSON
		11	100	
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	4000			Sec.
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	11000			
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	- Colonia	1		
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				Market Street
	Towns Control of the		一种	SEEDING TO SEED TO SEE
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	ein upright piano to his right "Drowned" during this time.	No.	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	1
Photo: Chris Morp		Valent Valent	Acres S Dilli	
				1
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I AM THE SEA

Words and Music by PETER TOWNSHEND





**Recording sounds one and one half steps higher than written due to "The Real Me" is played with Capo III (concert key is "C", but song is performed in "A").

Segue into "The Real Me."

THE REAL ME





The Real Me - 7 - 2