



## What is David Thomas and two pale boys?

David Thomas and two pale boys is avant-garde traditional blues, from the future, performed using post-dance technology.

David Thomas and his wild guitar & trumpet splinter group, the two pale boys, generate strange new shapes, rolling stories and sonic panoramas out of spontaneous deconstructions. The see-sawing of a melodeon gives way to cascading electronica and expressionistic soundscapes— sometimes pulsating and abrasive, sometimes mysterious and exploratory. Through it all runs the mordant wit of one of the most distinctive and charismatic singers in modern music.



Keith, David and Andy

David Thomas is the founder of the legendary Pere Ubu, an avant-rock group that's exerted a huge influence on the way countless bands have approached music since 1975. Formed in 1994, the two pale boys redefine the partnership of voice and instrument in pursuit of a vehicle robust, spontaneous, and parochial enough to speak with the true voice of the human experience. It is urban folk music purged of urbanity, and rooted in the geography of sound.

Andy Diagram (Diagram Brothers, James, The Honkies, The Spaceheads) plays trumpet through radio receivers, echo machines & delays, layering sound-on-sound cascades of electronica. Keith Moliné (They Came From The Stars I Saw Them, Infidel) manipulates multiple voices, dynamic calamities, delicate whispers, and angular rhythms via a midi-guitar setup.

The most recent album is 18 MONKEYS ON A DEAD MAN'S CHEST (Smog Veil, Glitterhouse & Bomba). The BBC chose it as Album of the Week for April 5 2004 describing it as "Strange, compelling, terrifying and great." The Wire, April 2004, said, "A wider, more disorientating terrain that exists way beyond the stifling, intimate concerns of rock 'n' roll... a feeling of faint existential terror."

The previous release, SURF'S UP! (Thirsty Ear, Glitterhouse & Bomba), "is harrowing and haunting, beautiful and haunted stuff in which to both lose and find yourself," according to Time Out. The Guardian featured it as "CD of The Week." The band's first studio album, EREWHON, is "red-blooded, haunted and literally fantastic," according to The Wire.

The combo produced the improvisational opera MIRROR MAN which premiered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London, in 1998, toured 7 cities in Great Britain in 2001, and had its US debut at the Freud Playhouse, UCLA, Feb 22 2003. Mojo called Mirror Man "a tour de force." As well they featured in the London West End production of the "junk opera" SHOCKHEADED PETER for a 3 month run at the Albery Theatre, St Martins Lane from April 4 to June 16, 2002. Recently, David Thomas and the pale orchestra - Andy & Keith plus Jackie Leven and Dids - have been presenting "Reflections in A Mirror Man," a multimedia condensation of the full-length production.

**Press Quotes:**

"Ceaselessly inventive" *The Sunday Times*

"A gloriously garrulous, diffidently divine, pumping, wheezy, melodeon-driven, contemporised avant-folk... Twisted and inspired, it is like everything and nothing you've ever heard, [they] are now creating a whole new kind of strange and affecting beauty." *Time Out*

"They deconstructed musical forms and let them flow into strange, beautiful new shapes. The audience was prepared to hear difficult, left-field, probably indulgent art-music, but was swept off its feet by Thomas's essential humanity. By the time he'd left the stage, emotional peaks had been scaled by the most unexpected of routes, and there can hardly have been anyone in the building who hadn't felt it." *The Scotsman*

"Grown men cried" *The Financial Times, reporting on their Edinburgh Festival appearance*

Best of The Edinburgh Festival 1998, Music.

**David Thomas and two pale boys is:**

David Thomas: singer, melodeon

Keith Moliné : midi-guitar electronics

Andy Diagram: trumpet electronics

**Internet Resources:**

18 MONKEYS web page: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/hearpen/18m.html>

Surf's Up! web page: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/hearpen/surfsup.html>

Erewhon web page: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/erewhon.html>

David Thomas photos: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/dtpix.html>

2pbs photos and art: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/pbpix.html>

More on the 2pbs: <http://www.ubuprojex.net/pbs.html>