



23. Oktober 2022, Wien, Marxhalle
Einlass 18:00, Beginn: 20:00

Tickets:

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THE CURE - BIOGRAPHY - AS OF 2021/12/01

It all started in **1976** as Easy Cure, formed by Robert Smith (vocals, guitar) along with schoolmates Michael Dempsey (bass), Lol Tolhurst (drums) and local guitar hero Porl Thompson. They began writing and demoing their own songs almost immediately, playing throughout **1977** in Southern England to an ever growing army of fans. In **1978** the 'Easy' was dropped, along with Porl, and an eager trio now known simply as The Cure were quickly signed to Chris Parry's new Fiction label.

In May **1979** their debut album **Three Imaginary Boys** was released to great acclaim, and as the band toured extensively around the UK, the singles "Boys Don't Cry" and "Jumping Someone Else's Train" were released. Michael left the band at the end of the year, and Simon Gallup (bass) and Matthieu Hartley (keyboards) joined. In early **1980** the Cure quartet embarked on an exploration of the darker side of Robert's song writing, and emerged with the minimalist classic album **Seventeen Seconds**, along with their first bona-fide 'hit single' "A Forest."

After an intense world tour Matthieu left the group, and in early **1981** the trio recorded an album of mournful atmospheric soundscapes entitled **Faith**, which included another successful single in "Primary." The band then set out on a second global trek, named 'The Picture Tour', during which they released the non-album single "Charlotte Sometimes." In **1982** The Cure went back into the studio, and their increasingly ugly fascination with despair and decay culminated in the unrelenting sonic attack of the **Pornography** album. An intensely volatile tour ensued, and the single "The Hanging Garden" was released just as Simon left the band.

After pushing the limits of excess, Robert felt he had to change things, and did so by 'going pop' again. Rejuvenated, the Cure duo released their first real dance single, the cheesy "Let's Go To Bed," and during the making of the accompanying video forged a colourful and lasting relationship with director Tim Pope. The band continued into **1983** with the groovy electronic dance of "The Walk," followed by the demented cartoon jazz of "The Lovecats." All 3 singles and accompanying B-sides were then compiled and re-released as the **Japanese Whispers** album. In **1984** **The Top** album was released, a strange hallucinogenic mix, which contained the infectiously psychedelic single "The Caterpillar." The world Top Tour saw the band expand to a quintet, with the addition of Andy Anderson (drums) and Phil Thornalley (bass), and the return of Porl Thompson (guitar).

The new Cure sound was captured live for the album **Concert**. Andy and Phil left soon after the end of the tour, and were replaced by Boris Williams (drums) and further returnee Simon Gallup (bass). This new incarnation started work on **1985's The Head On The Door** album with a very real sense of 'something happening'... The vibrant hit single "Inbetween Days" was followed up

by "Close To Me," and the ensuing world tour paved the way for the massive success of the singles collection album **Standing On A Beach** in **1986**. That summer saw the band headline the Glastonbury Festival for the first time, and a year of extensive gigs and festivals was crowned by Tim Pope's live concert cinema film **The Cure In Orange**.

In **1987** The Cure brought out **Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me**, an immense double album of extreme and extraordinary stylistic range, and with the arrival of Roger O'Donnell on keyboards the Cure sextet traveled the world with 'The Kissing Tour', enjoying 4 more hit singles along the way. The wonderfully atmospheric **Disintegration** album was demoed in **1988** and released in **1989**, and despite being a work of powerful brooding grandeur, it too gave rise to 4 hit singles. The awesome 'Prayer Tour' that followed, with the band back down to a quintet following the departure of Lol Tolhurst, included some of The Cure's best performances to date, and was captured live for the album **Entreat**.

In early **1990** Roger O'Donnell left the group, and was replaced by long-time band friend Perry Bamonte, just in time for a series of headlining European festival shows that included the band's second Glastonbury. The album **Mixed Up** was released, supported by the re-mixed singles "Never Enough," "Close To Me" and "A Forest," and in **1991** The Cure at last won some long overdue 'home recognition' with a Brit Award for 'Best British Group'.

