

THE SONGS BY WHITE LORD JESUS

White Lord Jesus started in the autumn of 1983 with Tristan Christ (Arvid Skancke-Knutsen) on vocals and Thomas (Thomas Robsahm) on instruments.

The band played their first concerts in the spring of 84 and released the cassette-album Amen the same summer. It included guest appearances by Bård Torstensen (later of Clawfinger), Eystein Eriksen (Dynamo Forte), Dave Jørgensen & Crisph (Famlende Forsøk) and Jan Harry Gullovsen.

After around 15 gigs and the recording of a new demo in 85, the band split in the autumn of 85.

20 years later they returned to release the old material.

The CD White Lord Jesus (released in 2005) includes all songs WLJ ever recorded from 1983-85. Almost.

Here are the ones that did not make it on to the album:

1. PLEASURE AVALANCHE

The very first recording of the band, in late 1983 with just a borrowed polysynth and vocals recorded directly to a normal cassette player. The only copy was sent to Kjetil Korslund and has never been seen or heard since. The track had a lyric by Lydia Lunch which Tristan got from her personally. The song was a bit Alan Vega-inspired.

2. KINGDOM CUM

In 85 the band recorded a 6-track demo, mixed by Thomas and Anne Grete Kolås (who had previously been in the band together with her twin-sister Åshild a couple of months in 84). Four of the songs are on the CD from 2005, two of them in completely new versions (The Fright Train and Beautiful Diseases (aka The Black Raven/Autumn Cannibalism)). The other two are Mystery Walk and Nightclub. But two tracks did not make it to the CD. Kingdom cum is one of them. This track is partly improvised with just piano and vocals. It was also played live.

3. O'FIDDLER

This was also a part of the 6-track demo. Ym:Stammen inspired everybody to use a kind of folk-feel in 85, so WLJ made a track like that, too, with just a drum and vocals. Was also done live.

4. O´FIDDLER – NEW VERSION

Since the band were not satisfied with the demo-version, the song was re-recorded later in 85 for the cassette Frendafolket. It was done by Asbjørn Langås at Wide Studio in the basement of Blitz. Nils Økland joined on his fiddle. Økland is now a solo artist on Rune Grammofon.

THE COMEBACK IN 2005

In 2003, Tristan (now ASK) and Thomas (now Tognazzi) met at the Quart Festival. They had not seen each other for more than ten years. They agreed to finally release Amen on CD.

In April 2004, Thomas girlfriend Margreth Olin gave him a synth (Moog!) for his 40th birthday and arranged meetings with some friends that gave advice on what to buy to get started with music again. Before getting Logic, Thomas tried out some work on Soundtracks and Garageband and made his first loop-based sketch in 19 years one night (called “19 years”). Later a few other loop-songs were made before a Midi-keyboard, Logic 7 and some plug-ins were purchased.

The rest of 2004 and 2005 was used to digitalise the old 4-track songs and improve them with re-recordings and remixing.

In this period some new material was also made by Tognazzi. When a date was set for the release of the album on Kong Tiki/Playground, the company wanted the band to do a concert to promote the album. Since they had not played together since 1985 and Tognazzi did not touch an instrument between 1985 and 2004, this seemed frightening to say the least, but the band started rehearsing the old songs and found out to their surprise how easy and pleasant it was. Soon new songs were made and the first concert in 20 years at Mono in Oslo, included new songs like Song About Love, Rat Attacks and Enigma.

THIS IS WHAT WAS DONE WITH THE ORIGINAL

RECORDINGS FROM THE CASSETTE AMEN (1984) AND THE 6-TRACK DEMO (1985) BEFORE THE CD-RELEASE IN 2005:

All tracks were remixed by Thomas and Trond Bjerknæs (1-5, 7, 8 and 11) and Chris Sansom (the rest). Trond also played additional keyboards. Chris mastered the album at The Livingroom in Oslo.

1. STORM COMING DOWN

New bass-synths, strings, horns, percussion and tape-samples from the radio, originally recorded by Tristan and used live on different songs. Some of the vocals were edited and used backwards.

2. MARY'S ROOM

New drum programming, sampled strings and bass-synth. The choir and vocals have been edited. The song is also edited so it's shorter than the original. Only the polysynth and vocals are left from the original recording.

3. SONG FOR A DARK GIRL

New sampled strings added and the song is edited, so it's a bit shorter than the original.

4. BACK IN MARY'S ROOM

This is a song WLJ made in 85 and played live on several gigs. For the album they did a new arrangement and recorded it for the first time. Backing vocals by Bengt Hansen from The Colors Turned Red and Wholy Martin.

5. BEAUTIFUL DISESES

Original on the demo from 85 (see above) and released as The Black Raven (edited version) on the cassette Animal Aid, 1985. (The second part was originally called Autumn Cannibalism and was never released). Sampled strings, synths, bass-synth, piano and loops were added. Backing vocals by Bengt Hansen. Only lead vocals and piano from the original tape.

