

= UHF ? Original Motion Picture Soundtrack and Other Stuff =

UHF ? Original Motion Picture Soundtrack and Other Stuff is the sixth studio album by " Weird Al " Yankovic , released on July 18 , 1989 . The album is the final of Yankovic 's to be produced by former The McCoys guitarist Rick Derringer . Recorded between December 1988 and May 1989 , the album served as the official soundtrack to 1989 film of the same name , although the original score by John Du Prez is omitted . The album 's lead single was the titular " UHF " , although it was not a hit and did not chart .

The music on UHF is built around pastiches of rock , rap , and pop music of the late @-@ 1980s , featuring parodies of songs by Dire Straits , Tone L?c , Fine Young Cannibals , and R.E.M .. The album also features many " style parodies , " or musical imitations of existing artists . These style parodies include imitations of specific artists like Harry Chapin , as well as various musical genres like blues . The album also features many music cuts from the film as well as some of the commercials , like " Spatula City " , and other parody bits , like " Gandhi II " .

Peaking at only 146 on the Billboard 200 , the album was not a commercial success , and received only lukewarm critical attention . The UHF soundtrack is one of only a few of Yankovic 's studio albums that is not certified either Gold or Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) in the United States . It would also be Yankovic 's last studio album to be released on vinyl record in the US until 2011 's Apocalypse .

= = Production = =

= = = Background and recording = = =

Following the success of Yankovic 's 1988 album Even Worse , which featured the Michael Jackson spoof " Fat " , Yankovic pitched a screenplay co @-@ written by his manager Jay Levey called UHF to Orion Pictures . A satire of the television and film industries , the film starred Yankovic as George Newman , a man who stumbles into managing a low @-@ budget UHF television station and finds success with his eclectic programming choices . Also starring Michael Richards , Fran Drescher , and Victoria Jackson , it brought the floundering studio Orion their highest test scores since the movie RoboCop . Although the movie made slightly over US \$ 6 million domestically ? out of a budget of \$ 5 million ? it was considered unsuccessful .

In December 1988 , Yankovic returned to the studio to record the soundtrack to his feature film . Once again , former The McCoys guitarist Rick Derringer was brought in to produce the album . This would be Derringer 's last production credit for Yankovic , as subsequent studio albums would be produced by the artist himself . Recording with Yankovic were Jon " Bermuda " Schwartz on drums , Steve Jay on bass , and Jim West on guitar . The album was recorded in six different sessions at both Santa Monica Sound Records in Santa Monica , California and Westlake Recording Studios in Los Angeles . During the first session , the song " Money for Nothing / Beverly Hillbillies " was recorded . The second session yielded the titular " UHF " and " Let Me Be Your Hog " . During the third session , Yankovic recorded " Stanley Spudowski 's Theme " ? which would later be renamed " Fun Zone " ? as well as the skit " Gandhi II " . Only one song was recorded during the fourth sessions , the skit " Spatula City " . The fifth recording session resulted in five songs : " Spam " , " Attack of the Radioactive Hamsters From a Planet Near Mars " , " Hot Rocks Polka " , " Biggest Ball of Twine in Minnesota " , and " Generic Blues " . The sixth and final session produced the two parodies " Isle Thing " and " She Drives Like Crazy " .

= = = Originals = = =

On February 24 , 1989 , Yankovic recorded the first original song for the album , " Let Me Be Your Hog " . The song is a short rock snippet that is heard in the movie as Newman 's uncle Harvey ( Stanley Brock ) lounges in his pool . Originally , Yankovic had wanted to use the 1974 single " Kung

Fu Fighting " by Carl Douglas for the scene , but he could not gain the rights to the song , and thus " Let Me Be Your Hog " was recorded . Yankovic then recorded the theme from his movie , the titular " UHF " , written in the style of a TV station 's large promotional campaign . On February 25 , Yankovic recorded the instrumental " Fun Zone " , also known as " Stanley Spudowski 's Theme " . Originally written four years earlier for a failed Saturday Night Live replacement titled Welcome to the Fun Zone , this song is played at the beginning of every " Weird Al " concert .

Three months later , on May 24 , 1989 , Yankovic recorded three more originals . The first of these , " Attack of the Radioactive Hamsters from a Planet Near Mars " , is a rock song about a number of mutated hamsters terrorizing Earth . The second original song , " The Biggest Ball of Twine in Minnesota " , is a folk ballad about a family road trip to a tourist location in Minnesota . Musically , the song was inspired both by the book Roadside America , which " featured all the campy places around the country that one could possibly visit " , as well as the music of Harry Chapin and Gordon Lightfoot , which Yankovic described as " storyteller songs , [ with ] sprawling narratives " . The final original song recorded for the album was " Generic Blues " , Yankovic 's attempt to write " the ultimate blues song " . After the release of the song , B.B. King listed it as one of his top ten favorite blues songs .