In **1992** they produced **Wish**, a richly diverse multi-faceted guitar driven album hailed by some as their best work to date. It spawned 3 fabulous hit singles, and the glorious 'Wish Tour' that followed was a worldwide sell-out. The sheer power of the shows inspired the release of two live works in **1993**, the album and concert cinema film **Show** and the more fan oriented **Paris** album. Immediately after the tour ended, guitarist Porl Thompson left the band again (this time with a smile!), and The Cure headlined the XFM 'Great Xpectations' Show in London's Finsbury Park as a quartet. The band also contributed "Burn" to the film 'The Crow' and covered "Purple Haze" for the Hendrix tribute album 'Stone Free'.

In **1994** Boris Williams decided to move on, and in early **1995** Jason Cooper took up residency behind the drum kit, with Roger O'Donnell rejoining once more on keyboards. Work on the next album was interspersed with recording "Dredd Song" for the film 'Judge Dredd', a cover of Bowie's "Young Americans" for an XFM album, and headlining several major European festivals, including the 25th Glastonbury. The **Wild Mood Swings** album was released in **1996**, and went straight into almost every top ten around the world. The Cure hit the road once more with 'The Swing Tour', their longest to date, releasing 4 singles along the way.

Galore, the follow up singles and video compilation to **Standing On A Beach**, which included the new single "Wrong Number", a full on dance epic made in collaboration with Bowie's guitarist Reeves Gabrels, was released in **1997**, after which work took place in **1998** on a variety of projects, including "More than This" for the 'X Files' album, and a memorable appearance by Robert in the TV cartoon show 'South Park'! In **1999** the band completed the recording and mixing of what many regarded as their best studio album so far, the 'Grammy Nominated' **Bloodflowers**. With its release in **2000** the band set off on the massive world-wide 'Dream Tour' - playing to more than a million people in 9 months.

2001 saw the long awaited release of the Cure's **Greatest Hits** album, which featured all the band's biggest selling singles along with 2 new songs, the elegiac "Cut Here" and the ebullient "Just Say Yes," a duet with Saffron. This year also saw the end of the group's relationship with Fiction Records, the label they had been instrumental in starting 23 years before.

In **2002** the band spent the summer headlining a number of European Festivals before going into rehearsals for two very special nights in November at the Tempodrom Berlin, where they performed all the songs from **Pornography**, **Disintegration** and **Bloodflowers** - plus encores! Both performances were shot in Hi-Def video on 12 cameras, and released on DVD as **Trilogy**.

In **2003** another chapter of The Cure story opened, the band signing a global album deal with the Geffen label. **2004** saw the Fiction release of **Join the Dots**, a 4cd Box set compiled by

Robert of all the B-sides and Rarities, followed by the widely acclaimed new album **The Cure**, co-produced with the renowned Ross Robinson. 3 singles, "The End Of The World", "alt.end" and "Taking Off" all hit big, and another hugely successful world tour ensued, with the 23 date North American 'Curiosa Festival' leg especially notable for seeing the band supported by a number of hand picked younger bands including Interpol, Mogwai, The Rapture and Muse. The year ended with an MTV Icon Award presented at a special televised London show.

In **2005** Perry Bamonte and Roger O'Donnell left the band and Porl Thompson joined for a third time. The quartet's debut show was headlining Live 8 Paris, followed by a number of other summer European Festivals. The first four Cure albums (**Three Imaginary Boys**, **Seventeen Seconds**, **Faith** and **Pornography**) were re-released, with Robert providing 'rarities' for Deluxe Edition extras CD's, as part of an ongoing campaign to re-master and re-issue all the Cure albums. Immediately after closing a week of Teenage Cancer Trust Shows at the Royal Albert Hall in April **2006**, the band started recording their 13th studio album, breaking off in June to allow Robert to work on a live DVD. In August the second set of re-releases (**The Top**, **The Head On The Door**, **Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me**, along with 1983's Glove album Blue Sunshine) was released, each album a 2CD Deluxe Edition. In November **Festival 2005**, a 155 minute 5.1 DVD comprising a 30 song selection of live performances captured the previous summer by a mix of fans, crew and 'on-the-night-big-screen cameras', was put out.

