

= Quadrophenia =

Quadrophenia is the sixth studio album by English rock band The Who , released on 26 October 1973 by Track Records . It is a double album and the group 's second rock opera . The story follows a young mod named Jimmy and his search for self @-@ worth and importance , set in London and Brighton in 1965 . It is the only Who album to be entirely composed by group leader Pete Townshend .

The group started work on the album in 1972 , trying to follow up Tommy and Who 's Next , which had both achieved substantial critical and commercial success . Recording was delayed while bassist John Entwistle and singer Roger Daltrey recorded solo albums and drummer Keith Moon worked on films . Because a new studio was not finished in time , the group had to use Ronnie Lane 's Mobile Studio . As well as the group 's typical playing styles , especially from Moon , the album makes significant use of Townshend 's multi @-@ tracked synthesizers and sound effects , and Entwistle 's layered horn parts . Relationships between the group and manager Kit Lambert broke down irretrievably during recording and he had left the band 's services by the time the album was released .

Quadrophenia was released to a positive reception in both the UK and the US , but the resulting tour was marred with problems with backing tapes replacing the additional instruments on the album , and the stage piece was retired in early 1974 . It was revived in 1996 with a larger ensemble , and a further tour occurred in 2012 . The album made a positive impact on the mod revival movement of the late 1970s , and the resulting film adaptation , released in 1979 , was successful . The album has been reissued on compact disc several times , and seen a number of remixes that corrected some perceived flaws in the original .

= = Plot = =

The original release of Quadrophenia came with a set of recording notes for reviewers and journalists that explained the basic plotline .

The narrative centres around a young working @-@ class mod named Jimmy . He likes drugs , beach fights and romance , and becomes a fan of the Who after a concert in Brighton , but is disillusioned by his parents ' attitude towards him , dead @-@ end jobs and an unsuccessful trip to see a psychiatrist . He clashes with his parents over his usage of amphetamines . He has difficulty finding regular work and doubts his own self @-@ worth , and quits a job as a dustman after only two days . Though he is happy to be " one " of the mods , he struggles to keep up with his peers , and his girlfriend leaves him for his best friend .

After destroying his scooter and contemplating suicide , he decides to take a train to Brighton , where he had enjoyed earlier experiences with fellow mods . However , he discovers the " Ace Face " who led the gang now has a menial job as a bellboy in a hotel . He feels everything in his life has rejected him , steals a boat , and uses it to sail out to a rock overlooking the sea . On the rock and stuck in the rain , he contemplates his life . The ending is left ambiguous as to what happens to Jimmy on the rock .

= = Background = =

1972 was the least active year for the Who since they had formed . The group had achieved great commercial and critical success with the albums Tommy and Who 's Next , but were struggling to come up with a suitable follow up . The group recorded new material with Who 's Next collaborator Glyn Johns in May 1972 , including " Is It In My Head " and " Love Reign O 'er Me " which were eventually released on Quadrophenia , and a mini @-@ opera called " Long Live Rock ? Rock Is Dead " , but the material was considered too derivative of Who 's Next and sessions were abandoned . In an interview for Melody Maker , guitarist and bandleader Pete Townshend said " I 've got to get a new act together ? People don 't really want to sit and listen to all our past " . He had become frustrated that the group had been unable to produce a film of Tommy or Lifehouse (the

abortive project that resulted in *Who's Next*), and decided to follow Frank Zappa's idea of producing a musical soundtrack that could produce a narrative in the same way as a film. Unlike *Tommy*, the new work would be grounded in reality and tell a story of youth and adolescence that the audience could relate to.

Townshend became inspired by "Long Live Rock? Rock Is Dead"'s theme and in autumn 1972 began writing material, while the group put out unreleased recordings including "Join Together" and "Relay" to keep themselves in the public eye. In the meantime, bassist John Entwistle released his second solo album, *Whistle Rymes*, singer Roger Daltrey worked on solo material, and Keith Moon featured as a drummer in the film *That'll Be The Day*. Townshend had met up with "Irish" Jack Lyons, one of the original Who fans, which gave him the idea of writing a piece that would look back on the group's history and its audience. He created the character of Jimmy from an amalgamation of six early fans of the group, including Lyons, and gave the character a four @-@ way split personality, which led to the album's title (a play on schizophrenia).

Work was interrupted for most of 1972 in order to work on Lou Reizner's orchestral version of *Tommy*. Daltrey finished his first solo album, which included the hit single "Giving It All Away", fueling rumours of a split in the press. Things were not helped by Daltrey discovering that managers Kit Lambert and Chris Stamp had large sums of money unaccounted for, and suggested they should be fired, which Townshend resisted.

