

## The Love Idea Final Production Notes from Casey Hallas 4/22/23

Dear The Future,

Infinite Tapestry Presents:

The Love Idea

A message from 30 year old Casey Hallas

With  
Music and Lyrics by  
Casey Hallas

Recorded at Big Blue Meanie in Jersey City, 2006.  
Edited and mastered in Omaha, 2023.

Back then there were all these hipsters in Brooklyn, with big bands making grooves like they thought they were the Talking Heads and really it was just a bunch of extra people on stage playing overpriced toys they found at thrift stores in Williamsburg. Plus to me, it wasn't efficient - because with a sequence remixer you could add all those extra parts for a lot less money than touring with a busload of people who don't like to take their toys out of the box. I was poor, living with my girlfriend in Carroll Gardens and she said I dominated the space. So with this in mind we set out to create a great record.

Tim was a big scary-looking guy. Like a guy who played a lot of hard rock and knew how to hunt. But a sweetheart and a demon going from one thing to the next. I really wanted a chance to work with the legendary Lee Zappas. We drove through the sessions like Large Marge - Tim with a plan the whole time. Lee started coming over after work when he could and we edited the songs while using every inch of the studio and practically every technology available.

Recording studios are necessarily closed off from the world to block sound so when you get there it gets like a cave. A cave of your own delusion and personal failure. It's the job of the producer to drive it forward, even if he doesn't like the music. He knows how to get the energy up and keep his composure and to lay out the truth or hide it. That's Tim. Plus he knows how to make records.

I left the studio at the end of October with mixed tracks from all the original sessions, files and stems - those are the elements of the sound broken into groups: drums, vocals, bass, guitar...so on.

Begin Notes from 2023

Rearranged order of the songs. I'm thinking about the tone from song to song, what raises it up and back down and how the energy plays through the record. I can pat myself on the back for the midwestern accent coming through now. It's part of the charm

and what once I hated. It's part of the idiom.

You could think of this as a rock opera about going to a dangerous liberal arts college and the turn of the century.

## The Love Idea Side 1

### Track 1: The Love Idea

Put The Love Idea first. Cut out a verse and put the second half of the song at the end of the album. Tim was upset about the flange overlay over the whole output, and I suppose he's right but I'm not able to convert the SD2 stems without reaching out to a studio. I was guilty of trying to make it sound like Bold as Love. It has a sound. And it's cool how the narrative is split between the front and back of the album now. BTW I had a terrible cold the day I had to sing this.

Update: a friend of a friend at the guitar store said he'd try to convert SD2s for me so there may yet be a The Love Idea remix in the future.

### Track 2: Lovers for Life

Cut Lovers for Life into 2 parts. The vocal part fading out to the jam. And the jam as part 2. As Tim said, he liked it better without the kick drum running through but same as above. I'd have to go back in to mix. And as a separate piece, it works in the album art form better. Plus splits up my vocal to space out the songs so there's a break from my tenor. The other idea was to do a long mix where I just turn the back half into a drum solo by taking out the bass kick and synth jam. That would be so Tim could have a drum solo, or free him from the lockdown I put down on the groove. But it's dope and swings a little.

Special note: there's a note in the vocals here even the pitch correct couldn't fix. Tim asked me about it...what do you think? Should we leave it, should we force it? It may be the perfect microtone or what keeps it off the radio. Not sure. Basically, you need to forgive the AI for not being perfect.

### Track 3: The Dying Schools

Cut a few lines out of The Dying Schools.

### Track 4: Cosmic Stream

Cut a verse out of DJ Spanky and it's renamed Cosmic Stream. I did a sweet slip edit from the drum fill in the back half to meet up with the end of the verse at the cut point... first try. No way this will work I thought but I used the force and channeled Tim. It's perfect, thanks to all the drum quantization. Song about going to raves and running around naked.

#### Track 5: Lovers for Life Pt. 2

Put the back end of Lovers for Life here on what would be the end of Side 1 on an LP.

Update: looks like Side 2 will actually start with Safety First. Totally OK with that.

#### Track 6: I Won't Learn to Lie

#### The Love Idea Side 2

Cut some lines out of I Won't Learn to Lie. Tim didn't like the new synth bass and organ but I felt like a bun for not having written a single bass part for this other than the synth stuff. So I wrote this and it muffed up the track a little, according to him. It's also the only song with a guitar solo. Could fix with SD2s.

Update: I like it...sounds squelchy.

#### Track 7: Safety First

Safety First faded out the instrumental jam earlier in the mix during the final chorus. I really didn't like my vocal on this one but I do a different arrangement now without the synth parts and the melody changed a bit so this version is kind of classic and had a lot to do with Tim's influence on the record. Tim said he imagined the guitar solo on the radio some day.

#### Track 8: A.C.O.D.

Cut a verse and chorus out of A.C.O.D. Mom liked my vocal on this one. She said she thought this is what I actually sounded like. We all listened to The Love Idea together in Iowa City when she was sick.

#### Track 9: Meow Power

Mao Power renamed Meow Power to get it into China. Straight mix from Tim. Written about when I came back to school the second half of my Junior year. I'm class of '99 now leotards. Tom says I shouldn't have paid \$10,000 for something I could have done at home. Why did Lee tell him I spent 10K? That's what I want to know. Going to submit this song to the ASCAP Earth Day contest as soon as the record is out.

Why not put the single toward the back of the album like Sam Saunders on Onto-Communication Rescue?

#### Track 10: Tom's Flight to India

About Tom Z getting the F out of the country for a semester. I had to write a song about it because I had nowhere to go. I liked his songwriting but it wasn't really the kind of music I wanted to make and that's why I quit the band. Plus I have to admit this so

many years later I was kind of just being a punk to see how people would react because I was studying you. You see where Gonzo gets you?

#### Track 11: Hallas Flyby

Imagine me flying around with a copy of The Love Idea in my hand and waving every time Tim does a drum fill. Then I cover my face during the final big fill, crash through the window and end up at the bottom of the stairs holding the album. Special delivery. It's how I make sense of Tim wanting to put a window crash and THEN a stair stumble at the end of Safety First.

#### Track 12: The Love Idea Pt. 2

The Love Idea Pt. 2 last. The end is noisy and ends abruptly. But I think the theme of the record comes through and the live version has a better arrangement now anyway. Why the flange? Because The Love Idea is going away in time. You hear it end and think to yourself. Should I listen to that again? Boom, got you hooked.

I thought about going back into the studio...but after listening again, and the edits I'd done in my head - I just can't go back and sound young again. I wanted more Dust Brothers production but it's Tim collaboration that makes this a statement about him too. Even if it's not as good as I wanted it to be, and I wasn't as prepared as I should have been we worked really hard on it and it's a work of art now. I mastered this from MP3's from the original production, in Logic. \$10,000 sounds like a million bucks thanks to co-producers Lee Zappas and Tim Gilles.

Goodbye 2006. Don't be in a Toy Band - be a Post-folk God.

Can't wait to see you in the future.

Infinite Tapestry Co. 2023