

= Parables for Wooden Ears =

Parables for Wooden Ears was the first studio album released by the Australian band Powderfinger . It was released on 18 July 1994 by Polydor Records , after recording at the Metropolis Studios in Melbourne during February 1994 .

The album was received poorly and failed to chart or improve Powderfinger 's platform despite the respectable success of its predecessor , Transfusion . Critics complained about its poor imitation of Americana and grunge , as well as its overuse of complex riffs . In a 2004 interview , Powderfinger lead singer Bernard Fanning said , in reference to the album , " God knows what we were on then . " Three singles were released from the album , all of which failed to chart .

= = History = =

In a 1996 interview , Fanning described Parables for Wooden Ears as " big and presumptuous " , and stated that it had " a pretty massive sort of sound " . He said that the band somewhat regretted this , and did not intend to do so again on future releases .

On Parables for Wooden Ears , Powderfinger worked with the producer Tony Cohen , whom Fanning described as having a huge reputation , and thus being expensive to work with . However , because of the " lack of an obvious single " , the album sold poorly , despite the effort put into production . Parables for Wooden Ears contained references by Powderfinger to Aboriginal rights , with a song written by the drummer Jon Coghill discussing the idea that the band 's generation was the first to reach out to the concept of reconciliation .

In 1998 , the guitarist Ian Haug described Internationalist as a moderation between the band 's last two albums , calling Parables for Wooden Ears a " complicated beast " . In a 1999 interview , Fanning said that the band " were sorting out our sound " on the album , and that despite it not working well they still thought it was " a good record " . Juice commentator Simon Wooldridge noted in 2000 that Parables for Wooden Ears contained " million " s of riffs , and thus the band were not able to produce a simple sound on the album .

In a November 2004 interview with the Melbourne newspaper , The Age , Fanning recalled that the head of Polydor Records had described the album as " awful " and remarked that " God knows what we were on then " . He also said that in making Parables for Wooden Ears , Powderfinger " went through this weird stage of trying to be something [they] weren 't . " Fanning also told Australian Musician that the album , a " spectacular failure " , was a result of the band feeling " forced " to play like other bands that were popular in Brisbane at the time .

= = Release and response = =

Parables for Wooden Ears was released on 18 July 1994 on the Polydor Records label . Three singles were released from Parables for Wooden Ears : " Tail " , released on 14 June 1994 , " Grave Concern " , released on 22 August 1994 , and " Save Your Skin " , released on 22 July 1995 . Due to the minimal promotion and reputation of the band , the album and singles failed to chart .

Critics generally agreed with Powderfinger 's assessment of the album , with some describing it as " a thundering rock album " and noting the similarity to Americana . Fanning also noted that the album had a lot less " balance " than the album that followed it , Double Allergic . Other critics noted that Parables for Wooden Ears had a " dark , overly complex metal sound " and complained of the album 's " distorted guitars " , but put this down to the album being a learning experience for the band .

Parables for Wooden Ears received a moderate response from reviewers . Juice reviewer John Encarnacao enjoyed the rock elements of the album , drawing comparisons to Pearl Jam , Soundgarden and Alice In Chains . He thanked producer Tony Cohen for the " big sound " of the album , and said that the musicians on the album " not only know about power and restraint , but also play tastefully " . Encarnacao stated that Fanning " lays the emotion on thick and usually more than gets away with it . " The review was summarised by stating that the album may have been " a bit like the retro @-@ rock that the big corporations want you to buy " , but that nonetheless it was a

good album .

Jackson G. Marx was similarly conflicted in Australian Rolling Stone , writing , " They create painstaking technical ' works ' of art . This is not necessarily a compliment . Sometimes it 's a certified jerk @-@ off . " Despite describing some songs as , " tragically clever , " and , " grooveless monstrosities , " he scored the album three stars from five , and wrote of the pleasure of repeated listens . " ' Tail ' , for example , is tangled and inert and teeters precariously on the brink of disappearing up its own arsehole , but a determined listener will find its hooks more infecting with each spin . "

Sputnikmusic contributor James Bishop gave the album a score of 2 @.@ 5 (average) , summarising his review with the statement " Get Double Allergic instead . " Bishop stated that the album contained too much imitation , and that the album is " pretty much forgotten by even the most hardcoriest of music fans " because of the poor imitation in it - described as " a simple case of " monkey see , monkey not do very well " . " Bishop praised some aspects of the album , stating that " Hurried Bloom " contained " a raw song @-@ writing ability " and that " Sink Low " was " a hidden gem " . However , he said that the majority of songs contained Powderfinger trying too hard with their riffs , noting " Bridle You " and " Father 's Pyramid " as specific examples . Bishop also criticised the lyrics in most songs , stating that " Walking Stick " contained " some horrendously bad lyrics " . The highlight of the album for Bishop was " Save Your Skin " , which he called " a gorgeous addition to their collection " , despite calling the overall album " a pretty dark and depressing experience " .

= = Track listing = =

All music written by Bernard Fanning , John Collins , Ian Haug , Darren Middleton , Jon Coghill .
Lyrics by Fanning unless otherwise noted .

" Walking Stick " ? 4 : 06

" Tail " ? 5 : 27

" Hurried Bloom " ? 3 : 34

" Fathers ' Pyramid " ? 4 : 38 (Fanning , Coghill)

" Bridle You " ? 3 : 56

" Citadel " ? 3 : 23

" Sink Low " ? 2 : 12

" Grave Concern " ? 4 : 46

" Solution " ? 3 : 50

" This Syrup to Exchange " ? 4 : 31 (Fanning , Coghill)

" Namaste " ? 2 : 21

" Blanket " ? 3 : 39

" Save Your Skin " ? 3 : 36