= = Recording = =

In order to do justice to the recording of *Quadrophenia*, the group decided to build their own studio, Ramport Studios in Battersea. Work started on building Ramport in November 1972, but five months later still lacked an adequate mixing desk that could handle recording *Quadrophenia*. Instead, Townshend's friend Ronnie Lane loaned his mobile studio for the sessions. Lambert ostensibly began producing the album in May, but missed recording sessions and generally lacked discipline. By mid 1973, Daltrey demanded that Lambert leave the Who's services. The band recruited engineer Ron Nevison, who had worked with Townshend's associate John Alcock, to assist with engineering.

To illustrate the four @-@ way split personality of Jimmy, Townshend wrote four themes, reflecting the four members of the Who. These were "Bell Boy" (Moon), "Is It Me?" (Entwistle), "Helpless Dancer" (Daltrey) and "Love Reign O'er Me" (Townshend). Two lengthy instrumentals on the album, the title track and "The Rock" contain the four themes, separately and together. The instrumentals were not demoed but built up in the studio. Who author John Atkins described the instrumental tracks as "the most ambitious and intricate music the group ever undertook."

Most tracks involved each of the group recording their parts separately; unlike earlier albums, Townshend had left space in his demos for other band members to contribute, though most of the synthesizers on the finished album came from his ARP 2500 synthesizer and were recorded at home. The only song arranged by the band in the studio was "5 @. @ 15". According to Nevison, the ARP 2500 was impossible to record in the studio, and changing sounds was cumbersome due to a lack of patches, which required Townshend to work on these parts at home, working late into the night. To obtain a good string section sound on the album, Townshend bought a cello and over two weeks learned how to play it well enough to be recorded.

Entwistle recorded his bass part to "The Real Me" in one take on a Gibson Thunderbird and spent several weeks during the summer arranging and recording numerous multi @-@ tracked horn parts. Having been forced to play more straightforwardly by Johns on *Who's Next*, Moon returned to his established drumming style on *Quadrophenia*. He contributed lead vocals to "Bell Boy", where he deliberately showcased an exaggerated narrative style. For the finale of "Love, Reign O'er Me", Townshend and Nevison set up a large group of percussion instruments, which Moon played before kicking over a set of tubular bells, which can be heard on the final mix.

During the album production, Townshend made many field recordings with a portable reel @-@ to @-@ reel recorder. These included waves washing on a Cornish beach and the doppler whistle of

a diesel train recorded near Townshend 's house at Goring @-@ on @-@ Thames . The ending of " The Dirty Jobs " includes a musical excerpt from a brass band performance of The Thunderer by John Philip Sousa , which Nevison recorded in Regent 's Park . Assembling the field recordings in the studio was problematic ; at one point , during " I Am the Sea " , nine different tape machines were running sound effects . According to Nevison , Townshend produced the album single @-@ handedly , adding that " everything started when Pete got there , and everything finished when Pete left " . Townshend began mixing the album in August at his home studio in Goring along with Nevison .

= = Release = =

The album was preceded by the single " 5 : 15 " in the UK , which benefited from a live appearance on Top of the Pops on 4 October 1973 and was released the next day . It reached No. 20 in the charts . Quadrophenia was originally released in the UK on 26 October , but fans found it difficult to find a copy due to a shortage of vinyl caused by the OPEC oil embargo . In the UK , Quadrophenia reached No. 2 , being held off the top spot by David Bowie 's Pin Ups . In the US , the album reached No. 2 on the US Billboard album chart (kept from # 1 by Elton John 's Goodbye Yellow Brick Road album) , the highest position of any Who album in the US . In the US , " Love Reign O'er Me " was chosen as the lead single , released on 27 October .

The album was originally released as a two @-@ LP set with a gatefold jacket and a booklet containing lyrics , a text version of the story , and photographs taken by Ethan Russell illustrating it . MCA Records re @-@ released the album as a two @-@ CD set in 1985 with the lyrics and text story line on a thin fold @-@ up sheet but none of the photographs . The album was reissued as a remastered CD in 1996 , featuring a reproduction of the original album artwork . The original mix had been criticised in particular for Daltrey 's vocals being buried , so the 1996 CD was completely remixed by Jon Astley and Andy Macpherson .

In 2011 , Townshend and longtime Who engineer Bob Pridden remixed the album , resulting in a deluxe 5 @-@ disc box set . Unlike earlier reissues , this set contains two discs of demos , including some songs that were dropped from the final running order of the album , and a selection of songs in 5 @.@ 1 surround sound . The box set came with a 100 @-@ page book including an essay by Townshend about the album sessions , with photos . In 2014 , the album was released on Blu @-@ ray Audio featuring a brand @-@ new remix of the entire album by Townshend and Pridden in 5 @.@ 1 surround sound as well the 2011 Deluxe Edition stereo remix and the original 1973 stereo LP mix .

