

= Diorama (Silverchair album) =

Diorama is the fourth studio album by Australian alternative rock band Silverchair . Released on 31 March 2002 by Atlantic / Eleven . It won the 2002 ARIA Music Award for Best Rock Album . The album was co-produced by Daniel Johns and David Bottrill . While Bottrill had worked on albums for a variety of other bands , Diorama marked the first production credit for lead singer Johns .

Johns wrote most of the album at the piano instead of his usual guitar , while the band took a 12-month break following their previous studio album , Neon Ballroom . Silverchair worked with composer Van Dyke Parks on Diorama ; the album contains numerous orchestral arrangements and power ballads , a change from the post-grunge music typical of their earlier work , but consistent with the band's previous orchestrations on Neon Ballroom . The album's title refers to " a world within a world " . Five singles were released : " The Greatest View " , " Without You " , " Luv Your Life " , " Across the Night " and " After All These Years " . All except " After All These Years " , a promotional single , appeared on the Australian singles chart .

Diorama was successful in the charts but was not as well received by critics as the band's earlier albums . It reached number one on the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) Albums Chart and received a rating of 71 (out of 100) on review aggregator Metacritic . It was certified triple-platinum by ARIA , selling in excess of 210,000 copies , and won five ARIA Awards in 2002 . Diorama was nominated for Highest Selling Album in 2003 , and three songs from the album were nominated for awards over the two years .

= = Recording and production = =

On Diorama , Silverchair worked with a new producer , David Bottrill , who replaced Nick Launay . Though Launay had produced the band's three previous albums , lead singer Daniel Johns decided that he needed someone " who understood where he wanted to go " . Johns believed Diorama would be " the kind of record that people were either going to be into or were really going to hate " , and needed a producer who would understand the band's new direction . He interviewed several candidates , eventually choosing Bottrill and taking the role of co-producer himself .

Johns initially recorded eight songs , only to delete the files thinking they were too similar to tracks on the previous album , Neon Ballroom . Leaving the security and darkness of his earlier work , he restarted from scratch to create something more uplifting . Diorama represented a radical change in Silverchair's musical structure ; the heavy grunge influence on their prior work was replaced by string and horn ensembles and highly complex song structures . Johns felt more comfortable in making this radical change rather than a minor one , finding it helped him to regain his passion for music , which had diminished during the grunge days . Johns wrote much of the album at a baby grand piano ; he had previously taught himself the instrument and composed songs on it for the first time with Diorama . This change in songwriting technique had a significant effect on the sound of the album ; Johns commented on the difference in how his vocals resonated with piano as compared to guitar . He worked with others in developing the album ; Van Dyke Parks (Beach Boys , U2) collaborated on orchestral arrangements , and the pair spent much of their recording time attempting to describe the music in metaphorical terms , with Johns describing Parks' orchestral swells as " tidal waves " and violins as " a flock of birds " . The pair described the collaborative experience as " mind-blowing " . A DVD entitled Across The Night : The Creation Of Diorama was released in 2002 , featuring interviews with Johns and Parks .

Several songs on Diorama were inspired by Johns' then-girlfriend Natalie Imbruglia , but he cautioned against possible misinterpretations of the songs , stating " Everyone will think that any lyric that's about someone in a positive light will be about her " and noting that there were other people he cared for about whom he wrote the songs . Johns denied rumours that he had written songs intending Imbruglia to sing them .

Silverchair intended to tour supporting Diorama following its release , but plans were postponed when Johns developed reactive arthritis ; causing his joints to swell and making guitar playing and

singing too painful . After performing " The Greatest View " at the 2002 ARIA Awards , Johns said that he wanted " to perform [Diorama 's] 11 songs at least once in front of an audience " before laying the album to rest . He travelled to California to receive treatments for his arthritis , including daily physiotherapy .

= = Album and single releases = =

Following a 31 March 2002 release on record label Eleven , Diorama reached number one on the ARIA Albums Chart on 14 April , making it Silverchair 's fourth chart @-@ topping album . It went on to be certified triple @-@ platinum by ARIA , indicating sales in excess of 210 @,@ 000 copies . The album peaked at number seven in New Zealand , thirteen in Austria , forty in Switzerland , and 116 in France . Diorama reached number ninety @-@ one on the U.S. Billboard 200 .

The first single , " The Greatest View " , was released in advance of the album on 28 January 2002 . It reached number three in Australia , where it was also certified gold , and number four in New Zealand and Canada . It charted at number thirty @-@ six on Billboard 's Hot Modern Rock Tracks in 2007 when re @-@ released alongside the band 's next album , Young Modern . Johns wrote " The Greatest View " as a response to the media " always watching [him] in different way " . It was not intended to be aggressive , rather a straightforward commentary on the media frenzy that had surrounded the band for many years .

