

TO HERE KNOWS WHEN - GREAT IRISH ALBUMS REVISITED

Grand Parade by The Frank & Walters

In 1992 **The Frank & Walters** played over 260 gigs. The gruelling work paid off - in the first week of 1993 they were on Top of the Pops, 'After All' was at No. 14. The following week it had climbed up to No. 11. More touring followed, culminating in a headline slot on the Melody Maker stage at 1993's Reading Festival. When the promotional treadmill for their debut album, *Trains, Boats and Planes* ended the lads retreated home to Cork. Batteries had to be recharged and songs for a second album needed to be written. But it took four years for that album to appear: this was quintessential difficult second album syndrome.

"Most of the pressure was probably coming from ourselves," remembers Paul Linehan.

"Your first album is an album that you create in a lifetime, your second album is a brand new slate, we had to start from scratch. We weren't very prolific, we were a bit burnt out from the touring and we were overwhelmed by the fame thing."

"The fame thing never sat naturally with us," agrees Ashley Keating. "We were indie kids and when mums with babies in prams were coming up to you in the shopping centre asking for autographs it was just bizarre."

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GRAND PARADE IS A MELODIC MASTERPIECE CONTAINING SOME OF THE BAND'S MOST ENDURING TUNES



A House's **Dave Couse** - who had produced the band's first EP - returned to produce the album. Named after one of Cork's main thoroughfares, *Grand Parade* is a melodic masterpiece containing some of the band's most enduring tunes. 'How Can I Exist', 'Landscape', 'Tony Cochrane', 'Saturday Night' and the singles 'Colours' and 'Indian Ocean' are still all live favourites.

The album didn't get attention from a UK music press still in love with Brit-pop. "*Grand Parade* should have been way more successful than our first album," reckons Paul. "I think the timing was wrong. It's all about having to be in the right place at the right time with the right music to be received well. Our first album is not as good as our second album."

"When you do a new album it's almost invariably the new one that is your favourite," says Ashley. "But when I look back I think my favourite is the *Grand Parade*."

"I'm very grateful for 'After All', don't get me wrong, what we don't like is being defined by 'After All'," says Paul. "Lots of people come up to me and say, 'Oh, that's a great song'. And it's like, I know deep in my heart that we've got much better songs than 'After All'. There's so many other songs that we've written, in my opinion, that are far better."

'After All' got The Franks on TOTP, but Paul's right they have better songs and you'll find a load of them on *Grand Parade*.



Paul Linehan and Ashley Keating revisit *Grand Parade* on To Here Knows When - Great Irish Albums Revisited, available on all podcast platforms. Episode notes and further information: www.paulmcdermott.ie/podcast