= = Reception = =

Critical reaction to Quadrophenia was positive . Melody Maker 's Chris Welch wrote " rarely have a group succeeded in distilling their essence and embracing a motif as convincingly " , while Charles Shaar Murray described the album in New Musical Express as the " most rewarding musical experience of the year " . Reaction in the US was generally positive , though Dave Marsh , writing in Creem gave a more critical response . Lenny Kaye , writing in Rolling Stone wrote " the Who as a whole have never sounded better " but added " on its own terms , Quadrophenia falls short of the mark " .

Retrospective reviews have been positive . Chris Jones , writing for BBC Music said " everything great about the Who is contained herein . " In 2013 , Billboard , reviewing the album for its 40th anniversary , said : " Filled with performances packed with life and depth and personality , Quadrophenia is 90 minutes of the Who at its very best . " The album has sold 1 million copies and has been certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America . In 2000 Q magazine placed Quadrophenia at # 56 in its list of the 100 Greatest British Albums Ever . The album has been ranked # 267 on Rolling Stone magazine 's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time .

Townshend now considers Quadrophenia to be the last great album that the Who recorded . In 2011 , he said the group " never recorded anything that was so ambitious or audacious again " ,

drawing particular praise for Moon 's playing .

= = Live performances = =

= = = 1973 ? 74 tour = = =

The band viewed the tour in support of the album as disastrous . To achieve the rich overdubbed sound of the album on stage , Townshend wanted Chris Stainton (who had played piano on some tracks) to join as a touring member . Daltrey objected to this and believed the Who 's performances should only have the four core members . To obtain the required instrumentation without additional musicians , the group elected to employ taped backing tracks for live performance , as they had already done for " Baba O 'Riley " and " Won 't Get Fooled Again " . Initial performances were plagued by malfunctioning tapes . Once the tapes started , the band had to play to them , which constrained their styles . Moon , in particular , found playing Quadrophenia difficult as he was forced to stick to a click track instead of watching the rest of the band . The group only allowed two days of rehearsals with the tapes before touring , one of which was abandoned after Daltrey punched Townshend following an argument .

The tour started on 28 October 1973 . The original plan had been to play most of the album , but after the first gig at Stoke @-@ on @-@ Trent , the band dropped " The Dirty Jobs " , " Is It In My Head " and " I 've Had Enough " from the set . Both Daltrey and Townshend felt they had to describe the plot in detail to the audience , which took up valuable time on stage . A few shows later in Newcastle upon Tyne , the backing tapes to " 5 : 15 " came in late . Townshend stopped the show , grabbed Pridden , who was controlling the mixing desk , and dragged him onstage , shouting obscenities at him . Townshend subsequently grabbed some of the tapes and threw them over the stage , kicked his amplifier over , and walked off . The band returned 20 minutes later , playing older material . Townshend and Moon appeared on local television the following day and attempted to brush things off . The Who played two other shows in Newcastle without incident .

The US tour started on 20 November at the Cow Palace in San Francisco . The group were nervous about playing Quadrophenia after the British tour , especially Moon . Before the show , he was offered some tranquillisers from a fan . Just after the show started , the fan collapsed and was hospitalised . Moon 's playing , meanwhile , became incredibly erratic , particularly during Quadrophenia where he did not seem to be able to keep time with the backing tapes . Towards the end of the show , during " Won 't Get Fooled Again " , he passed out over his drumkit . After a 20 @-@ minute wait , Moon reappeared onstage , but after a few bars of " Magic Bus " , collapsed again , and was immediately taken to hospital . Scot Halpin , an audience member , convinced promoter Bill Graham to let him play drums , and the group closed the show with him . Moon had a day to recover , and by the next show at the Los Angeles Forum , was playing to his usual strength . The group began to get used to the backing tapes , and the remainder of gigs for the US tour were successful .

The tour continued in February 1974 , with a short series of gigs in France . The final show at the Palais de Sports in Lyon on the 24th was the last time Quadrophenia was played as a stage piece with Moon , who died in 1978 . Townshend later said that Daltrey " ended up hating Quadrophenia ? probably because it had bitten back " . However , a small selection of songs remained in the set list ; live performances of " Drowned " and " Bell Boy " filmed at Charlton Athletic football ground on 18 May were later released on the 30 Years of Maximum R & B box set .

