

= Double Allergic =

Double Allergic is the second studio album by the Australian alternative rock band Powderfinger . Released in Australia on 2 September 1996 Polydor , the album was produced by Tim Whitten and widely considered Powderfinger 's mainstream breakthrough .

Four singles were released from the album : " Pick You Up " , " D.A.F. " , " Living Type " and " Take Me In " . " Pick You Up " was the most successful single from the album , and Powderfinger 's first moderate success , reaching # 23 on the ARIA charts . " D.A.F. " also charted as a moderate success ; it reached # 39 on the Australian music charts . Both " Living Type " and " Take Me In " did not chart officially , but " Living Type " was voted into the Triple J Hottest 100 in 1996 .

Critics were generally favorable in their reviews of Double Allergic . It was praised by Allmusic reviewer Jonathan Lewis as " a cohesive and mature effort " . It has also been certified platinum three times , with over 200 @, @ 000 copies sold . Double Allergic was also nominated for five ARIA awards , with singles from the album nominated for an additional four , however , it won none of the awards it was nominated for .

= = Recording and production = =

Double Allergic contained material that had been written by Powderfinger in 1995 and 1996 . Prior to its release , guitarist Darren Middleton described it as " by far the best thing we 've done " , an analogy that would be often made when comparing the album to its predecessor , Parables for Wooden Ears . Middleton praised the album because the band knew how they wanted the record to sound before they began to record ; he also described it as " the most concise continuation of who we are down on record " .

Lead singer Bernard Fanning noted that another important element of the album was that there " was more space in the songs , it wasn 't overcrowded " . However , Fanning commented that Powderfinger had not intended to greatly change their sound in creating Double Allergic , instead , the change in sound came as a natural progression. the guitarist Ian Haug agreed , stating the music was " more melodic and sort of simpler " , without " so many different time signatures and things " . Rolling Stone author Tracey Grimson also commented on this , stating that " Powderfinger have become practical advocates of space " and lauding their acknowledgment that the " absence of sound can be lush , evocative " . She noted that even in the " rockers " on the album songs ? like " Pick You Up " and " Skinny Jean " ? the band were still able to pull back and give the songs additional space .

Powderfinger spent less money producing Double Allergic than on their previous works . Previously , the band had worked with Tony Cohen , whom Fanning stated was expensive due to his success in the industry . For Double Allergic the band chose Tim Whitten , a less well known producer , and because the band knew what they intended to do as they entered the studio they managed to spend less despite the improved sound . Middleton commented on Whitten 's capabilities in the recording studio , saying " He 's what a band looks for in a producer / engineer , because he 's got his own ideas " , but stating that Whitten would also listen to and appreciate the band 's ideas .

= = Album and single releases = =

Double Allergic was released on 2 September 1996 in Australia on the Polydor record label . It entered the ARIA chart at # 7 , and spent ten weeks in the top ten . Over 200 @, @ 000 copies were sold , and the album is currently certified 3x platinum , asserting at least 210 @, @ 000 sales . The album finished 1996 at # 44 on the ARIA end of year albums chart , and finished 1997 at # 53 .

" Pick You Up " , the first single , was released on 13 April 1996 , and entered the ARIA singles chart at # 34 . By its fifth week , on 30 June , it had reached its peak at # 23 - it spent a further seven weeks on the chart before dropping out . " Pick You Up " was described as having a " very professional sound " . The song appeared at # 6 on the Triple J Hottest 100 , 1996 . " D.A.F. " , the second single , was released on 5 August 1996 . It spent four weeks on the ARIA chart , peaking at

# 39 . The title of the song was taken from its chord progression , in the words of the bass guitarist John Collins " because we were stupid " . The song appeared at # 18 on the Triple J Hottest 100 , 1996 .

" Living Type " was the third single , released on 11 November 1996 . The song peaked at # 42 on the ARIA charts and stayed in the top 50 for three weeks . " Living Type " was written by Fanning about the Manson Family cult , and came with an X @-@ Files style music video . The song appeared at # 32 on the Triple J Hottest 100 , 1996 . The fourth single , " Take Me In " , was released on 12 May 1997 . It failed to chart , and was the least noted single from the album . Fanning wrote " Take Me In " as a response to hypocrisy by police , which he had read about in newspapers .

The album contains three secret tracks placed onto the twelfth track after silence that follows the track 's primary song " ( The Return of ) The Electric Horseman " . The first of these is called " Vladimir " which , according to Fanning is about a transvestite . The second song is called " SS " which refers to Australian cricket bat manufacturer Stuart Surridge , which is often known by those initials . The song refers in part to the bat itself , though mostly to cricket in general , with lyrics " Then we 'll race like jets for the fading moon ; Then we all fall down " , which refers to running for the opposite crease following striking the ball , and then diving to the ground to secure the run . The third and final secret track is called " Come Away " which also appeared as a B @-@ side for the single of " Pick You Up " . In a first for the group , it had the guitarist Darren Middleton as lead vocalist , while a spoken sound sample at the end of the song is the bass guitarist John Collins ' voice .

= = Critical response = =

Double Allergic was well received by Allmusic , with reviewer Jonathan Lewis claiming that Powderfinger " managed to successfully create an album of melodic pop songs coupled with noisy guitars " . The album was summarised as " a cohesive and mature effort " .

Sputnikmusic reviewer blueyxd , had mixed feelings about the album . The level of experimentation in the album was praised , with the reviewer stating that " the instrument playing and some of the unusual styles used " were beneficial . However , the main concern was that there wasn 't enough experimentation , and that the album was rather " solid " , thus earning it its score of 3 @.@ 5 .

Juice magazine reviewed Double Allergic positively , calling it a much more mature album than its predecessor , Parables for Wooden Ears . The " band 's mellowing tone " , compared to the " aggression " in past works , was also commended , with the review stating that " the result is an album filled with potential and character " . The experimentation on " JC " , " Glimpse " and " Oipic " was again praised , with comparisons to Motown drawn . The review summarised the album as " proof of a band maturing , streets ahead of anything they 've previously recorded " .

= = Track listing = =

All music written and arranged by Powderfinger . All lyrics by Fanning , except " Boing Boing " lyrics by Fanning / Haug , " JC " & " Come Away " lyrics by Middleton , " Take Me In " & " ( Return Of ) The Electric Horseman " lyrics by Fanning / Middleton .

" Skinny Jean " ? 3 : 57

" Turtle 's Head " ? 3 : 23

" Pick You Up " ? 4 : 19

" D.A.F. " ? 3 : 30

" Boing Boing " ? 3 : 37

" Give " ? 2 : 28

" Oipic " ? 4 : 09

" Living Type " ? 3 : 25

" JC " ? 2 : 50

" Glimpse " ? 1 : 43

" Take Me In " ? 2 : 51

" ( Return of ) The Electric Horseman " ? 18 : 57 ( actual track time 3 : 47 )

Hidden tracks ( included in 18 : 57 track time ) :

" Vladimir " - 4 : 47

" SS " - 3 : 26

" Come Away " - 3 : 55

= = Awards and nominations = =