

# DALE BOZZIO & MISSING PERSONS

LIVE FROM THE DANGER ZONE!

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Funny thing, the 'New Wave' business. In the UK, 'New Wave' was a term coined to act as a safety net for those bands and artists that didn't quite fit the Stalinist Punk blueprint. So, in the UK, acts like Ultravox (in their John Foxx era), Wire, XTC and others got called 'New Wave', because they were not quite like anything before Punk happened, yet avoided the limitations of the three-chord Punk thing. In the USA, they too had more orthodox Punk bands – The Dills, X (initially, at least) and others, yet many bands came in the wake of Punk that once again had a sound and style that was definitely something different to what had come before. So, acts like The


Cars, The Go Gos, The Knack, and Devo were 'New Wave', simply because music journalists and record company staff feel obliged to give something a name. So were do Missing Persons fit into all of this, then? Well, they were a band who had some level of 'old school' cred about them; in their initial line-up vocalist Dale Bozzio, and her husband, Terry Bozzio, aided and abetted by guitarist Wareen Cuccurullo, (the line-up completed by keyboard player Chuck Wild) had all served time with Frank Zappa. They'd played on his Joe's Garage album – indeed, Terry B had got the Zappa gig ahead of over forty others who'd auditioned for the part. His time spent with Zappa had taught him much about how to work in the studio, and how to also embrace the new innovations in electronic instrumentation. The old accusation that 'they couldn't play' certainly wasn't applicable here. Dale Bozzio was originally from Boston, and her bleached-out glamorous image, intensely photogenic, certainly didn't do her any harm in getting her photo published in rock magazines, as well as some top-shelf publications for which she did some very revealing shoots. She was certainly very upfront about using her sexuality, and her hiccupping, kooky vocal style set her apart from the often gloomy New Wave acts. What they definitely had, though, apart from great visuals, was an agenda. Although they formed before MTV became a crucial influence on the American music scene, they were most inarguably a band well-poised to take advantage of the new medium. They knew they were onto something, and didn't mind putting in the work to achieve notable success, on something like their own terms.

One of the industry notables they impressed was producer / engineer Ken Scott. Scott had worked with The Beatles years before, and was a crucial figure in shaping the sound of key, massively influential David Bowie albums such as Hunky Dory, Ziggy Stardust and Aladdin Sane.



- 1 Walking In L.A.**  
*(Terry Bozzio)*
- 2 Noticeable One**  
*(Dale Bozzio/Terry Bozzio/Warren Cuccurullo)*
- 3 The Closer That You Get**  
*(Dale Bozzio/Terry Bozzio/Warren Cuccurullo)*
- 4 Give**  
*(Dale Bozzio/Terry Bozzio/Warren Cuccurullo/Patrick O'Hearn)*
- 5 Right Now**  
*(Dale Bozzio/Terry Bozzio)*
- 6 All Fall Down**  
*(Dale Bozzio/Terry Bozzio/Warren Cuccurullo)*
- 7 Tears**  
*(Dale Bozzio/Terry Bozzio)*
- 8 I Like Boys**  
*(Dale Bozzio/Terry Bozzio)*
- 9 Mental Hopscotch**  
*(Terry Bozzio/Warren Cuccurullo)*
- 10 Destination Unknown**  
*(Dale Bozzio/Terry Bozzio/Warren Cuccurullo)*
- 11 Words**  
*(Terry Bozzio/Warren Cuccurullo)*
- 12 No Way Out**  
*(Terry Bozzio/Warren Cuccurullo)*

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Dale Bozzio and Missing Persons were recorded by the Starfleet Mobile Studio





He'd also more recently worked with Californian shock rockers The Tubes, so he knew a thing or two. Scott worked with the band on their self-released debut EP, which included tracks such as Mental Hopscotch and I Like Boys, which scored much local airplay in LA on such stations as KROQ and WLIR – important scene-making outlets at the time, and succeeded in landing the band a record deal with Capitol Records. As the 1980s wore on, the band were frequently to be seen on MTV, and even made it to the UK, performing on the Channel Four pop show, The Tube, but their sound dated quickly. By the time of their third album, Colour In Your Life, produced by Bernard Edwards of Chic (released in 1986) the jig was up, and their moment had passed. The Bozzios split, as did the band. Dale did a solo record for the Paisley Park label (ran by Prince, of course), but success was not forthcoming. Terry Bozzio worked with Jeff Beck, and Cuccurullo joined Duran Duran.

However, given the remarkable way that rock music can recycle itself, as well as the nostalgic frisson that comes with viewing bands from an individual's adolescence, Missing Persons reformed, with Dale, Terry and Warren, in 2001, and played some well-received reunion shows. Some have noted that Dale Bozzio's image certainly had an influence on the likes of Gwen Stefani, to name but one, and that, particularly on the West Coast, the band could still pull a crowd. Dale is still in great shape, but physically and vocally, as this in-you-face live recording proves. Containing fresh in-concert takes of faves such as Words, Destination Unknown, and Walking In LA, the Missing Persons songs and style have worn well. Enjoy them.