

pere ubu

The Return of The Avant-Garage has been extended into 1989!

The project was inaugurated late in 1987 with the revitalization of **Pere Ubu** and an impromptu concert tour of 12 American cities.

In 1988, the release of "The Tenement Year" was critically acclaimed; the 'Return of the Avant-Garage' concert tours eagerly awaited and enthusiastically received.

Nonetheless, the directors of Ubu Projex judged the 'Return of the Avant-Garage' to be a failure. The marketing vehicle failed to garner the respect it deserved as a commercial invention, nor did it provoke any sort of official investigation into the meaning of music.

The directors have, therefore, decided to run it again in the hopes of recouping lost prestige. A heavy and somewhat over enthusiastic investment in 'Return of the Avant-Garage' sticky-backed stage passes, it needs to be said, also features in the decision.

And so, a new LP, "**Cloudland**" is the featured item for 1989. It represents one more twist in a career path notable for hairpin turns and tortuous detours.

It happened this way.

Early into the "**Cloudland**" project, producer Stephen Hague stepped up, introducing himself as a long-time Ubu fan.

"We've always depended on the kindnesses of strangers," explains David Thomas. "Serendipity as a day to day, nuts and bolts operating principle has done the trick for us".

"We didn't know Stephen from Adam. The groups he produced had nothing in common with the avant-garage. And nobody had ever asked to produce us before. We figured it was a natural. Couldn't miss!"

Mr Hague recorded and produced four songs in a London studio, while Mute Records boss Daniel Miller mixed two and Dave Meegan ten of twelve more songs recorded and produced by Paul Hamann at Ubu's home studio in Cleveland.

The result is a radical departure from the sound and style of "The Tenement Year".

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"Tenement Year has a dense, awkward sound, very demanding," explains David Thomas. "We'd set out to throw in the works, kitchen sink and all. The 'concept' demanded that sort of approach."

"To repeat that sound would have been to parody ourselves. We set out to do the opposite sort of record -- an album of songs pared down to essential elements with tight arrangements and bold images."

"The Record Company wanted us to get back to our roots... 'whatever they are,' is what they said. This worried us because we didn't have any! Unless they'd meant pop music. And this made us happy. We'd never been asked to write a pop record before."

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CAPSULE HISTORY OF PERE UBU

- 1975 Cleveland, Ohio: **Pere Ubu** is organized as a studio band. Two songs recorded in September. Pleased by the results and intrigued by the possibilities of this "found" sound, the musicians agree to continue the project. They are David Thomas, Allen Ravenstine, Tom Herman, Peter Laughner, Tim Wright and Scott Krauss.
- 1976 Second and third singles released. Each has an international impact. First concert tours. Personnel upheavals are survived. (Ubu will go thru 9 major line-up changes and a total of 13 musicians in the next decade.) Tim Wright and Peter Laughner leave. Tony Maimone joins.
- 1977 Ubu takes up a weekly residency at a club in Cleveland's industrial flats. Ore boats dump ballast across the road. Next door is home of the mysterious Aeronautical Shot Peening Company. Ubu signs to a major label.
- 1978 "The Modern Dance" is released, *"one of the most groundbreaking, innovative albums of all time"* (John Gill "Q"). "Datapanik In The Year Zero" is released. Two concert tours of England and Europe. Two tours of America and Canada. "Dub Housing" is recorded and released.
- 1979 "New Picnic Time" is recorded. But as the year progresses frustrations cause the creative process to seize up. Ubu runs out of ideas, turns on itself and self destructs. Tom Herman leaves. By the end of the year, however, Ubu is reformed with Mayo Thompson, guitarist from the legendary 60's Texas group, Teh Red Crayola.
- 1980 The controversial "Art Of Walking" is recorded. Hailed as a masterpiece by some, dismissed by others. A productive and creative period of tours in the US and UK/Europe follows.
- 1981 Anton Fier replaces Scott Krauss. "Song Of The Bailing Man" is recorded. Personal squabbles and frustrations cause the creative process to seize up again. The sense that Ubu has run its course is pervasive.
- 1982 Ubu stops somewhere in the winter. No one has the will to push-start the old land tug one more time.
- 1986 Allen Ravenstine and Tony Maimone join David Thomas and The Wooden Birds to record "Blame The Messenger". Group includes Clevelander Jim Jones and former Henry Cow/Art Bears drummer Chris Cutler. Scott Krauss sits in at a Cleveland concert and agrees to join the next Wooden Birds project.
- 1987 It looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck: **Pere Ubu** reforms. Surprise tour of 12 American cities. "The Tenement Year" is recorded.