

= Dream Days at the Hotel Existence =

Dream Days at the Hotel Existence is the sixth studio album by Australian rock band Powderfinger , released by Universal Music on 2 June 2007 in Australia , 19 November 2007 in the United Kingdom , and 11 November 2008 in the United States on the Dew Process label . It was released in Australia with a limited edition bonus DVD , titled Powderfinger 's First XI , featuring eleven music videos spanning the band 's career , from the first single , " Tail " to " Bless My Soul " , the band 's latest single before the release of the album . A collector 's edition , including a CD and DVD , was released on 18 April 2008 .

Powderfinger reunited in late 2006 , after a three @-@ year hiatus , to write songs for Dream Days at the Hotel Existence , which was recorded in Los Angeles , California , in early 2007 by producer Rob Schnapf . The first single from the album , " Lost and Running " was released on 12 May 2007 , and reached number five on the ARIA singles chart . Three further singles were released ; " I Don 't Remember " , " Nobody Sees " , and " Who Really Cares (Featuring the Sound of Insanity) " , though they failed to equal " Lost and Running " ' s chart performance .

The album received critical acclaim , with many reviewers commenting that the album was " consistent " and " distinctly Australian " . The album encountered controversy relating to the song " Black Tears " with claims that it may have influenced the Palm Island death in custody trial . Powderfinger released an abridged version of the song as a result of these accusations .

= = Background = =

Bernard Fanning stated in television interviews in 2006 that Powderfinger was working on a new album to be released the following year . On Powderfinger 's website , guitarist Ian Haug said that the upcoming album was an " exciting new direction " for the band 's music . After a month of recording , on 2 March 2007 , Fanning made an announcement on Australian radio station Triple J that tracking was complete , mixing the album was to follow , and the approximate release date was June . Fanning also stated that several of the tracks on the album feature session pianist Benmont Tench .

The title of the album was drawn from the book Brooklyn Follies by Paul Auster , which Fanning had read during the recording . He stated the concept of the title related to escapism , and that he felt it an appropriate sentiment to attach to the music of the album .

= = Recording and production = =

Following their hiatus , which commenced after the release of Fingerprints : The Best of Powderfinger , 1994 @-@ 2000 , the band reconvened in late 2006 to write songs for Dream Days at the Hotel Existence . The band sought a new sound on the album , causing the recording process to be different from prior albums ; Melbourne 's Sing Sing studios were not used and Nick DiDia was no longer the producer .

Dream Days at the Hotel Existence was recorded at Sunset Sound Studio , Los Angeles , California , in early 2007 by producer Rob Schnapf , best known for his work with Beck and The Vines . Powderfinger had already written most of the album before departing to the United States . In particular , Powderfinger wrote songs in parts and brought them together ; some songs were written in pairs or trios , while others were written in parts by different people , and then combined . According to the band , this brought a " diverse " and " fresh " approach to songwriting . The band used different methods in putting the album together as " it comes back to the sound the five of us can make together " . Powderfinger guitarist Darren Middleton commented that as a rule they preferred not to put together an album that was just " plain " . As the style of writing differed , the band identified the need for piano performances in many of their songs , enlisting veteran pianist Benmont Tench to play parts throughout .

= = Album and single releases = =

The album was released in Australia on 2 June 2007 , and in the United Kingdom on 19 November of the same year . A " limited edition " version of the album included a DVD featuring a collection of Powderfinger music videos , titled Powderfinger 's First XI . The music video for " Lost and Running " was also included , and was dubbed The Twelfth Man . A collector 's edition , including a CD and DVD , was released on 18 April 2008 .

Several songs from the album were launched to Perth fans as free music downloads via PerthNow , a Perth @-@ based newspaper . Fans were required to obtain a codeword from the newspaper , then submit it online to download the tracks .

The first single from Dream Days at the Hotel Existence was " Lost and Running " and the video clip , which was directed by Damon Escott and Stephen Lance of Head Pictures , began showing in Australia on 21 April 2007 . The single made its Australian radio debut on 16 April 2007 , but had been available for several days beforehand on the Powderfinger 's MySpace web page . An exclusive early release of the song was played by Triple J on 13 April 2007 . " Lost and Running " reached number five on the ARIA singles chart .

