

Bloodied Sword

In our first 'request spot' article (thanks to David Turner for the suggestion) we take a brief look at **The Bloodied Sword**, one of the most elusive Ultravox-related albums ever released.

The album featured words written and spoken by Maxwell Langdown over a largely electronic backdrop which was composed and performed by Midge and Chris. The only other musician present was Kenny Hyslop, who provided percussion for a couple of the tracks.

The Sword's Theme

Sword Speaks

Gun

Propaganda Machine

Seer

The Haunting

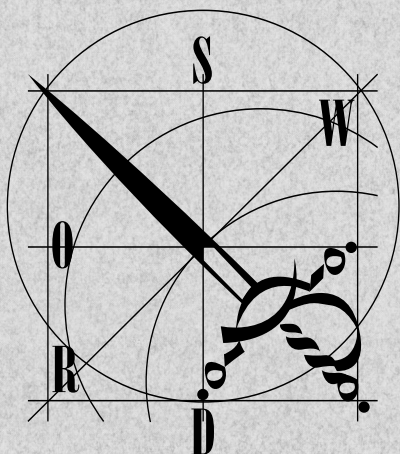
Warnings

Confrontation

Mercy

Alliance

Oceana's Theme



One with Man

Damnation

Threats

Propaganda

The Jester's Theme

The Pageant

Soliloquy

The Sword's Theme
(Part II)

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Information regarding this album is unfortunately a bit thin on the ground. However, in an interview which appeared in the first issue of the Ultravox Information Service (UIS), Pete Gilbert and Frank Drake asked Chris Cross about his involvement with **The Bloodied Sword**...

UIS: With Midge and Billy involved in Visage and Warren in Helden, you seem to be the only member of Ultravox who isn't involved in an outside musical project?

CC: Well, me and Midge have done that **Bloodied Sword** thing, that is completed in fact...

UIS: What is **The Bloodied Sword** exactly?

CC: It's incredibly difficult to describe, the nearest thing you can compare it to, is 'Modern Shakespeare' with electronic backing.

UIS: Is it verbal?

CC: Yes it's spoken and the speaker is a bloke called Max Langdown, he does all the narration and there must be a dozen parts. There's like midget clowns in it, there's a juggler, a fire-eater, a sword that speaks, a gun... we'll probably make

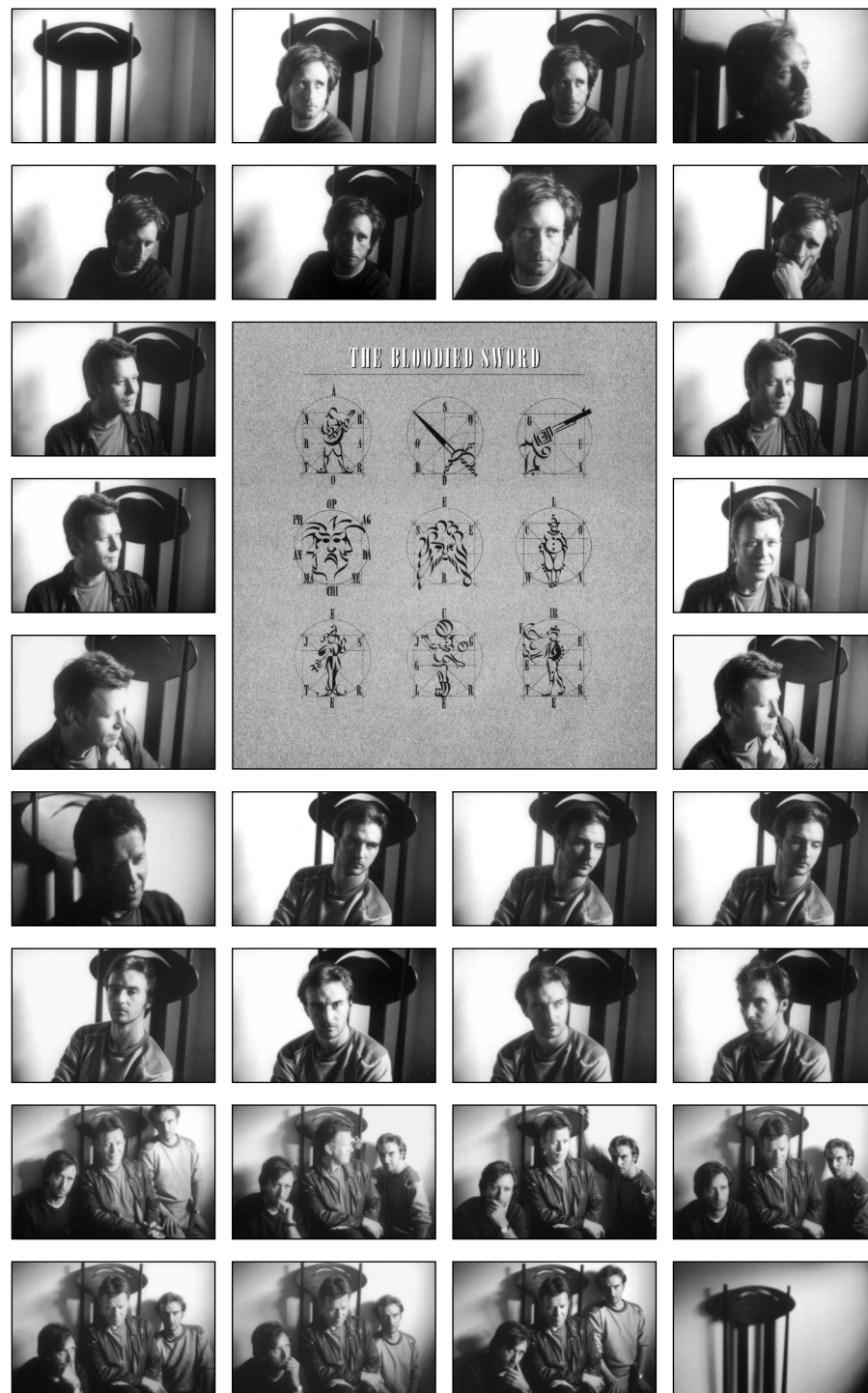
a play of it and get it put on in the theatre first. That's what we'd like to do anyway.

UIS: Do you think it will appeal to Ultravox fans?

CC: I don't think it's going to appeal to anyone (*laughs*). No, I think the people who like Ultravox will probably find it interesting, it's not a commercial project as such but it could become immensely popular, but it won't be on Top of the Pops. It could easily be on Arena or something like that though, on BBC2.

The album was recorded at three London Studios: Rockstar (1979-1980), Trident (1980-1981) and finally Mayfair (1981-1983) where it was mixed by John Hudson.

The Bloodied Sword received a limited release back in 1983 but only on vinyl and cassette, and as yet hasn't made the transition onto compact disc. However, as we mentioned in the Gold Mine article (pages 8 through 12) we're hoping that EMI Gold will consider making it available once again. As ever, watch this space...



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