



SKIN YARD "BEYOND THE EYE" LINER NOTES

BANDCAMP EXCLUSIVE: Released December 4, 2020

This is a completely remixed, reworked and expanded version of the 5th Skin Yard album, originally titled "Inside The Eye" (1993), now with 4 bonus tracks. There will not be vinyl. Co-founder of the band, bassist Daniel House, is not on it, so you may not see much about this on the official skin-yard.com site; and singer Ben McMillan has sadly left the building, so this somewhat orphaned, transitional record is now my baby.

- Ben McMillan - lead vocals and some rhythm guitar (6, 7, 12, 13);
- Jack Endino - guitar, production, some backing vocals (1, 6, 8, 11);
- Pat Pedersen - bass;
- Barrett Martin - drums and percussion.
- Cover art: Jim Blanchard, 1993. Updated 2020.

Background: when Reciprocal Recording closed in summer 1991, I floundered somewhat for the next couple years between different studios, trying to find a mixing room I could be comfortable with. My mixes from that era suffered a bit, including this album, completed (like "Fist") as the band was breaking up.

With new bassist Pat, we had written new songs after the "Knuckles" album, and did a "demo" session at Reciprocal in May 1991 right before the studio closed, using Chris Hanzsek's Otari MX80 24-trk at 15IPS, but the songs were new and mostly played too fast. We then spent summer and fall of 1991 touring and playing these songs,

which evolved and got better. In early 1992, the band split (amicably) one last time: Ben's "side-project" Gruntruck had signed with Roadrunner, and Barrett was invited to join Screaming Trees!

But we all agreed to do one more Skin Yard album of the songs we had written and played throughout 1991, so in April 1992 we went into Avast Recording for our final session, trying to record all our "post-Knuckles" songs the way we had played them on the road. We used Stu's Ampex MM1200 16-track 2 inch at 15IPS. We needed two extra songs so Ben and me wrote "Miss You" and "Undertow" in the studio. We improved on everything else except "Fight" and "Western Wall", and then Ben got so busy with Gruntruck that I couldn't get him to come in and finish vocals on our new versions of "Blindfold" and "Slow Dive", so I had to fit the May 1991 "demo" versions of those four songs alongside the 1992 recordings on the rest of the album, which was finally released in 1993.

Fast-forward to the 2020 Lockdown, and I had the old 2" tapes and a food dehydrator to bake 'em, 30 years of mixing experience, and nothing but time... Why not remix the damn record like I did with "Fist"? On some songs I had originally gated the snare like an idiot (it was the era!) but now you can hear Barrett's grace notes. And now it's a cinch to fly a vocal from one recording onto another, so "Blindfold" and "Slow Dive" are presented as intended: the unheard 1992 full band versions of those songs in their final, fully-fleshed-out form, complete with all overdubs done at the time, but with Ben's 1991 vocals dropped in! I had no hesitation about just substituting these versions into this "new album" sequence, and you will hear why. The 1991 versions of those two songs (as used on the original album) are now remixed bonus tracks here, just for completeness. You be the judge. I was also able to fly some of my 1992 guitar parts back into the 1991 versions of "Fight" and "Western Wall", which was fun. (I had played it better so why not?) But nothing was re-recorded and no drum triggers were used. The other two bonus tracks here are the May 1991 demo versions of "Inside The Eye" and "Not In Love", never heard before, played blazing fast! Enjoy!

P.S. No clicks tracks were ever used on any Skin Yard album! :-)

Recorded at Reciprocal and Avast by JE 1991-1992. Remixed and remastered by JE during the 2020 lockdown.

THE SONGS:

01 Inside The Eye REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1992 at AVAST!

Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.

The only song I ever needed a stainless-steel guitar pick for, to get the riff to sound right in the studio. Can you tell I'm a Budgie fan?

Music: Jack, lyrics: Ben.

02 Miss You REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1992 at AVAST! Remixed

by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.

Never played live.

