

Today, I'll be reviewing Simply Red's album 'Blue'. You can't be simply red-blue, can you? Simply red AND blue maybe, or just purple, but why not say that? Ironically, the real life version isn't simple it's confusing, at least for me. According to the internet, the album being discussed isn't as good as the group's 'A New Flame', but I do like it anyway. At least flames are red. Well, partly red, still not simply red. Even better, apparently ANF isn't their best album either. I must check out 'greatest' work 'Picture Book.' At least on the album, you do get a picture, and it's quite possible you get a book (or rather booklet) in the CD case. I've never seen a full blown book in a CD case. Maybe the album should be called Picture/Booklet. But that could imply you don't get a CD which would obviously be a huge deal. So then we have the name Picture/Booklet/CD. Which is rubbish, isn't it? It's just a description of any old album.

It's interesting that the 2014 expanded version of their album 'Simplified' features a bunch of remixes, numerous live songs from a concert in Cuba, and a DVD featuring an interview, promo videos AND BBC TV appearances. Needless to say... not simple. Would you believe Wikipedia says that Tim Vine played keyboards for the band for a while? Tim is a well known comedian! Maybe the musician-comic pranked singer Mick Hucknall by giving him really dumb ideas, possibly to generate material for an upcoming standup show. 'Oh well done, Tim. You got me. I've called my debut album a basic description that applies to ALL CDs. Just when I was trying to stand out.' However, the comedian's Twitter page explains there are at least TWO Tim Vines, so my theory just then was wrong. If I was the comic, I'd have claimed I played with the band anyway. Just to screw with people.

Ok, so the band name is confusing, as is the title Blue. Surely Red's record label made sense. What was it called? 'East West'? AAARGH!!!! You mean the middle?? If not, what??? Apparently Alexander Armstrong is on the East West label, and he's another comedian! Something weird is going on here, but what? Surely if Mick is being pranked by numerous people, he would have realised by now? Some guy called 'Tru Indeed' performs on the album, which can't be real. If you asked someone what their name was, and you asked them to be completely honest as it was important, and the guy said 'well, my name if I'm being truthful is 'Tru Indeed' you'd surely be suspicious. Wikipedia says that CJ Taylor plays bass on Blue. At first I wondered if they were Corey Taylor's initials. I was like 'come on. Why is Slipknot's singer playing on the album?' but turns out the metal head's middle initial is T. Phew.

Having said all that stuff about comedians, if anything the band's website could do with more humour. 'Simplyred.com'? Come on. You can try harder than that. How's this for a site name: Simplyweb. I don't think Mick Hucknall should change his name, though. It would be confusing for everyone, especially as it would be so late in his life. There's something about an old man changing his name to 'Sting' or 'The Edge' that is particularly odd, most people around the person would be very concerned. Judging by some of the people Mick's worked with, he could end up calling himself 'The Truth' or whatever. Mick, I'm saying this because I care: Don't call yourself 'The Truth'. Please. If you're really bored with your name you have options, you can call yourself Michael, Micky, or even Mikey Boy.

Anyway, the most important thing, what's the album like? Is it blues? Whilst that would be very fitting, maybe it would be too fitting. By that I mean, a blues musician releasing an album called 'Blue'? No. That's apathy, isn't it? Actually Simply Red

perform soul, pop music and a genre called 'blue eyed soul.' I'm not exactly sure what it is, but it implies that blue eyed people having a soul is noteworthy and unusual, which is very offensive. Unless soul from blue eyed people is different from the soul of brown eyed people? I guess that's not offensive. It still raises questions, though. And you know what? I like the album, really I do and I'm grateful the way it's not simply called 'Soul' or 'Pop'. I don't love it, but I do want to hear more from the band. :) 8.25/10!