6. MYSTERY WALK

Original on the demo from 85 and released on the cassette Absolute Musique in 1986. No new recordings or editing.

7. WINTERSONG

This is the new song on the cd. Composed and recorded in 2005. The lyrics are from 1985, shortly after the band had split.

8. (ANY) TRISTAN (MUST DIE)

Bass-synth, bass-drum, snare and hi-hat, and backward guitar by Haakon Larsen from Colors Turned Red/Wholy Martin were added.

9. JIMMIES´S GOT A GOIL

No new recordings or editing.

10. SHOWTIME!

Shortened a little bit and some instruments have been edited.

11. THE FRIGHT TRAIN

Original on demo from 85, previously unreleased. New bass-synth, strings, organ, tapes (trains), sampled steel-guitar by Trond Bjerknæs. Female vocals by Tristana. (Actually it´s just Tristan pitched).

12. MONSTERBODY

This is remixed quite a bit, but with no new recordings or editing.

13. AUGUST WALLA I

No new recordings or editing.

14. AUGUST WALLA II

No new recordings. Edited shorter.

15. AFTER MY DEATH

No new recordings or editing.

16. NIGHTCLUB

From the demo 85, previously unreleased. This was recorded by Tristan in his bedroom at night. It´s just his voice on four tracks. No synthesizers or other effects. No new recordings or editing.

**SONGS THAT WERE COMPOSED AND PLAYED LIVE IN 84-85,
BUT NEVER RECORDED:**

1. THE PARTY

The Party (later called Showtime!) was the first song WLJ made as a band and it was played at every gig except the last one in 85. But the live version was quite different than the one recorded for Amen, so it's kind of another song.

2. LONELY FOR YOU

This one was played on the Yin Yang-tour WLJ did in October 1984 with Ym:Stammen, but then it disappeared from the set, and the band have no idea why, cause it's a nice ballad. A new demo was recorded in 2006 but the song never made it to the new album.

3. BLACK HORNED SAINT

This one was also played live on the same tour, but only on two of the gigs because, as with some of the other songs, the band needed a piano to do it and in those days that meant an upright piano which was not that easy to get hold of. (This was before the sampler). The song became part of the live-set again after the comeback, and was recorded for the new album (see below).

4. MAKING UP TRISTANS MIND

An instrumental that was only done once, as the opening for the band's concert in Bergen in October 1984, while Tristan did his make-up on stage. Synth-noises from Tognazzi's beloved Korg Polysix (which by the way was bought from Rune Kristoffersen, then member of Fra Lippo Lippi, now the man behind renowned record company Rune Grammofon).

5. SONG ABOUT LOVE

A nice little ballad which WLJ did on several gigs in 85. Unfortunately no recording of it exists and so the band completely forgot it. But at least the lyric is used for a completely new song (see below).

6. BACK IN MARY'S ROOM

See above.

7. HEIL JESUS!

WLJ did this long song on their last gigs and it has been released "live in Bærum" on the cassette The Pony, 1989.

8. 666

Only played once (Bærum, 1985). The band don't remember it, because even though the concert was recorded, the tape ran out before this closing song...

9. THE BLACK BOOK

Done on the bands two last gigs in 85, but never recorded live, so there's another one they don't remember...

SONGS FROM 84/85 THAT WERE NEVER PLAYED LIVE OR RECORDED

1. INCEST

The band did some basic tracks when recording Amen, but no vocals were added and it was never finished.

2. PIXIEDUST

This one was made while Anne Grete Kolås (drums) and Åshild Kolås (bass-synth) were a part of the band for just two months in 1984. They were previously known as the legendary band Autentisk Film, and Anne Grete later moved on to WLJ's friends in Ym:Stammen for a short period. The track was very atmospheric and nice. Written by Anne Grete and Åshild.

3. GLITTEROCK

Another song that was made while the Kolås-twins were in the band. A 70's kind of glam-thing. The last two songs which were made while the two were in the band: Monsterbody and August Walla II (both later appeared on Amen).

TRIBUTE-TRACKS 2006-2008

1. HONG KONG

WLJ were invited to join the tribute for Lasse Myrvold, the legendary composer and guitarist in The Aller Værste, The Beste, Göebbels A Go-Go, Kling Klang and more. They chose to do Hong Kong and Bjørn Fløystad helped co-produce and programme it. Vocals were recorded by Chris Sansom who also mixed it with Tognazzi. The album Dans til musikken was released in 2006.

2. DARLING NIKKI

Bård Torstensen produced and programmed this version of Darling Nikki with Tognazzi for the Prince tribute album Shockadelica, released in 2008.