Music: Jack, lyrics: Ben

03 Not In Love REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1992 at AVAST! Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.

Skin Yard often played it much faster (see track 12!) but Ben made us slow it down for our final recording session, obviously more in his emerging Gruntruck style, which really annoyed some diehard Skin Yard fans (you know who you are). But we humored him, it was his song, and while I almost swapped the fast version into my new sequence here, you can tell that Ben sings this slow version much better, and I have to admit it was amusing for me and Barrett to play like this. The remix restores Barrett's grace-notes on the snare.

Music, lyrics: Ben

04 Undertow REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1992 at AVAST! Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.

The final song written for the record, never played live!

Music: Jack, lyrics: Ben

05 Wait For More REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1992 at AVAST!

Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.

We originally played it with different Ben lyrics and melody under the title "Paper Towers", but Ben (who was tired of us calling it "Paper Towels") started over from scratch and came up with a much better vocal approach. Barrett overdubbed the congas.

Music: Ben & Pat, except bridge and ending by Jack; lyrics: Ben

06 Fight REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1991 at Reciprocal, overdubs 1992 at Music Source. Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.

This was from the May 1991 "demo" session. Ben wrote the riffs, which resembled the riffs he wrote for "Psychoriflepowerhypnotized", but I think Barrett opted to rock it out more, making it maybe the fastest Skin Yard song ever. Our 1992 recording attempt couldn't beat this version.
Music, lyrics: Ben

07 Western Wall REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1991 at Reciprocal, overdubs 1992 at Music Source. Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.

This was from the May 1991 "demo" session. Barrett overdubbed the "clanks" hitting a big piece of steel! Our 1992 recording attempt couldn't beat this version.
Music: Ben & Pat; lyrics: Ben

08 Across The Wind REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1992 at AVAST! Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.
Music: Ben & Jack, lyrics: Ben

09 Blindfold Alt Version 1992 -- Music recorded by JE in 1992 at AVAST! Vocals recorded at Reciprocal, 1991.
Reconstructed and remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle. All the drums, bass and guitars were recorded in 1992, but I couldn't get Ben to sing over it, as he was busy with Gruntruck by then, with Skin Yard receding into his rear-view mirror. So these vocals are from the May 1991 version (track 13) used originally on the album.
Music, lyrics: Ben (though I changed his guitar riffs somewhat)

10 Slow Dive Alt Version 1992 -- Music recorded by JE in 1992 at AVAST! Vocals recorded at Reciprocal, 1991.
Reconstructed and remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle. All the drums, bass and guitars were recorded in 1992, but I couldn't get Ben to sing over it, as he was busy with Gruntruck by then, with Skin Yard receding into his rear-view mirror. So these vocals are from the May 1991 version (track 14) used originally on the album.
This was PROBABLY never played live, although I remember running thru it at a few sound checks, the last time somewhere in Germany.
Music: Jack (verses/ choruses) & Ben (the slow-heavy bridge and end parts); lyrics: Ben

11 Inside The Eye Alt Version 1991 -- Recorded by JE in 1991 at Reciprocal. Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.
This was from the May 1991 "demo" session. We play it like maniacs!
Music: Jack, lyrics: Ben

12 Not In Love Alt Version 1991 -- Recorded by JE in 1991 at Reciprocal. Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.
This was from the May 1991 "demo" session. This is the faster "less Truck, more Yard" version!
Music, lyrics: Ben

13 Blindfold REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1991 at Reciprocal, overdubs at Music Source. Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.
This is a remix of the original album version, which was recorded at the May 1991 "demo" session.
Music, lyrics: Ben

14 Slow Dive REMIX -- Recorded by JE in 1991 at Reciprocal, overdubs at Music Source. Remixed by JE in 2020 at Soundhouse, Seattle.
This is a remix of the original album version, which was recorded at the May 1991 "demo" session.
Music: Jack (verses / choruses) & Ben (the slow-heavy bridge and end parts); lyrics: Ben

Thanks! - JE