

Incognito - Surreal (2012)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 29 June 2014 08:21 -

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01. *The Less You Know* (feat. Maysa) [5:01] 02. *Goodbye To Yesterday* (feat. Mo Brandis) [4:18] 03. *Above The Night* (feat. Natalie Williams) [4:03] 04. *Ain't It Time* (feat. Vanessa Haynes) [5:16] 05. *Capricorn Sun* (feat. Maysa) [3:49] 06. *Don't Wanna Know* (feat. Mo Brandis) [4:14] 07. *Restless As We Are* (feat. Natalie Williams) [4:40] 08. *Rivers On The Sun* [5:19] 09. *Don't Break Me Down* (feat. Vanessa Haynes) [4:20] 10. *The Stars From Here* (feat. Natalie Williams) [2:12] 11. *To Be With You* (feat. Vanessa Haynes) [6:15] 12. *This Must Be Love* (feat. Mo Brandis) [3:31] 13. *The Way You Love* (feat. Vanessa Haynes, Imaani & Mo Brandis) [6:08] 14. *Thoughtful Fantasies* (feat. Vanessa Haynes, Maysa & Mo Brandis) [6:11]

Jamie Anderson - Flute, Horn Arrangements, Saxophone Eric Appapoulaye - Guitars Pete Ray Biggin - Drums Mo Brandis - Keyboards, Producer, Vocals, Vocals (Background) Richard Bull - Bass, Drums, Guitars, Percussion, Producer João Caetano - Percussion Matt Cooper - Fender Rhodes, Keyboards, Producer Alexei Elfenbein - Bass, Composer Sid Gould - Flugelhorn, Horn Arrangements, Trumpet Vanessa Haynes - Vocals, Vocals (Background) Francis Hylton - Bass, Drums, Guitars, Keyboards, Percussion, Producer Imaani - Vocals, Vocals (Background) Jan Kinkaid - Drums Maysa Vocals, Vocals (Background) Ernie McKone Bass Francesco Mendolia Drums Trevor Mires - Horn Arrangements, Trombone Ski Oakenfull - Keyboards, Producer Camilla Pay - Harp Steve Thornton - Percussion Alistair White - Trombone Natalie Williams - Vocals, Vocals (Background)

After collaborating with the likes of Chaka Khan, spoken word artist Ursula Rucker, and Italian soul singer Mario Biondi on 2010's Transatlantic RPM, British acid jazz pioneers Incognito hand over the vocal reins to a younger crowd for their 15th studio album, *Surreal*. It's an inspired move showing that, 30 years on from their debut album, bandleader Jean-Paul "Bluey" Maunick still has his finger on the pulse. While longtime singers Maysa and Vanessa Haynes remain a vital part of the setup, the former kicking off proceedings in style with the bass-driven funk of "The Less You Know," the latter channeling the divas of the Studio 54 era on a cover of Queen Yahna's '70s cult disco classic "Ain't It Time," it's the new recruits who steal the show. German-born vocalist Mo Brandis displays a maturity and soulfulness far beyond his 26 years on the John Legend-esque lead single "Goodbye to Yesterday" and the summery jazz of "Don't Wanna Know," while Ronnie Scott's regular Natalie Williams justifies the Erykah Badu/Jill Scott

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comparisons on the gorgeously slinky chillout of "Restless as We Are" and the dreamy bossa nova of "The Stars from Here." If they can hang on to this highly talented lineup, then Incognito's future appears to be in very safe hands indeed. --- Jon O'Brien, Rovi

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