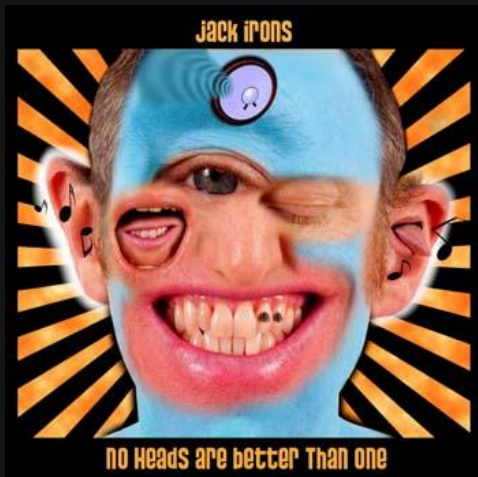


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2010-09-07 VeniceQueen.it interviews Jack Irons

**VeniceQueen.it** Could you introduce your new album to your fans, maybe with a track by track? (or if you wish, with an adjective or an info concerning each song)



**Jack Irons** «- “Sonic Tonic”: Drum solo lick gone song.

- “Doubloons”: The double stroke drum solo with a building of musical layers type of thing.

- “Right between the Ears”: More in depth musical work necessarily went into this one.

- “Moon Tune”: Building on one theme.

- “Submarine Fez”: Probably the hardest one to finish and needed the help of my good friend Alain Johannes.

- “Love is all we want”: Each musical element was born in a quick musical moment.

- “Psy-Fi Disco”: Another more in depth work that came together through a series of experimental approaches.

- “Nothing Opens Everything”: Born in 1999 and was completed this last year with the help of Alain Johannes and my son Zach.

- “Timbale Space Stew”: Drums performed on an old Slingerland kit I don’t

have anymore while drinking wine.

- “1998”: One of the few things I did in the year after my departure from Pearl Jam.

- “Don’t Sock Me”: Recorded in Seattle in the same sessions as the cover version of “Shine On You Crazy Diamond” from *Attention Dimension*.

**VQ.it** What are the differences between *Attention Dimension* and the new record? Why did you wait so long (six years) to release another solo album?

**J.I.** I did all the production for the new record. I mixed it and fewer guest appearances on *No Heads Are Better Than One*. I had to learn how to use the studio a lot more on the new record. Also I wanted to make the arrangements of the songs more concise and shorter than *Attention Dimension*. Learning to do all the production and working new material and just living life took some time.

**VQ.it** And what about your Drum Kit set evolution during the last 3 decades? Have you changed any setting ?

**J.I.** My drum set up hasn’t changed too much. In my earliest days I did you use 2 rack toms. Ever since the 90’s though I have been using 1 rack tom. That is pretty much the only difference.

**VQ.it** Could you tell us some anecdotes about the What Is This project? For example, did you or Hillel write any track for the album (or the EP)? Why did the band choose to cover “I’ll Be Around” for the LP?

**J.I.** All the songs for What Is This were written by Alain Johannes and/or Hillel and some songs were born out of jams. I did not do any writing back in those days. Hillel, Alain and I had been collaborating ever since we were 14 years old. We worked together all the time from 1978-1985. What Is This was a real hard working band but just didn’t have the success. “I’ll Be Around” was a choice by the producer, Todd Rundgren.



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**VQ.it** How many original videoclips have been released for What Is This and who was the director? 'Cause on Youtube I have found only "Mind My Have Still I". We have a lack of information about this unrated band on internet. (and I've never found *3 Out of 5 Live* EP).

**J.I.** There was a video for "I'll Be Around" but we had a big problem at the video shoot and as a result that video didn't come out the way it was intended. *3 Out of 5 Live* EP was basically a promotion for the band. We didn't intend it to be a record at the time. Just some promotional recordings and live studio appearances.



**VQ.it** On which tracks do you play in Walk The Moon debut? (I have read your guest on it but I can't find anything on your discography by [Jackrions.com](http://Jackrions.com)). Are you in the second cd too? (it was leaked on internet some years ago, but without credits)

**J.I.** There were about 5 or so tracks with acoustic drums and those were with me. The rest of tracks had electronic drums.

**VQ.it** What's your favourite Eleven album? Why?

**J.I.** My favourite Eleven album is most likely *Howling Book*, there are some great songs on that one. There also is some unfinished material that we were working on in the years before Natasha passed that I really think sounds great. With all these recordings we were doing it ourselves and could make our own creative decisions. I think that was important for Eleven to create in the best way possible.

**VQ.it** Keith Levine's "If Six Was Nine" cover on *Violent Opposition* was the last time/song you played with Slovak (RHCP except). Did you remember any impression about that session? How did you manage to overcome the loss of a friend like Hillel?

**J.I.** The song came out years after it was recorded I believe. So, I played with Hillel for a great deal after the actual recording. I don't remember much about the session. It was a home studio I recall. Time had a way of healing the wounds of losing such a good friend.

**VQ.it** I've read you play synthesizer, keyboard bass, organ, organ bass, horns, guitar. When did you learn to play all these instruments?

**J.I.** I only play them experimentally for my own recordings. I can't really perform with them. Drums are my only instrument.

**VQ.it** It was very touching to see you with Flea and Vedder on may 2007 on stage, who came up with the idea of playing together and how? Are you still in touch with them?

**J.I.** Eddie was scheduled to play the show on his own and asked us if we wanted to play part of the set as a trio. Since the show was a benefit for Flea's music school, The Silverlake Conservatory of Music, it was easy to come together. That was a lot of fun and I really enjoyed playing with them. We keep in touch from time to time.

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**VQ.it** Do you still listen your old records?

**J.I.** I don't actually listen to vinyl too much but I love the music I grew up listening to. I recently have been listening to some Motown and older R&B.

**VQ.it** And your own works (like Eleven, Pearl Jam, Red Hot etc...)?

**J.I.** I listen to those records to some of the records I played on from time to time but usually when my kids want to play them in the car or when I want to play it for someone.

**VQ.it** What's your favourite *The Uplift Mofo Party Plan* track? Which Peppers' song did you enjoy playing the most?

**J.I.** Hard to say a favorite or what song I enjoyed playing the most, but I did like "Backwoods" very much.

**VQ.it** Tell us some artists/bands or cd that you listen on this period.

**J.I.** Earth Wind and Fire, The Four Tops and The Spinners.

**VQ.it** What have been your thoughts working with Courtney Love?

**J.I.** Working on the Courtney record was a good time. I am friends with the producer, Michael Beinhorn and always enjoy working with him. It was very much a studio session and not like I was in the band. It went pretty easily and quickly.

**VQ.it** Are you going to play any gig in Europe to promote *No Heads Are Better Than One*, maybe in Italy?

**J.I.** Unfortunately I have no plans of that. It would be difficult to try and perform my solo music live. The way the music was created doesn't lend itself to being performed naturally.

**VQ.it** Is there anything you wanna say to the Italian fans and the VeniceQueen.it readers?

**J.I.** Thank you for supporting my career and music!



Interview by *Gidan Razorblade*