




# The Blow Monkeys

## 'If Not Now, When?'

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### THE BLOW MONKEYS' NEW ALBUM AND SINGLE SET FOR SAME DAY RELEASE

Since they reformed in 2008 **The Blow Monkeys** have been recording and performing again with almost indecent haste. This process culminated in 2012's much lauded "**Feels Like A New Morning**" album and now takes a great big leap forward into the present with their tenth studio album "**If Not Now, When?**", due for release on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.

In addition, the album's opening track 'OK, Have It Your Way' will be released as a single on the same day.

The Blow Monkey's lead singer Dr Robert says, "*The songs were born of my absolute love of early rock and roll and kings like Eddie Cochran and, of course, Chuck Berry, and also lots of early Doo Wop. I wanted it to swing; no middle-eights, short, sharp solos, lots of baritone sax and boogie guitars. It's a glam-soul stomper! In many ways it's a return to the music that first opened my world. I've never forgotten that feeling.*"



For some, The Blow Monkeys will be forever synonymous with those international hit songs from the 80's such as '**Digging Your Scene**' and '**It Doesn't Have To Be This Way**', with Dr Robert the iconic frontman spouting opinions and poses in equal measure. The man himself prefers to live in the present: "*We've made four albums in the last six years since we reformed. We're on a roll! It's not about nostalgia and never will be. Of course we play the old songs live and love doing them, but the buzz also comes from doing something new. Our audience is hip enough to know that.*"

As the sole writer and producer of '**If Not Now, When?**' Robert has this to say: "*We weren't interested in pastiche or recreating something. This is music that comes from a place of love and joy and, as the late great Pete Seeger once said, we are all links in the chain.*"

The Blow Monkeys have again gone the independent route with their new album, just as they did with '**Devil's Tavern**', their first album upon reforming in 2008. "*We funded the album through our fanbase, using PledgeMusic. It's a great idea and works for everyone. The direct connection between band and fan is priceless. That's what it's all about in the end.*"

So here we have it, a band reinvigorated and re-charged and on a roll, playing their unique and unmistakable Blow Monkey Boogie. Robert says, "*I really don't care what anybody says about this record. I KNOW it's the best thing we've ever done. We're really only just beginning to get the hang of all this. I can't wait to get out and play it to people.*"

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## **Dr Robert's guide to 'If Not Now, When?'**

**Ok! Have it your Way:** A boogie soul stomper that has echoes lyrically of its distant relative *It Doesn't Have To Be This Way*. It about what happens when you let loose the ruthless unbridled disciples of "The Market" who know the "value of nothing and the price of everything".

**The Sound Of Your Laughter:** My best friend and wife Michele has the most beautiful laugh. It always transports me to a place where surf drums beat and baritones bleat as we go coast to coast in an old Winnebago!

**All That Glitters:** Joni Mitchell said, "The desire for fame is a form of mental illness." This I know to be true.

**Think Again:** Everything you once thought of as true could be wrong. All certainties are fallible. There's a certain comfort in accepting that.

**The Guessing Game:** What are we doing here? Why here? Why now? Spinning around in an infinite universe without any apparent reason or purpose; these are things we think about daily as we go about our daily chores. It's a glam stomp existentialist boogie!

**Sun is in the Sky:** In the end it's only weather. No amount of sunshine can compensate for loneliness. It's a modern malaise. A place in the sun won't save you. It's family and friends that give meaning to life.

**Stay Now:** A song about losing my father when I was 17 and living in Australia. It threw me for a loop that in some ways I'm still on.

**Shadow Boxing:** Gradually, if you do the right thing and have some luck along the way you become more "yourself" The delusions and falsehoods fall away as you are faced with the one certainty in life: it ends.

**If Not Now, When?** Stop dreaming of an imagined future and an idealised past. Today is all we ever have. Philosophers and Seers know this but they have been marginalised and locked away in academia. Socrates used to roam the back street and lanes of ancient Athens dispensing his wit and wisdom.

**Lions Of Charing Cross:** They want to knock down part of old Denmark St and gentrify parts of Soho. They are fools. This was our "mecca". Peter Ackroyd in his biography of London spoke of the ancient beasts that used to roam the West End of London whose skeletons were discovered in the last century. I see the connection with the musicians, poets, writers and painters who came to Soho to find themselves. If we continue to define "growth and prosperity" in purely monetary terms we are doomed to destroy all that is essential for our souls. Long live the 12 Bar Club and La Gianconda!