

NEW RELEASE



**IGN271 - The Stayawakes - Pop Dreamz CD - 07983701409**

**Release - 29th January 2021**

The Stayawakes return with their second album "Pop Dreamz", which sees the band more focused with intent on delivering an immediacy and urgency across eleven tracks. The album was produced by Jimmy Cooper at The Lightning Bolt (Southsea) along with some additional sessions with Nicholas Bowen at Quay West Studios (Gosport).

The album was mixed by Bob Cooper at The Chairworks (Leeds) and mastered by Grant Berry at Fader Mastering.

The album is released through Engineer records who first got involved with the band after kindly inviting them to be on their "Lamp Light The Fire" Compilation.

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## **The Stayawakes - Pop Dreamz / TRACK LIST & COMMENTARY**

### **1 - Wendi**

This is without question an open love letter to both 90's power pop band Silver Sun and 80's wrestler Wendi Richter. It was one of the first things we'd written after the first album and we knew we wanted to push the harmonies and pop choruses this time around.

### **2 - Lovestruck**

This was a track that we didn't want to put too much thought into other than trying to write a straight up pop song that your mother in law would sing along to. The guitars are fuzzy and abrasive but that's half the charm. Lyrically it's about desperately trying to salvage a relationship in its twilight while deep down you know it's doomed to fail.

### **3 - Please Steve Just Drive**

Written at the end of our old band Day of the Fight, it tells the story of a drive from Middlesbrough to the Southampton Joiners with Steve racing down the M6 in our old Hungarian van. The second verse is about getting back to an empty house on the Isle of Wight where we were based at the time. Getting back from a tour with your best mates and real life sinking in is rough at the best of times but when you say your goodbyes, load out your gear into a dark empty house where you grew up it's particularly sobering.

### **4 - Every Word But Please**

A really melodic number that is one of the more dynamically diverse songs on the album. The harmonies in the chorus were one of the more challenging parts of the recording process with Jimmy almost passing out hitting the high notes. The lyrics deal with reflecting on a past relationship and accepting that those moments of loneliness you now have are better than the previous situation you were in.

### **5 - Power Pop Massacre**

This was written as a celebration of playing music with your best friends with the lyrics being almost like a mission statement for the band. It has echoes of 90's nostalgia and started out with more of a Teenage Fan club vibe but ended up with some sort of Power Pop steroid injection.

### **6 - You Rock My Socks Off**

This was written about Andrew's cat Twiggy. She was more of a Bangers fan but this is our crack at a Joe Queer style rager.

### **7 - Back in '95**

This is a song that originates from the early days of the band. We revisited it and wrote a lot of guitar parts for this whilst tracking at The Lighting Bolt. The vibe is fun and loose on and vocally inspired by one of Dan Vapid bands (maybe Methadones?). In fact The Mopes' Accident Waiting to Happen is one record that we agree is a stone cold punk-pop classic. Years ago we joked about forming a band called The Ed Rooneys who would play bratty Lookout Records style punk. This song could have been our first!

### **8 - Oh Telephone**

A fan favourite that has been described as having hints of The Rentals, ELO and even Kiss. The intro of 4 hits on the ride cymbal bell is a blatant nod to one of our favourite Weezer records. Lyrically it is about losing the person that is always your first call for help and dealing with them not being around anymore. The chorus was originally just an outro on the original demo that Jimmy brought to the table but Steve swiftly reworked the arrangement bringing forward one of the catchiest parts of the album.

### **9 - Pink Wave**

Lyrically this one is about seeing people around you in a happy, content bubble almost oblivious to the difficult situations of other people. It's also about the dance of an intimate

relationship where one picks up the other when they're down. Musically we're slashing some dual guitars just because we love that sort of thing.

### **10 - Down For Love**

This originally came out as our Valentine's Day single. The story is of a father who has a second chance at love and happiness. We think the riff is nicked off Idlewild but possibly not. On the release day we hid love letters all over Southsea with the help of friends at Pie and Vinyl and the best bar that ever existed, The Wave Maiden.

### **11 - It's Cool, It's Rad**

Probably the heaviest song on the record that almost has a grunge-esque vibe to it with a groove reminiscent of Nirvana's "Drain You". This is one of the band's favourites to play live where the extended outro takes on a different life of its own every time. The lyrics are about taking hold of your life and trying to find a state of happiness and being content before letting someone else in.

All songs written and performed by The Stayawakes. Band members in top photo from L-R:

James Cooper - Bass/Vocals

Steve Hart - Drums

Peter Foulk - Guitar/Backing Vocals

Andrew Ricks - Guitar/Vocals

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Thank you for your support and keep on rocking.

David Gamage

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