Spring **2007** saw The Cure headline the Miami Ultra Music Festival before heading back into the studio to continue work on new songs. The 11 show Australasian leg of 'The 4Tour' kicked off in July with a headline slot at the Fuji Rock Festival (the band's first performance in Japan since 1984!), before moving on through Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. In October the band headlined the San Francisco Download Festival, before playing 3 wild nights in Mexico City at the Palacio de los Deportes, followed by an outstanding performance at the MTV Latin America Awards.

In February **2008** The Cure ran the European leg of 'The 4Tour', and in May released "The Only One", the first of 4 singles to be released every 13th of the month for 4 months. "Freakshow", "Sleep When I'm Dead" and "The Perfect Boy" followed, and as the band continued 'The 4Tour' with a sell-out North American leg, all 4 singles reached #1 on the Billboard chart. Indeed, for one remarkable week in August, 4 Cure singles were in the USA Top 20 at the same time! In September the "Hypnagogic States" EP was released, featuring remixes of the first 4 singles by acclaimed younger artists. In October, 2 weeks prior to release, the new album **4:13 Dream** was performed in its 13 song entirety at a live broadcast MTV event in the Piazza San Giovanni in Rome before an estimated crowd of 75,000 and a TV audience of 10 million! The reaction to the event was awesome, with many critics and fans acclaiming the band's 13th studio album as a bona fide classic. The Cure finished the year in LA, playing a legendary 'Myspace Secret Show' at the Troubadour, followed by a memorable closing set at KROQ's 'Almost Acoustic Christmas'.

February **2009** saw the band celebrating their NME 'Godlike Genius' Award with two rousing shows performed at the Brixton Academy and the O2 Arena, followed in March by yet another visit to the west coast of America for an intimate performance at the Las Vegas Pearl Theatre, and a stirringly defiant broken-handed headline slot at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival! Porl Thompson left the band for the last time, and the rest of the year was taken up with a number of unusual collaborations, personal projects and work on restoring, transferring and digitising the entire back catalogue. In May **2010** a re-mastered **Disintegration** was re-released, Robert once again providing 'rarities' for a Deluxe Edition extras CD, as well as new mixes of the whole album played live in London 1989, released as **Entreat Plus**. More unusual collaborations, personal projects and continuing work on restoring, transferring and digitising the entire back catalogue filled the remainder of the year...

May **2011** saw the band fly to Australia to play two nights at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Vivid Festival. Initially planned to mark the 30th anniversary of the **Faith** album, the **Reflections** show did far more. First a Cure trio of Robert, Simon and Jason performed the **Three Imaginary Boys** album, then Roger O'Donnell rejoined the band and The Cure quartet played the **Seventeen Seconds** album, and finally Lol Tolhurst stepped back onstage with the

band for the first time in 23 years to perform **Faith** and assorted B-sides and singles. Both extraordinary nights were filmed with a future DVD release in mind... In September The Cure quartet headlined Bestival, a unique 150 minute performance filmed and broadcast live in 3D, and released as a charity CD **Bestival Live 2011**, and in November the band, once again abetted by Lol, played 7 more sold-out Reflections shows - 1 in the Royal Albert Hall, 3 in the Pantages Theatre LA and 3 in the Beacon Theatre NYC.

In May **2012** renowned guitarist Reeves Gabrels joined The Cure in time for 'Summercure 2012', a run of 19 major European summer festival headline spots, starting at Pinkpop and ending at Eire's Electric Picnic, including epic sets at Roskilde, Werchter, Hurricane, the bands first ever show in Russia at the Maxidrom Festival, Les Eurockeeses, Vieilles Charrues, Paleo and Reading & Leeds along the way. All the shows were filmed in various formats "with a future DVD release in mind"...

April **2013** saw The Cure flying out to Rio de Janeiro for the first show of a stadium tour of Latin America, with debut performances in Paraguay, Chile, Peru and Colombia, a return to Buenos Aires for the first time in 26 years and a truly monumental final 50 song 257 minute Mexican concert to celebrate Robert's birthday, as a 5.9 magnitude earthquake rocked the Foro Sol around them! All 9 shows were filmed by Tim Pope "with a future DVD release in mind"... In July the band set off on a 13 day trip around the world billed as 'The Great Circle Tour', headlining South Korea's Ansan Rock, Japan's Fuji Rock, Chicago's Lollapalooza and Canada's Osheaga festivals, via another inaugural show in Honolulu, Hawaii! In October the band returned to the USA to close out two consecutive Saturday nights at the Austin City Limits festival, playing in Monterrey and El Paso in between days... In November The Cure played their last concert of the year, a stirring finale appearance at New Orleans infamous Voodoo festival...

