

= Phantom Phorce =

Phantom Phorce is a remix album of Super Furry Animals ' 2003 record Phantom Power . The remixes had previously appeared on the DVD version of Phantom Power ? they were re @-@ released as Phantom Phorce on the band 's own Placid Casual label as a way of ensuring the remixers would receive royalties for the tracks . The album features a commentary from the fictional ' Kurt Stern ' who appears between songs to discuss the re @-@ recording of Phantom Power under his guidance after being unhappy with the original . First editions of the album came packaged in a case that doubled as a paper model of a video game arcade cabinet , and included a bonus CD ; the Slow Life EP . Critical reaction to Phantom Phorce was generally positive .

= = Origins , concept and music = =

Phantom Phorce features remixes previously available on the DVD version of Phantom Power . According to drummer Dafydd Ieuan the band didn 't have the money to pay the artists involved for these remixes so , in order to provide them with royalties , promised to release an album featuring the tracks on their own label .

The record features remixes of every track from 2003 's Phantom Power presented in sequence , along with extra versions of " Valet Parking " and " Hello Sunshine " which appear at the end of the album . The remixes vary from radical reworkings such as Killa Kella 's beatbox treatment of " Golden Retriever " and Wauvenfold 's " unrecognisable " version of " Sex , War and Robots " , to the likes of Mario Caldato Jr 's take on " Liberty Belle " and High Llamas ' " Valet Parking " which are merely " spruced up " .

The remixes are interspersed with anecdotes from ' Kurt Stern ' (actually the band 's road manager) who supposedly made the decision to make these remixes after being unhappy with the original Phantom Power . According to bassist Guto Pryce this " running commentary is tongue in cheek , it 's our road manager pretending to be a producer , and he ends up sounding like a ... twat ! " These anecdotes give the actual release a different track listing from that which appears on the back of the album .

= = Release and reception = =

Initial copies of the album came bundled with the Slow Life EP in packaging which could be folded into the shape of a video game arcade cabinet , or " personal console " as described on the instructions section of the sleeve . The CDs themselves were housed in individual sleeves designed to look like 3 @. @ 5 " floppy disks . Zeth Lundy , reviewing the album for PopMatters , commented that he constructed the arcade cabinet with " sheer geeky delight " while CokeMachineGlow called the packaging " nostalgic but infuriating " . Phantom Phorce was also issued on gold @-@ coloured vinyl .

Critical reaction to Phantom Phorce was generally positive with Uncut stating that the album features an " inspired overhaul " of tracks from Phantom Power , the Western Mail describing the record as a " mind @-@ bending collection that radically re @-@ works each track from the original record to create something entirely different , but equally appealing " and musicOMH calling it " an innovative and thoroughly enjoyable set of remixes " . Some reviews pointed out that the album compares favourably with other remix albums with The Guardian calling Phantom Phorce " stimulating and often rather beautiful , bucking the trend set by most other self @-@ indulgent and pointless remix albums " and the NME stating that " hearing a rock band get the remix treatment is usually a mildly diverting experience rather than a life @-@ changing one . So it 's an extremely pleasant surprise to be faced with a whole album of the buggers ... and be thoroughly entertained . " Q stated that the commentary by ' Kurt Stern ' was one of the best features of the album and The Times expressed surprise that these " ' amusing interludes ' between tracks are actually funny " , however Pitchfork Media found that ' Stern ' " gets in the way more than he helps " and claimed that , by the time the listener had heard the full album he or she would " likely consider redubbing it

without [' Stern 's '] contributions " . Reviewing Phantom Phorce for DiSCORDER magazine , Jordie Yow called it " good , but not exceptional " and claimed that the remixes simply made him want to listen to the original versions of the tracks while website Angry Ape was scathing , calling the album a " bland & uninspiring package to put you off remixes for life " and suggested that it was merely a " cash @-@ in " by the band .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Super Furry Animals .

= = Personnel = =

The following people contributed to Phantom Phorce :

= = = Band = = =

Gruff Rhys ? Lead vocals , rhythm guitar
Huw Bunford ? Lead guitar , backing vocals
Guto Pryce ? Bass guitar
Cian Ciaran ? Keyboards , backing vocals
Dafydd Ieuan ? Drums , backing vocals

= = = Remixers = = =

= = = Additional musicians = = =

= = = Artwork = = =

Pete Fowler ? Illustration & design
John Mark James ? Illustration & design