= = = 1996 ? 97 tour = = =

In June 1996 , Daltrey , Townshend and Entwistle revived Quadrophenia as a live concert . They performed at Hyde Park , London as part of the Prince 's Trust " Masters of Music " benefit concert , playing most of the album for the first time since 1974 . The concert was not billed as the Who , but credited to the three members individually . The performance also included Gary Glitter as the

Godfather , Phil Daniels as the Narrator and Jimmy , Trevor MacDonald as the newsreader , Adrian Edmondson as the Bell Boy and Stephen Fry as the hotel manager . The musical lineup included Townshend 's brother Simon , Zak Starkey on drums (his first appearance with the Who) , guitarists David Gilmour (who played the bus driver) and Geoff Whitehorn , keyboardists John " Rabbit " Bundrick and Jon Carin , percussionist Jody Linscott , Billy Nicholls leading a two @-@ man / two @-@ woman backing vocal section , and five brass players . During rehearsals , Daltrey was struck in the face by Glitter 's microphone stand , and performed the concert wearing an eyepatch .

A subsequent tour of the US and UK followed , employing most of the same players but with Billy Idol replacing Edmondson , Simon Townshend replacing Gilmour and P. J. Proby replacing Glitter . 85 @,@ 000 fans saw the ensemble perform Quadrophenia at Madison Square Garden . A recording from the tour was subsequently released in 2005 as part of Tommy and Quadrophenia Live .

= = = 2010s tours = = =

The Who performed Quadrophenia at the Royal Albert Hall on 30 March 2010 as part of the Teenage Cancer Trust series of ten gigs . This one @-@ off performance of the rock opera featured guest appearances from Pearl Jam 's Eddie Vedder and Kasabian 's Tom Meighan .

In November 2012 , the Who started a U.S. tour of Quadrophenia , dubbed " Quadrophenia and More " . The group played the entire album without any guest singers or announcements with the then regular Who line @-@ up (including Starkey and bassist Pino Paladino , who replaced Entwistle following his death in 2002) along with five additional musicians . The tour included additional video performances , including Moon singing " Bell Boy " from 1974 and Entwistle 's bass solo in " 5 : 15 " from 2000 . The tour progressed to the UK in 2013 , ending in a performance at Wembley Arena in July .

= = Other productions = =

Quadrophenia was revived for a film version in 1979 , directed by Franc Roddam . The film attempted to portray an accurate visual interpretation of Townshend 's vision of Jimmy and his surroundings , and included Phil Daniels as Jimmy and Sting as the Ace Face . Unlike the Tommy film , the music was largely relegated to the background , and was not performed by the cast as in a rock opera . The film soundtrack included three additional songs written by Townshend , which were Kenney Jones ' first recordings as an official member of the Who . The film was a commercial and critical success , as it conveniently coincided with the mod revival movement of the late 1970s .

There have been several amateur productions of a Quadrophenia musical . In 2007 , the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama performed a musical based on the original album at the Sherman Theatre , Cardiff , featuring a cast of 12 backed by an 11 @-@ piece band .

In October 1995 , the rock group Phish , with an additional four @-@ man horn section , performed Quadrophenia in its entirety as their second Halloween musical costume at the Rosemont Horizon in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont , Illinois . The recording was later released as a part of Live Phish Volume 14 . The band also covered the tracks " Drowned " and " Sea and Sand " on their live album New Year 's Eve 1995 ? Live at Madison Square Garden .

In June 2015 , Townshend released an orchestral version of the album entitled Classic Quadrophenia . The original album was orchestrated by his partner Rachel Fuller and conducted by Robert Ziegler , with music provided by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra . Tenor Alfie Boe sang the lead role , supported by the London Oriana Choir , Billy Idol , Daniels and Townshend .

= = Track listing = =

= = = Original LP track listing = = =

All songs written and composed by Pete Townshend .

= = = Quadrophenia : The Director 's Cut track listing = = =

= = Personnel = =

The Who

John Entwistle ? bass , horns , vocals

Roger Daltrey ? lead vocals

Keith Moon ? percussion , vocals

Pete Townshend ? remainder

Additional musicians

Jon Curle ? newsreader voice

Chris Stainton ? piano on " The Dirty Jobs " , " 5 : 15 " , and " Drowned "

Production

The Who ? production

Kit Lambert , Pete Townshend ? pre @-@ production

Chris Stamp , Pete Kameron , Kit Lambert ? executive producer

Ron Nevison ? engineer

Ron Fawcus ? mixing continuity , engineering assistance

Bob Pridden ? studio earphone

Rod Houson , Ron Nevison , Pete Townshend ? special effects

Graham Hughes ? front cover design and photography

Ethan Russell ? art direction , insert photography

Jon Astley ? remixing (1996 reissue)

Bob Ludwig ? remastering (1996 reissue)

Richard Evans ? design and art direction (1996 reissue)

= = Sales chart performance = =

Album

Singles

= = Sales certifications = =