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BLUE OYSTER CULT • SPECTRES



1. **Godzilla** 3:41
(D. Roeser)
2. **Golden Age Of Leather** 5:53
(B. Abbott-D. Roeser)
3. **Death Valley Nights** 4:07
(R. Meltzer-A. Bouchard)
4. **Searchin' For Celine** 3:35
(A. Lanier)
5. **Fireworks** 3:14
(A. Bouchard)
6. **R. U. Ready 2 Rock** 3:45
(S. Pearlman-A. Bouchard)
7. **Celestial The Queen** 3:24
(H. Wheels-J. Bouchard)
8. **Goin' Through The Motions** 3:12
(E. Bloom-I. Hunter)
9. **I Love The Night** 4:23
(D. Roeser)
10. **Nosferatu** 5:23
(H. Wheels-J. Bouchard)

Tracks 1-10

Recorded July-September 1977, New York City
Released October 1977

From *Spectres* Columbia 35019

Produced by Murray Krugman, Sandy Pearlman,
David Lucas and Blue Öyster Cult

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BONUS TRACKS:

11. **Night Flyer** 3:48
(J. Bouchard-M. Krugman)
12. **Dial M For Murder** 3:11
(D. Roeser)
13. **Please Hold** 2:47
(A. Bouchard)
14. **Be My Baby** 3:01
(J. Barry-E. Greenwich-P. Spector)

Tracks 11-14

Recorded July-September 1977, New York City
Previously unreleased outtakes from *Spectres* sessions

Produced by Murray Krugman, Sandy Pearlman,
David Lucas and Blue Öyster Cult

Tracks 11-13 Mixed 2006 at Sony Music Studios
by Dave Swope

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For Blue Öyster Cult, it was truly the Golden Age of Leather. Riding the wave of a genuine hit single with 1976's "(Don't Fear) The Reaper," the band had moved from being "up and coming scrappers to legitimate headliners," as Eric Bloom puts it, filling arenas, "full of piss and vinegar."

But more equals evermore, and as '77 loomed, the group attempted to surpass their new studio benchmark, each member crafting ornate demos on their home four-track recorders, the band as a whole remaining faithful to each writer's vision, a *modus operandi* that had seemed to work so well on *Agents Of Fortune*.

"We did everything democratically," says Eric, "and sometimes to a fault," laughs Donald (Buck Dharma) Roeser; but the resultant album, though destined to reside in *Agents'* shadow commercially, forms a couplet with that classic work, uniting the Cult's late seventies' sense of confidence and audience acceptance, an ascendance both hard won and artistically credible, that made them more than a power chord and laser show on the road.

Though scaled to the gargantuan, the Cult never bludgeoned; instead, their music has a filigree delicacy amidst the decibels, the rhythms twisting and shifting, the guitar lines entwining, the lyrics tending toward the mythic and scientific. Not your average lo-metal extravaganza, though they could be that, too, when raised lighters sparkled the inside of the arena, and five guitars clanged as one.

They were out-of-time travelers, hinted at by the H.G. Wellesian feel of *Spectres'* cover photo, the lasers bouncing off Allen Lanier's mirror shades. Their roots in 1960's progressive rock (signed to Jac Holzman's Elektra label as the Soft White Underbelly, pre-Eric) allowed Buck considerable guitaristic freedom; and their curious ties with rock's writerdom—co-manager and co-producer Sandy Pearlman, Richard Meltzer, Helen Wheels—granted a freewheeling range of imagery that extended to the band's aspirations as well. Allen embarks on a quest for *Cats*.





Eric sits down one night with Ian Hunter for "Goin' Through The Motions." Albert Bouchard oohs and ahhs over "Fireworks;" both Joe Bouchard and Buck dip into vampire mythos for "Nosferatu" and "I Love The Night." The latter song is "a frighteningly perfect masterpiece," according to co-producer Pearlman, "a plethora of ambience generators" hand-balanced in the last moments before computers and the digital dawn.

The breadth made for a band that left itself open to hydra-headed interpretation, and a fan base that crossed demographic borders, appealing to a wide range of rock fan. Some liked the group's high-mindedness, its brainiac spin on classic metal; for others, it was all about the

overdrive of Buck's Boogie, and later for the literacy. Eric remembers hearing a disc jockey debut *Spectres* on the radio, announcing the newest Cult album as Spec-Trees.

"History has been fairly kind to us," says Donald, even though he had once scribed "History shows again and again / How nature points up the folly of men" in the midst of "Godzilla." He had gotten the idea for the bottom-heavy guitar lick in a Dallas hotel room, and it reminded him of the classic Japanese monster. Along with "R. U. Ready To Rock," still the perfect show opener, the songs were readymade for the incessant touring and spectacle that marked the Cult's live show in these years, when they bestrode American rock like a colossus. — LENNY KAYE

ORIGINAL LP CREDITS

Eric Bloom Vocals, Guitar

Joe Bouchard Bass, Vocals, Guitar

Donald (Buck Dharma) Roeser Lead and
Rhythm Guitars, Vocals

Albert Bouchard Drums, Vocals, Harmonica

Allen Lanier Keyboards, Guitar

Produced by Murray Krugman, Sandy
Pearlman, David Lucas and Blue Öyster Cult
Engineered by Shelly Yakus and John Jansen
with Corky Stasiak and Thom Panunzio
Mixed by Shelly Yakus

Design: Roni Hoffman

Photos: Eric Meola

Laser Effects and Photo Assistance: David Infante
of Laser Physics Inc.

Godzilla appears courtesy of AA Wonderland Records

Newark Boys Chorus on "Golden Age of Leather"

Recorded at Record Plant, NY

Mastered by Joe Brescia

Assistant Engineers: Gray Russell, Dave Thoener,
Jay Krugman, Rod O'Brien, Sam Ginsberg

Other Engineer: Andy Abrams

Special Thanks to: Rick Downey, George Geranios,
Ronald Binder, Eric Gardner, John Trivers

REISSUE CREDITS

Produced for Reissue by Bruce Dickinson
Mastered by Vic Anesini at Sony Music Studios,
New York

Legacy A&R: Steve Berkowitz

Product Manager: Jim Parham

A&R Coordination: Stacey Boyle

Art Direction: Howard Fritzon

Design: Kellum McClain Inc.

Photography: Eric Meola

Packaging Manager: Jeremy Holiday

Special thanks to: Steve Schenck

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Secret Treaties (Expanded Edition)

On Your Feet Or On Your Knees

Agents Of Fortune (Expanded Edition)

Some Enchanted Evening (Legacy Edition)

Mirrors

Cultosaurus Erectus

Fire Of Unknown Origin

Extraterrestrial Live

The Revolution By Night

Workshop Of The Telescopes:

The Best Of Blue Öyster Cult (2 CDs)

Super Hits

Don't Fear The Reaper: The Best Of Blue Öyster Cult



The Essential Blue Öyster Cult

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