

# Reviews

**Artist:** Party Day

**Album:** Sorted

**Label:** Optic Nerve

**Tracks:** 16

**Website:** <https://www.party-day.co.uk> (<https://www.party-day.co.uk>)

Party Day were a Post Punk truly indie band, releasing a now highly collectable first album on their own label in 1985. Formed in Wombwell nr Barnsley in South Yorkshire, Barnsley the Discogs website helpfully (?) tells us is in Northern England. Through the band's first album Carl Firth plays strident lead Bass that is well to the fore in the mix, with guitarist Martin Steele and Greg Firth supporting or following tightly alongside. Tracks like "Rabbit Pie" and "Row The Boat Ashore" have that glorious chiming guitar and precise drum and bass sound that is so 80s with more than a touch of Wish era Robert Smith in the vocals.

The sound is energetic, skin tight and full with vocals atmospherically down in the mix. Drummer Mick Baker can be sharp and on the beat, or on the wonderfully dark "Anthea" and "Poison" a ferocious centre stage presence all around the hypnotic guitar. This double Cd set collects together both Party Day albums, singles like the wonderful "Spider", the Glasshouse EP and some seemingly unreleased tracks like the hallucinogenic "Opium Gathering". Tracks like the 1985 version of "Glasshouse", "Laughter", and "She May Be Blind" have the sweeter chime of New Order in their arrangements and the whiff of the louche future Stone Roses in the vocals. 1986's "Precious Day" with its opening triumphant guitar chords and confident vocals could almost be an outtake from a South Yorkshire Roses, suggesting there was life still in Party Day and it was a classic case of right band wrong time.

Long form tracks like "Glorious Days" create real atmosphere and tension, like a darker, edgier Big Country. Closer "Surge" with its chorus and splashes of Pigbag brass sounds has 80s indie hit written all over it. A strong collection across two discs from a band that will be a surprise to most and a pleasure to anyone wanting to chuck themselves round in tight jeans and a baggy jumper, partying like it's the 1980s again.

Marc Higgins

## PARTY DAY



## SORTED!

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