The Shadows "F.B.I." Poland

Dusty Tapes DUSTYCD 01 [LP, black vinyl, limited edition of 200 copies]
Dusty Tapes DUSTYCD 01 [LP, transparent green vinyl, limited edition of 100 copies]
Released September 2020



Tracks listed are mono except: *stereo

F.B.I.* (original wide stereo mix) / Gonzales (mix of takes 50 and 58 with studio chat) / Wonderful Land (undubbed take 8 with studio chat) / Witch Doctor (take 8 of film version of "The Savage" with studio chat) / 36-24-36* (with studio chat at the beginning) / Happy Birthday To You* (full undubbed version) / What A Lovely Tune* (original stereo mix, take 5) / Guitar Tango (early take with Jet Harris on bass) / Theme From 'The Boys' (undubbed version, take 8) / Les Girls (take 18 of film version with studio chat) / All Day* (alternate version, take 10 with studio chat) / It's Been A Blue Day* (alternate undubbed version, take 2 with studio chat) / Wonderful Land* (undubbed version, take 13) / Guitar Tango* (undubbed version, take 7) / Atlantis* (undubbed version, take 14) / Driftin' (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1959) / Jet Black (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1959) / Apache (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1960) / Man Of Mystery (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1960) / Perfidia (ATV TV show "The Shadows Show", 1962) / Apache (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1960, second version)

In recent years, vinyl has become popular again, having been written off as old-fashioned in the late 1980s and the early 1990s, as the Compact Disc was becoming the most popular music carrier. It has become 'cool' again to say that you are a vinyl enthusiast, even with the younger generation, who also use digital download and streaming services extensively.

However, the quantity of vinyl pressings of an album is not as big as it used to be in the heyday of the format, resulting in relatively higher prices for a copy. This makes owning such an album very special for the dedicated collector.

The recent "F.B.I." CD by the Polish label Dusty Tapes has been given a very limited vinyl release in two editions: an edition on black vinyl of 200 copies and an edition on transparent green vinyl of 100 copies. The artwork is virtually identical to the CD issue, but musical content only partially. Apart from the tracks "F.B.I.", "36-24-36" and "Guitar Boogie", all tracks appear on vinyl for the first time.

The tracks shared by both the CD and the two LP issues are these: "F.B.I." (original wide stereo mix), "36-24-36" (with studio chat at the beginning), "Happy Birthday To You" (full undubbed version), "Guitar Tango" (early take with Jet Harris on bass), "Driftin" (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1959), "Jet Black" (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1959), "Guitar Boogie" (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1959), "Apache" (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1960), "Quatermasster's Stores" (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1960), "Man Of Mystery" (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1960), "Perfidia" (ATV TV show "The Shadows Show", 1962), and "Apache" (BBC radio session "Saturday Club", 1960, second version).

Then there are eight tracks which first appeared on the UK CD "The Shadows At Abbey Road" from October 1997: "Wonderful Land" (undubbed take 8 with studio chat), "Witch Doctor" (take 8 of film version of "The Savage" with studio chat), "What A Lovely Tune" (original stereo mix, take 5), "Theme From 'The Boys" (undubbed version, take 8), "All Day" (alternate version, take 10 with studio chat), "It's Been A Blue Day" (alternate undubbed version, take 2 with studio chat) "Guitar Tango" (undubbed version, take 7) and "Atlantis" (undubbed version, take 14).

Another variant version of "Wonderful Land" (undubbed version, take 13) is included here, which first appeared on the UK CD "Everything Of Value – Rarities 2" from March 1993.

The 40th anniversary edition of the Cliff Richard & The Shadows album "Summer Holiday", the UK CD "Summer Holiday Special Edition" from January 2003, included "Les Girls" (take 18 of film version with studio chat) and also reappears on the LP of this review.

And last but not least is a version of "Gonzales" which is unique to this LP. It starts with the announcement of take 58 (the eventual released master take), Bruce's count-in, the first few bars of take 58 and ends with the last couple of bars from take 50 (erroneously labelled take 57 on the back cover), which breaks down.

The sound quality of the tracks is first-rate, although somewhat compressed, due to the number of tracks on each side.

The album is presented in a very attractive-looking sleeve. The front cover features a very good shot of the group in the original line-up, while the back cover features the group in action when Brian Bennett and Brian Locking had joined.

The back of the sleeve lists all tracks with locations and dates of recording.

"Man Of Mystery" and the second 1960 BBC radio recording of "Apache" were recorded on 1 November 1960.

"Perfidia" was recorded on 23 August 1962, not 31 August.

All other listed recording dates are correct.

Also listed are the line-ups during the period 1959 to late 1962. "Driftin" and "Jet Black" were recorded when the group was still called The Drifters. "Guitar Boogie" is also listed as having been recorded by The Drifters, but the group had changed their name to The Shadows by then.

This is a very nice companion to the earlier CD of the same name, but stock is very limited, so get one of the editions (or both) as quickly as you can!

Ivo Koers