

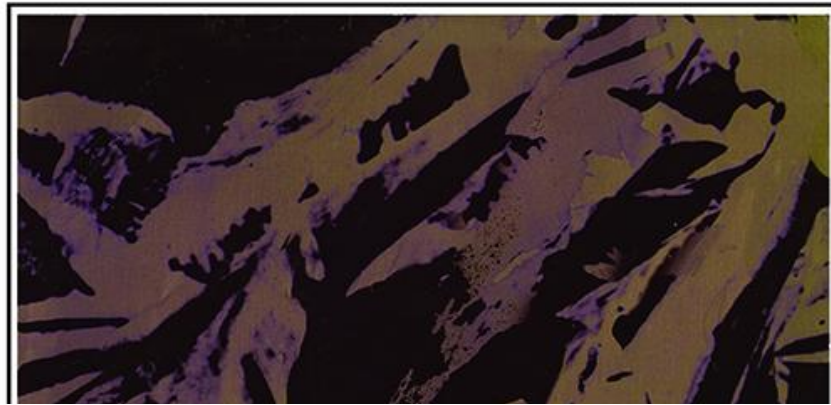
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## Party Day: Sorted! – album review

### PARTY DAY



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**Celebration Day: Sorted!**

**Optic Nerve**

**2CD/LP**

**Launched 24 September 2021**

A compilation bringing collectively the whole lot launched by Barnsley publish punk outfit Celebration Day, together with their albums Glasshouse and Simplicity, plus single sides and unreleased materials. Ian Canty will get the occasion began...

Celebration Day fashioned in Barnsley in 1981, with drummer and band mainstay Mick Baker being joined by Carl and Greg Firth on bass and guitar/vocals respectively, plus Martin Steele additionally taking part in guitar and singing. They took the darker aspect of publish punk as a place to begin i.e. The Remedy, The Banshees, Pleasure Division and maybe a contact of Killing Joke's depth too. From this they rapidly developed their very own identification, whereas by no means solely deserting the early gothic sound that was simply rising to prominence.

## PARTY DAY



## SORTED!

By the point of their first launch, the Row The Boat Ashore single in 1983, they'd slimmed right down to a 3 piece with the exit of Greg Firth. This 45 was issued on the band's personal Celebration Day imprint and have become one thing of a "Peel present favorite". It was additionally well-received within the UK music press and the following yr furnished us with observe up 7 inch Spider. Quickly Celebration Day have been a quartet as soon as extra with the addition of Dean Peckett on vox and guitar. An EP and album, each titled Glasshouse, adopted in 1985, with the prolonged play being launched by Rouska Information. Some time later Martin Steele was the newest Celebration Day casualty, being changed by Paul Nash. A second LP Simplicity got here out in 1986, however by then Carl Firth had opted to go away and although Shaun Crowcroft took his place, no additional recordings emerged and the band break up for good in 1988.

What we've right here is the entire Celebration Day vinyl output, plus some unreleased tracks. There's a very informative booklet included with interval photographs and evaluations of the band, which solely actually lacks a full historical past and a breakdown with recording dates for the tracks to make it definitive. All issues thought-about, it's a really properly offered set. On listening, the fiery undertow that the rhythm part imbue their music with put me in thoughts of what a goth Ruts may sound like, which was a very good first impression to make. There are events early on when The Remedy affect threatens to overshadow the entire thing, however the agency musical base helps maintain issues shifting together with a sure freshness.

The primary CD begins with the primary three tunes from the Glasshouse album. Every helps to present one a good grasp of Celebration Day's modus operandi. Rabbit Pie begins with robust bass and drums that are joined by fuzzy swathes of guitar to ship a convincingly atmospheric and fairly bracing impact. Fading in comes Firehorse, emphasising the "lead bass" methodology which marked their work, after which the extra corrosive Carousel rumbles with spiky menace. The Celebration Day track itself verges on commonplace goth rock, however some lithe drum work provides it zip and the distant sounding backing vocals are literally very efficient.

An early model of Glasshouse comes from 1982. This tune could be recut for the Rouska EP three years later and this seems on disc two right here. On this type it comes over as charming psych pop, very agreeable certainly and the synth strikes of Opium Gathering are fairly neat as effectively. First single Row The Boat Ashore retains an actual sense of journey and thriller. It's no surprise that the music press lapped up this full of life and ingenious sound at a time when individuals have

been crying out for one thing new. Spider, the following single, begins off unusual and fizzes with power and its hypnotic flipside, Flies, has hovering most important voice and muttering backing vocals kicking it alongside. This primary disc ends with what many think about Celebration Day's traditional Atoms. An immediately gripping and relentless rhythm is rapidly established for synth keys to glide excessive elegantly, whereas rushes of guitar noise and dramatic voice provides the air of one thing actually invigorating.

### Party Day - Atoms (Glasshouse) 1985



Disc two appears to primarily concern itself with the band's later materials, together with the Glasshouse EP and the Simplicity album, with the ebullient groove of Bites And Stabs compilation quantity Borderline getting issues underway. Then comes the Glasshouse EP in its entirety, with the pure pop attraction of the title observe, a barely garage-tinged strut entitled My Heroine, Let Us Shines' flowing and thrilling brio and the anthemic Smile all impressing. This file positively marked the beginning of a extra accessible flip within the route of Celebration Day, however they managed to take action with out actually compromising their unique values.

The latter a part of this disc is kind of thrown over to the tracks that made up the Simplicity LP from 1986. Displaying a good quantity of growth from their roots, right here Celebration Day rating instantly with crisp sounding opener Sovereign, It's merely a driving tune with a hook that's effectively completed (if just a little reminiscent in patches of early U2). There's loads extra of that ilk to get pleasure from too, with the lighter method paying off on each She Might Be Blind and Keep My The Coronary heart, the latter of which to my ears shares one thing with New Order's first few data.

Afterward the album The Different Facet oozes good-time pop/rock attraction and sounds just a little like a extra rock & roll Psychedelic Furs. The thick rhythm of fashion of Profession is nearly r&b at its coronary heart, however this has the optimistic aspect in furnishing the tune with a bouncy brio. The slowly thudding melancholia of the epic Wonderful Days is an actual ace within the pack right here, one among this set's actual highlights.

Although there's the occasional ponderous second on this album when issues do drag just a little and the band's enviable power appears to fail, Simplicity nonetheless makes for a lovely and enticing pay attention in 2021. That it proved to be the ultimate vinyl foray for Celebration Day means there's inevitably an air of unfulfilled promise hanging over it, however by my reckoning this LP is a fairly satisfying assortment and represented a great way for them to exit on with their dignity totally intact. This set is curtailed by the chugging Surge which, full with tacky sax, does appear to be aimed squarely on the charts. It's not one among their greatest, however I suppose does give the listener a good notion concept of the place Celebration Day have been heading in the event that they made it to the late Eighties.

Again within the Eighties Celebration Day acquired a variety of optimistic press, however for some motive their self-released data didn't make a dent on the impartial charts. The band's line up adjustments in all probability didn't assist and this stuff mixed so that they subsequently didn't make quite a lot of headway. Which was a disgrace, as a result of on the proof current on Sorted! they'd loads to supply, being a band that managed to drag just a few neat wrinkles out of goth and publish punk with creativeness, power and an endearing enthusiasm. An eye fixed-opener in the event you thought they have been one other run of the mill bunch of gloom and doom retailers, Sorted! has sufficient good melodies, powerful musicianship and thrilling performances to drag Celebration Day a good way away from the goth also-rans.

**Celebration Day's web site is right here and they're on Fb right here**

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**All phrases by Ian Canty – see his creator profile right here**

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