UHF ? Original Motion Picture Soundtrack and Other Stuff is also notable in that it was Yankovic 's first and only studio album to dabble in the art of skits . The first of these segments is called " Gandhi II " which re @-@ imagines Mahatma Gandhi as the hero of a blaxploitation @-@ style sequel to the film Gandhi , spoofing both the theme and promos for the film Shaft . The second skit is called " Spatula City " and is an advertisement for a spatula outlet store . These short segments were used in the film as commercials ; other commercial segments , such as " Plots ' R Us " and " Conan the Librarian " , were not used on the album .

= = = Parodies and polka = = =

On December 20 , 1988 , Yankovic recorded " Money for Nothing / Beverly Hillbillies " . The song features the lyrics of The Beverly Hillbillies theme song altered slightly and set to the tune of " Money for Nothing " . The song appears in its entirety within UHF as a computer @-@ animated dream sequence , framed as if it were part of a music video . As part of his terms that allowed Yankovic to record this parody , Dire Straits guitarist and " Money for Nothing " songwriter Mark Knopfler insisted that he be allowed to play the guitar featured in the parody . As a result , both he and Guy Fletcher ? Dire Straits ' keyboardist ? recorded their parts on guitar and synthesizer respectively . According to Yankovic , his guitarist Jim West had practiced the song for weeks , and , as a result could recreate the original ; Knopfler , on the other hand , had been playing the song for several years and was much more relaxed with his playing . As a result , West 's version sounded more like the original version , although Knopfler 's track was the one used . Yankovic revealed in the DVD commentary for UHF that the concept " Money for Nothing / Beverly Hillbillies " was originally a parody of Prince 's 1984 hit " Let 's Go Crazy " . Prince , however , refused , and has been unreceptive to any parody ideas Yankovic has ever presented him with . The fractured titled " Money for Nothing / Beverly Hillbillies " is a result of Dire Straits ' lawyers insisting that " Money for Nothing " remain in the parody 's title . Yankovic was unhappy with the title and stated that he would rather have had the title be either " Money for Nothing for the Beverly Hillbillies " or " Beverly Hillbillies for Nothing " . The legal title for the song features an asterisk after the word " Hillbillies " , although it is often printed without the marking .

On May 24 , 1989 , Yankovic started recording the second parody for the album , " Spam " . The song , a play on R.E.M. ' s hit " Stand " , is an ode to the canned luncheon meat Spam . Yankovic noted that it was " fun to pick [ apart the song ] and figure out some of those almost subliminal parts ? parts that would fade in and out , little bell sounds , things you don 't really hear on first listening " . On May 25 , 1989 , Yankovic recorded " Isle Thing " , a parody of " Wild Thing " by Tone L?c , about a woman who introduces the narrator to the television show Gilligan 's Island . Notably , the song is Yankovic 's first rap parody ; an earlier rap , " Twister " , is a Beastie Boys style spoof , but not a direct parody . Another Tone L?c hit , " Funky Cold Medina " , is referenced in the lyrics : " Ginger

and Mary Ann coulda used some funky cold medina " . The final parody , " She Drives Like Crazy " ? recorded the same day as " Isle Thing " ? is a spoof of Fine Young Cannibals ' 1988 single " She Drives Me Crazy " . Lyrically , the song is about a man who fears his girlfriend 's crazy driving habits .

Much like Yankovic 's previous album , UHF ? Original Motion Picture Soundtrack and Other Stuff features a polka medley of hit songs called " The Hot Rocks Polka " . All of the songs in the medley are songs written or made popular by the English rock band The Rolling Stones .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Due to the short stint of UHF in theaters , its soundtrack got " lost in the shuffle " and did not receive much of a critical response . However , from the few reviews it did receive , the album received a mixed response . Jacob Lunders of Allmusic awarded the album three stars out of five and called it a " guilty pleasure " . Lunders noted that the album " endures artistically as a transitional album between his ' 80s heyday and the imminent artistic makeover revealed on 1992 's Off the Deep End " . He ultimately concluded that the album is something that only " moderate [ to ] genuine " fans may want , but that it is " nearly as accessible " as many of his compilation albums . The Rolling Stone Album Guide awarded the album three stars out of five , denoting a " good " album . A TV Guide critic , in a review of the movie , wrote that " the quality of [ the movie 's ] parodies " are " inconsistent , with the movie and music takeoffs being obvious and out of date . "

= = = Commercial performance = = =

UHF ? Original Motion Picture Soundtrack and Other Stuff was released July 18 , 1989 . After it was released , the album peaked at number 146 on the Billboard 200 . Much like Polka Party ! ( 1986 ) , the album was considered a major commercial disappointment for the comedian ; the album is his second @-@ lowest charting album after Polka Party ! ( 1986 ) . The UHF soundtrack is one of only a few of Yankovic 's studio albums that is not certified either Gold or Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) in the United States . The others include Polka Party ! and Poodle Hat ( 2003 ) . UHF would also be Yankovic 's last studio album to be released in the US on vinyl record until 2011 's Alpocalypse .

= = Track listing = =

The following is adapted from the album liner notes .

= = Credits and personnel = =