The second single from the album was " I Don 't Remember " . The film clip for the song was created by Fifty Fifty Films , who have created music videos for the group before including " Passenger " and " Like a Dog " . The song was aired on radio on 9 July 2007 , the music video was released in July , and the CD single was released for sales on 4 August 2007 . The video was shot at Samford State School in Powderfinger 's home city of Brisbane and features many of the school 's students .

On 16 November 2007 , it was announced that the third single from Dream Days at the Hotel Existence would be the album 's sixth track , " Nobody Sees " . A video was released on the same day as the announcement and the single is set to be released as a digital single on 1 December 2007 . In February 2008 , Powderfinger announced the release of the album 's fourth single , " Who Really Cares (Featuring the Sound of Insanity) " . In late May , " Wishing On The Same Moon " was released as the album 's fifth single .

Surprisingly , the eighth track , " Long Way to Go " was played on Australian radio leading up to the release of the album in 2007 .

= = Response = =

= = = Chart performance = = =

The album debuted in the ARIA Album Charts on 11 June 2007 at number one , becoming Powderfinger 's fourth album to peak at the top spot . The album was certified platinum in its first week of sales , and its double platinum certification was announced later . A week after its release , the album achieved the highest first @-@ week sales figures of any new release in 2007 , with total sales of 40 @, @ 847 , thus making it the fastest selling album of the year in Australia . In its first week of release , Dream Days at the Hotel Existence broke the Australian digital album sales record , with over 3 @, @ 000 digital sales .

= = = Critical response = = =

Sydney Morning Herald commentator Bernard Zuel described Dream Days at the Hotel Existence as Powderfinger 's first dull album , noting that on numerous songs " It promises to become exciting but never quite gets there . " He complained that most of the songs were uneventful , or uninspiring , and that they do not " lift you as a listener . " PerthNow 's Jay Hanna disagreed , claiming the album was " rippling with emotions " . He said the album contained some " incredible moments " , praising " Head Up in the Clouds " , and calling " Nobody Sees " " Powderfinger at their devastating best " , while giving the album four stars .

Cameron Adams of Herald Sun HiT stated that the album contained no new directions for the band

, and was highly consistent . He noted that the album contained less " rough edges and attitude " than predecessor *Vulture Street* , and likening the album more to *Odyssey Number Five* . Sputnikmusic 's James Bishop agreed , claiming the band should be concerned by the " lack of experimentation or ambition " on the album . He again stated that the album was consistent , noting that " there actually isn 't a bad song present " . The review , which gave the album three and a half stars , commented that it seemed the band were trying to move towards the bluegrass genre , and " edging their way into the adult @-@ contemporary section " of a music store , something they had not shown on their previous works .

Allmusic 's Clayton Bolger drew comparisons to *Internationalist* in his review , which gave the album 3 and a half stars . He said the album contained " all the trademarks of classic Powderfinger " , praising Fanning 's vocals , Middleton and Haug 's " twin @-@ guitar attack " , Collins ' basslines and Coghill 's " powerhouse drum work " . While praising " I Don 't Remember " as an excellent anthem , and " Surviving " for containing " a sonic blast of rock " , he was critical of " Lost and Running " , which he said felt " tired and sluggish " , while " Ballad of a Dead Man " was described as " tedious " .

= = = " Black Tears " controversy = = =

On 2 May 2007 , " Black Tears " , the ninth song on *Dream Days at the Hotel Existence* , sparked controversy after claims that its lyrics could invoke prejudice in the Palm Island death in custody trial . Lawyers for the accused , Senior Sergeant Chris Hurley , lodged a complaint to the Queensland Attorney @-@ General relating to the lyrics of the song . According to Hurley 's legal team , the initial lyrics dealt with the " death of a Palm Island man , Mulrunji Doomadgee " , in stating " an island watch @-@ house bed , a black man 's lying dead " . Bernard Fanning made a media statement in response to the complaint , stating that the band had never intended for the song to contain " even the slightest suggestion of any prejudice " . He also said that the band would still release the album on the planned date , but with an alternate version of " Black Tears " . Fanning later stated that he was not angry about having to change his lyrics , but lamented the lack of Australian musicians willing to challenge the status quo .

