Prince - Around The World In A Day (1985)



A1 Around The World In A Day 3:25 A2 Paisley Park 4:41 A3 Condition Of The Heart 6:46 A4 Raspberry Beret 3:31 A5 Tamborine 2:46 B1 America 3:40 B2 Pop Life 3:42 B3 The Ladder 5:26 B4 Temptation 8:21 Prince - Bass, Composer, Drums, Guitar, Keyboards, Producer, Vocals Ann Atkinson - Bass Annette Atkinson - Bass Timothy Barr - Bass Brownmark - Bass, Vocals Denyse Buffum - Viola David Coleman - Cello, Composer, Darbouka, Finger Cymbals, Finger Snaps, Oud, Vocals, Wind Lisa Coleman - Keyboards, Sitar, Vocals Dr. Fink - Keyboards Eddie M. - Saxophone Susanna Hoffs - Vocals (Background) Suzie Katayama - Cello Jon Malvoin - Percussion Brad Marsh - Percussion, Tambourine, Vocals Jonathan Melvoin - Tambourine, Vocals (Background) Susannah Melvoin - Vocals Wendy Melvoin - Guitar, Percussion, Vocals Novi Novog - Violin Sheila E. - Drums, Guest Artist, Vocals Taj - Vocals Vaj - Violin Laury Woods - Viola Bobby Z - Drums

Purple Rain made Prince sound like he could do anything, but it still didn't prepare even his most fervent fans for the insular psychedelia of Around the World in a Day. Prince had made his interior world sound fascinating and utopian on Purple Rain, but Around the World in a Day is filled with cryptic religious imagery, bizarre mysticism, and confounding metaphors which were drenched in heavily processed guitars, shimmering keyboards, grandiose strings, and layers of vocals. As an album, the record is a bit impenetrable, requiring great demands of the listener, but individual songs do shine through: "Raspberry Beret" is a brilliant piece of neo-psychedelia with an indelible chorus, "Pop Life" is a snide swipe at stardom that emphasizes Prince's outsider status, "Condition of the Heart" is a fine ballad, "America" is a good funk jam, "Paisley Park" is heavy and slightly frightening guitar psychedelia, while the title track is a sunny, kaleidoscopic pastiche of Magical Mystery Tour. The problem is, only a handful of the songs have much substance outside of their detailed production and intoxicating performances, and the album has a creepy sense of paranoia that is eventually its undoing. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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