On 13 May 2002 , " Without You " was released as the second single . It peaked at number eight in Australia , but dropped to number twenty @-@ nine the following week , only spending five weeks on the chart . The song was first announced by Silverchair bass guitarist Chris Joannou in November 1999 , when he told fans the band had " a very small cache of recorded material stored away " , including " Without You " . " Without You " was followed by " Luv Your Life " , which peaked at number twenty in Australia after its 20 September release . The inspiration for the song came to Johns during a therapy session , based on the idea that " there were people in the world who needed treatment but couldn 't afford therapy . " Johns composed most of the song 's lyrics while listening to a therapist . In a performance at London 's Shepherd's Bush Empire , Johns jokingly said " Luv Your Life " was dedicated " to all my ladies " .

" After All These Years " , a promotional single , followed " Luv Your Life " , but failed to reach the charts . The final single " Across the Night " was released on 11 March 2003 . The song , which Johns wrote over nine hours on a sleepless night , peaked at number twenty @-@ four on its three weeks on the Australian chart . The arrangement by Parks features twin keyboards and a string ensemble . The band 's much @-@ delayed tour in support of Diorama took its name from " Across the Night " .

= = The Diorama Box = =

On 1 December 2002 , a limited @-@ edition CD box set was released as The Diorama Box , consisting of the first three singles from the album as well as an exclusive single , " After All These Years " .

= = Response = =

Diorama received a score of 71 out of 100 on review aggregator Metacritic , based on nine reviews . Australian radio station Triple J listeners voted the album number one on their Top 10 Albums of 2002 , while Triple J staff Rosie Beaton and Gaby Brown placed it third and fifth respectively .

Music magazine Rolling Stone gave Diorama four and a half stars in Australia and three out of five stars in the US . Reviewer Mark Kemp praised Silverchair 's development , saying that the band had developed a strong , independent musical ability , in contrast to their heavily influenced debut album , Frogstomp . Kemp spoke highly of the " heavy orchestration , unpredictable melodic shifts and a whimsical pop sensibility " , also noting Parks ' arrangements gave the music " more breadth and depth " . He argued that the album 's strength was a product of Johns ' confidence , resulting in high

quality on " World Upon Your Shoulders " , " Tuna in the Brine " , and " After All These Years " . However , " Without You " saw Silverchair slip into " old habits " , according to Kemp , and contained an " MTV @-@ approved hook " .

Bradley Torreano , of review website Allmusic , gave Diorama four stars , labeling it an AMG Album Pick . He began by noting that Silverchair 's improvement from the Frogstomp era was impressive , and that Diorama saw the band " finally growing into their own skin . " Bottrill 's production was praised , and the result likened to Big Country and U2 , while Johns showcased " his rich voice and shockingly catchy tunes with a gusto missing from their earlier albums " . Torreano 's criticism was reserved for two songs on the album ; he described the apparent Goo @-@ Goo Dolls influences on " Without You " as " an unwelcome twist " , and felt that on " One Way Mule " , the band reverted " back to their grunge sound " .

James Jam , of music magazine NME , was critical of Diorama , calling it " over @-@ produced Aussie rock " . Jam compared Silverchair to Bryan Adams in their attempt to " venture boldly into exciting new musical landscapes " . " Tuna in the Brine " was " grossly pretentious and overblown " , while he saw the album as a whole as inoffensive , especially in comparison to the band 's past post @-@ grunge . According to Jam , the band were not trying to make a mature musical statement with the album , but rather to " impress their parents " .

Nikki Tranter of pop @-@ music website PopMatters called the album mature , praising everything from the cover art to the " finely crafted pop melodies " . Tranter praised Diorama for standing out in the " very similar " Australian music scene . The majority of songs on the album were rated highly ; she thought " The Greatest View " was a stand @-@ out with " orchestral twangs " , and " After All These Years " had " sweeping horns , introspective lyrics and soft , haunting vocals " .

Rob O 'Connor of Yahoo ! ' s music website gave Diorama a positive review , agreeing that the band had matured greatly since their early high school releases . The pop songs on the album , " Luv Your Life " and " Too Much Of Not Enough " , were said to " glide " , and O 'Connor praised Johns for " whisper [ing] his lyrics with grace and subtlety " where in the past he would " shout in angst " , drawing comparisons to Elliott Smith . His main critique of the album was that it still contained some " obligatory ' grunge ' efforts " ; he felt eliminating those would allow the band to reach its full potential .

= = Commercial performance = =

Diorama charted highest in Australia ; spending 50 weeks on the ARIA Albums Chart including a week at number one . This popularity was not matched in other countries ; it spent 10 weeks or less on all other charts , though reaching number seven in New Zealand .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Daniel Johns .

= = Personnel = =

Daniel Johns ? vocals , guitars , piano , harpsichord , orchestral arrangements (tracks 2 , 4 , 10 , 11)

Ben Gillies ? drums , percussion

Chris Joannou ? bass

Additional personnel

David Bottrill ? production

Van Dyke Parks ? orchestral arrangements (tracks 1 , 6 , 8)

Larry Muhoberac ? orchestral arrangements (tracks 2 , 4 , 10)

Rob Woolf ? hammond organ (tracks 3 , 10)

Michele Rose ? pedal steel (track 7)

Paul Mac ? piano (tracks 1 , 4 , 6 , 7 , 8 , 10)

Jim Moginie ? keyboards (tracks 2 , 5) , piano (track 5)

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =