

Depeche Mode – Speak & Spell (1981/1988)

Written by bluesever

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01. *New Life* 3:46 02. *I Sometimes Wish I Was Dead* 2:18 03. *Puppets* 3:56 04. *Boys Say Go!* 3:08 05. *No disco* 4:15 06. *What's Your Name ?* 2:45 07. *Photographic* 4:43 08. *Tora! Tora! Tora!* 4:38 09. *Big Muff* 4:24 10. *Any Second Now (Voices)* 2:35 11. *Just Can't Get Enough* 3:44 12. *Dreaming Of Me* 4:01 13. *Ice Machine* 4:06 14. *Shout* 3:47 15. *Any Second Now* 3:09 16. *Just Can't Get Enough (Schizo Mix)* Synthesizer [Synthetics], Voices – Depeche Mode

Though probably nobody fully appreciated it at the time -- perhaps least of all the band! -- Depeche Mode's debut is at once both a conservative, functional pop record and a groundbreaking release. While various synth pioneers had come before -- Gary Numan, early Human League, late-'70s Euro-disco, and above all Kraftwerk all had clear influence on *Speak & Spell* -- Depeche became the undisputed founder of straight-up synth pop with the album's 11 songs, light, hooky, and danceable numbers about love, life, and clubs. For all the claims about "dated" '80s sounds from rock purists, it should be noted that the basic guitar/bass/drums lineup of rock is almost 25 years older than the catchy keyboard lines and electronic drums making the music here. That such a sound would eventually become ubiquitous during the Reagan years, spawning lots of crud along the way, means the band should no more be held to blame for that than Motown and the Beatles for inspiring lots of bad stuff in the '60s. Credit for the album's success has to go to main songwriter Vince Clarke, who would extend and arguably perfect the synth pop formula with Yazoo and Erasure; the classic early singles "New Life," "Dreaming of Me," and "Just Can't Get Enough," along with numbers ranging from the slyly homoerotic "Pretty Boy" to the moody thumper "Photographic," keep everything moving throughout. David Gahan undersings about half the album, and Martin Gore's two numbers lack the distinctiveness of his later work, but *Speak & Spell* remains an undiluted joy. ---Ned Raggett, AllMusic Review

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Z tym albumem krytycy i fani mają problem. Z jednej strony wieszają na nim psy za prostackie brzmienie prostackich kompozycji, z drugiej strony chwalą jednak przebojowość doceniając kunszt głównie Clarke'a. I prawda jak zwykle leży pośrodku. Nie można powiedzieć, że "Speak And Spell" jest płytą beznadziejną. Są tu w końcu tak doskonale nagrania jak "Tora Tora Tora", "Photographic", czy "New Life" (w edycji kompaktowej "Ice Machine" uznawane za jeden z najlepszych utworów Depeche Mode w ogóle!). ---muzyka.wp.pl

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