In March **2014** The Cure played two colossal nights at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust, and in May they travelled back to the USA to headline the Bottlerock Napa Valley Festival. In September they headlined the North American Riot Festivals in Toronto, Chicago and Denver, and in December the band made surprise appearances at both nights of Brian Cox and Robin Ince's 'Christmas Compendium of Reason' shows at the Eventim London Apollo, before playing three magical '**Top** heavy' concerts of their own in the same venue. **2015** saw another strange assortment of personal projects, unexpected collaborations and ongoing ventures...

After a year away from live performance, the band came back with a bang - 'The Cure World Tour **2016**'!!! Starting in May with a couple of nights at the New Orleans Lakefront Arena, with support from The Twilight Sad the band played 87 different songs for almost a million people at 76 shows in 22 countries, never playing the same setlist twice! Highlights included three phenomenal concerts at The Hollywood Bowl, three more at Madison Square Garden, another riotous trip 'Down Under', a stomping return to Bestival IOW, all crowned by a glorious grand finale: three December nights at the SSE Arena Wembley London, with the band playing music for more than 9 delirious hours!

2017 was spent remixing/remastering outstanding back catalogue albums, as well as writing and demoing new songs, and **2018** continued in the same vein. In April a re-mastered **Mixed Up** was re-released, Robert once again providing 'rarities' for the Deluxe Edition extras CD in the form of **Torn Down**, a collection of 16 brand new remixes. June saw Robert Smith's **Meltdown** - the 25th iteration of the world renowned Festival - a 10 day 90 band spectacular spread across 6 venues at London's Southbank Centre, climaxing in the Royal Festival Hall with a unique appearance by The Cure (as 'Curætion-25') performing '*From There To Here And Back Again*' - a 'concept set' showcasing 2 tracks from every one of The Cure's studio albums, as well as a couple of as yet unreleased songs. In July the band headlined a very special anniversary event in front of a 65,000 capacity crowd in London's Hyde Park, celebrating almost to the day the 40th anniversary of their first ever concert as The Cure. It was an amazing experience, and generally acclaimed as one of the best shows the band had ever played. Once again the performances were filmed in various formats, with editing and mixing taking place throughout the rest of the year.

In February **2019** The Cure went into Rockfield Studios to record 13 new songs and rehearse for what was destined to be a very intense year. In March the band performed in South Africa for the very first time, followed by a trip to the Barclays Centre NYC where they were introduced by Trent Reznor and *finally* inducted into the Rock'n'Roll Hall Of Fame! May saw The Cure in Australia performing a 30th Anniversary **Disintegration** show over 5 nights at the Sydney Opera House, and in June the band commenced a 3 month run of 25 Festival headlines, including Pinkpop, Roskilde, Werchter, Rock en Seine and Fuji (with Simon Gallup's son Eden on bass), as well as first time performances in Croatia, Serbia and Romania, a record equalling 4th time at Glastonbury, and a final epic show at the Cure curated Pasadena Daydream Festival. In September the band went back into Rockfield Studios to record another 7 new songs, and October saw them return to the Americas for another 2 headline appearances at the Austin City Limits Festival (the second with Eden Gallup again on bass), the shows bracketing a monumental 36 song 3 hour epic at a sold out Foro Sol in Mexico City. October also saw the 2018 concerts, 'Curætion-25' and 'Anniversary' released together as **40 Live** in cinemas and various formats around the world. In recognition of the band's amazing run of shows the previous Summer, February **2020** saw The Cure winning *Best Festival Headliner* at the NME awards in London, and in March... Covid! The rest of a very hot and very weird year was spent on more unusual collaborations, personal projects and continuing work on new songs... as was **2021**... and then...

(Tim Brothers)

THE CURE (2021):

ROBERT SMITH - VOICE & GUITAR
SIMON GALLUP - BASS
JASON COOPER - DRUMS
ROGER O'DONNELL - KEYBOARD
REEVES GABRELS - GUITAR