= = Cover art = =

Dream Days at the Hotel Existence 's cover art was designed by Aaron Hayward & David Homer of Debaser , a New South Wales @-@ based design organisation . The recipient of the 2007 ARIA Award for " Best Cover Art " , the album art features a photograph of a road leading into the Australian outback horizon . In the centre , placed in the sky in relation to the background , there is a window with a crimson curtain . Within this window is a hotel room , as per the name of the album , in which a man with no head in a suit is seated at the end of the bed while watching the television .

Above the window is the album title and at the top of the cover is the band 's name in a typeface more crafty than on previous album covers . Though the general design of the cover is that of a 1930s hotel in style , the typeface juxtaposes the general design with being a rather futuristic , science @-@ fiction styled typeset . This is the second futuristic style that the band has used for their name , the first appearing on *Vulture Street* .

= = Touring = =

Tickets for a nationwide tour of launch shows for *Dream Days at the Hotel Existence* went on sale on 10 May 2007 on the band 's website , with tickets to the general public being released a day later . Powderfinger also toured in New South Wales and northern Victoria . Australian pianist Lachlan Doley was enlisted to play piano and keyboard parts on their live performances in these shows . His performances were welcomed by critics and audiences , with AdelaideNow commenting that " local ring @-@ in Lachlan Doley added shimmering keys to the band 's richly textured sound " . Powderfinger and Doley performed the single " Lost and Running " on popular Australian variety

show Rove on 17 June 2007 . The group performed at Splendour in the Grass on 4 August 2007 , and then followed it up by performing at Triple J 's AWOL Concert in Karratha , Western Australia on 18 August 2007 .

Powderfinger announced the Across the Great Divide tour on 12 June 2007 . The band were accompanied on the nationwide concert tour by Australian rock group Silverchair . The tour is not only featured in the capital cities , but in fourteen Australian and New Zealand regional centres as well . According to Fanning , " the idea is to show both bands are behind the idea of reconciliation [of Indigenous Australians] . "

= = Personnel = =

= = Track listing = =

" Head Up in the Clouds " ? 3 : 47

" I Don 't Remember " ? 3 : 41

" Lost and Running " ? 3 : 42

" Wishing on the Same Moon " ? 4 : 32

" Who Really Cares (Featuring the Sound of Insanity) " ? 5 : 10

" Nobody Sees " ? 4 : 14

" Surviving " ? 3 : 45

" Long Way to Go " ? 3 : 46

" Black Tears " ? 2 : 30

" Ballad of a Dead Man " ? 5 : 29

" Drifting Further Away " ? 3 : 40

All songs were written and performed by Powderfinger with performances by pianist Benmont Tench .

Bonus Tracks :

" Down by the Dam " ? 4 : 29 [A]

" Glory Box " ? 4 : 32 [B]

= = = Limited edition bonus DVD = = =

Released under the titles Powderfinger 's First XI and The Twelfth Man , the bonus DVD features eleven music videos by Powderfinger spanning their entire recording career , and also includes the launch single to Dream Days at the Hotel Existence , " Lost and Running " .

Powderfinger 's First XI

" Tail " ? 4 : 24

" Living Type " ? 3 : 25

" Pick You Up " ? 3 : 30

" Passenger " ? 4 : 39

" Good Day Ray " [C] ? 1 : 50

" Don 't Wanna Be Left Out " ? 2 : 18

" My Kind of Scene " ? 4 : 31

" Like a Dog " ? 4 : 41

" On My Mind " [D] ? 3 : 40

" Sunsets " (Acoustic version) ? 3 : 57

" Bless My Soul " ? 4 : 06

The Twelfth Man - " Lost and Running " ? 3 : 52