THE SONGS ON “...into that good night”

1. STRANGE DAZE

Just like on their first cassette Amen (1984), the band wanted guests on the new album. Joining again more than 20 years after Amen, was Bård Torstensen. He played guitar on Monsterbody in 84 and this time he contributes on Strange Daze, Redhead and Crotalis Horridus. Bård is from Arendal and was part of the punk scene with Tognazzi around 79/80. He was in band called Wartex and later started the heavy band Theo. In the beginning of the 90's he moved to Stockholm and met some hip-hop guys and together they formed one of the first rap-metal bands in Scandinavia: Clawfinger. They have sold 1,6 million records and toured the world. They still do.

WLJ thought Strange Daze could work as a duet and asked Rebekka Karijord to sing with ASK. She has also joined the band live sometimes. Rebekka has released two solo-albums and is also an actress.

2. ENIGMA

A dream for Tognazzi was to have Arve Henriksen (Supersilent) on this album and it was a nice surprise when he said yes.

Arve has released three solo albums and numerous albums with Supersilent and other bands. He has also contributed to countless records including Nine Horses (with David Sylvian).

Also Maja Ratkje (Spunk/Fe-mail) agreed to contribute to the record. On this track she sings a duet with ASK. Maja has released many records on her own, with her bands Spunk and Fe-mail and

collaborations. She has also contributed on numerous other artists albums.

3. SONG ABOUT LOVE

Another guy who helped the band in the old days was Nils Økland. He played violin on a version of O´Fiddler back in 1985 (see above). This time he brought his fiddle and harding fiddle to the studio. Rebekka Karijord sings backing vocals and finally the bands dream came through: recording real strings! It was done in Prague with the City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra. This was something the band planned already in 84. The lyrics were used on a completely different song in 84 (see above).

4. LITTERCHURCH

The first guest ASK suggested was Haddy N´jie for a new version of Song for a Dark Girl. This worked great, so they asked her to do Litterchurch, too. Haddy has released two albums. Also Martin Horntveth (Jaga Jazzist/The National Bank and solo-artist) contributes on drums while Anna Karlsdottir speaks Icelandic on the track. Anna has worked for Tognazzi´s company Speranza on several films.

5. VINEGAR & SUN

Bengt Hansen from The Colors Turned Red and Wholy Martin did some nice backing vocals on Back In Mary´s Room for the last CD, and this time he helped with this track and Redhead. On those tracks and Black Horned Saint there is also a choir called Koret Oslo Ø, conducted by Ivar Krogh Hovd.

6. REDHEAD

Hild Sofie Tafjord (also from Spunk/Fe-mail) contributes with French Horn on this one and Crotalis Horridus. Anna K. sings with the choir and makes it sound like a children´s choir, but they are really over 25 all of them.

7. SONG FOR A DARK GIRL

This song was released on the cassette Amen (1984) and in a remixed and partly re-recorded version on the CD White Lord Jesus (2005). So this is actually the third version of the song. Arve Henriksen, Martin Horntveth, Haddy N´jie and the strings from City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra all contribute on this version.

8. BLACK HORNED SAINT

This song was a part of the bands live set in the autumn of 1984, but was never played after that (see above). After WLJ reformed in 2005 some people thought the band should play it again, so they did and recorded it for the new album. The track closes the avant-pop part of the album.

The post-garde part starts with:

9. CROTALIS HORRIDUS

This track is based on a sample from a track co-producer Trond Bjerknæs wrote for a Ibsen-film which Tognazzi (Thomas Robsahm) made in 2005. The instruments on the sample are programmed by Trond who also added grand piano. Maja Ratkje takes part on all the tracks in this second part, playing theremin and using her voice and electronics.

10. RAT ATTACKS!

Based on a late night improvisation by Tognazzi. Arve Henriksen added both trumpet and his voice through the trumpet.

11. FRANKIE TEARDROP

It might be too obvious for a duo like WLJ to do a cover of Suicide's classic. It started as something they wanted to try live and ASK's idea to couple this with a very similar song by Bob Dylan (The Ballad of Hollis Brown) was what made it more than just an expected cover.

12. THE BALLAD OF HOLLIS BROWN

Geir Emanuelsen (The Beat Tornados) plays banjo on this track. Geir was a part of the punk-scene in Arendal around 1980, playing guitar in Rotløse Ramper when Thomas was singing in Forsiktig. Later he played bass with Theo through the 80's, together with, amongst others, Bård Torstensen (Clawfinger). In the early 90's Geir was in Go Go Gorilla, and has been in numerous other bands.

13. GOOD NIGHT

The closing track has contributions from Arve Henriksen and Maja Ratkje. The screaming is taken from some obscure horror movies lent to the band by director Patrik Syversen (Rovdyr) and a radio-recording of Carola on a Sunday mess.

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