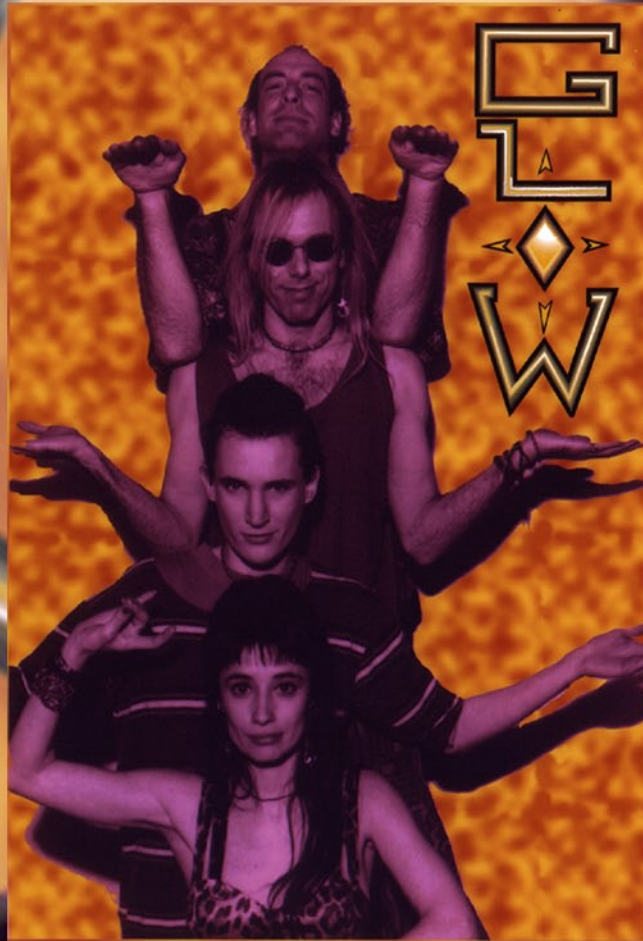


GLW

and The Department of Luminosity



Unavailable At All Good Record Shops

(2021 Resurrection)

1. Ela É Mar (She Is The Sea)

(8'16")

(Ardron, Branco, Walinets, Bagpuss)

2. Yeh!

(6'41")

(Ardron, Branco, Walinets)

3. Já Não Sei (I Don't Know)

(7'11")

(Ardron, Branco, Walinets, Bagpuss, Benjafield)

4. Alien Dream

(7'09")

(Ardron, Branco, Walinets)

5. E Mais (And More)

(9'47")

(Ardron, Branco)

6. Glide

(7'44")

(Ardron, Branco, Walinets)

7. Nearly Home

(9'15")

(Ardron, Branco)



The long and tortuous story of Unavailable at All Good Record Shops

In 1996, as we were nearly finishing what would have been our first album, disaster struck. A hard drive holding 18 month's worth of programming went down losing everything and stopping us from going on to the final mixes. By the time we were told the data could not be recovered we were already onto new material and it was hard to go back.

Eventually we bowed to pressure to make these songs available in some way and did so, on cassette only, just at gigs, as a 'collection of unreleased demos' - a status emphasized by its title.


The plan/hope was always to go back at some point to reprogramme and properly finish the album but though a few starts were made it did not go far.

One of the better mixes - Ela É Mar - had got a lot of airplay from iconic DJ Charlie Gillett, along with tracks from our second album, and had appeared on a couple of compilations - Dubxotic Ethnofunkadelia and Electr' Oriental Delight so in 2002 after my first (pretty successful) attempt to master anything - Glow's third album Enfeitiçada - I decided to also master the first two and the result was such an improvement in Unavailable that I failed to notice for years that I had somehow managed to do it largely in mono! Even with the improvement there was still no getting away from the poor, rough, mixes, particularly Já Não Sei and we spent quite a time trying to decide whether to keep it or replace it with another early track, Ai O Meu Amor. In the end, as we all loved the song despite the awful mix, we decided to include it but add Ai O Meu Amor too as a consolation for a CDR version of the album

In 2017 I decided it was time to finally give the Glow catalogue a digital download release and as a matter of course had another look at the mastering but the project got shelved for the time being, mainly due to some difficult decisions, such as whether to use the new or old masters as there seemed to be little or no improvement in anything but the now stereo Unavailable, and the same old question of whether or not to include Já Não Sei, which increasingly seemed unacceptable as it stood.

When I returned to it at the start of 2021 I decided I had to at least try to see if there was a way of improving at least Já Não Sei. So I dusted off my old 8-track reel-to-reel and recorded all the live parts from tape into the computer and attempt to line them up with the original unmastered mix to overdub them - not easy for a number of reasons, not least of which being that the different format recordings were running at slightly different, and sometimes varying, speeds (and hence pitches), as well as the potential sound problems from overdubbing identical, but slightly out, recordings. The first attempt wasn't great but despite some oddness from the combination of vocal recordings it was already a big improvement so one by one I started doing the same thing with 4 of the other tracks, none of them in such dire need of repair but all benefitting from it. But after coming across some of our old backing tracks I decided to try using them instead of the mixes, an idea I'd initially rejected because of the keyboard parts that might be missing. The results were as big an improvement on the first attempts as they had been on the original, so in the end I redid everything. Some of the backing tracks were slightly different from the mixes but are more likely to have been later than earlier versions, so closer to what would have been intended for the final mixes.

So except for Ela É Mar, which I had largely reprogrammed a couple of years after we lost the drive, and more importantly rendered most of the original sounds, so was able to give it near to a proper mix, we have ended up with a combination of the original recordings of the live parts, backing tracks, small portions of the original mixes in places, and a small amount of programming to replace missing parts.



I did toy with the idea of reprogramming the whole album from scratch, and the end product in theory would have been of better quality, but too many of the original sounds would have been lost and what I really wanted was an optimized version of our original intention rather than a new version and I think this gets pretty close to that.

It's worth bearing in mind that till around the end of my time with Glow I neither thought of or referred to myself as a producer - I was a composer first and musician (a fairly distant) second, and my assumption was still, as it had always been, that nothing was ever going to sound 'proper' unless you got into a studio with a producer, which had also sadly resulted in me doing very little over the years to increase my knowledge and skills in that domain, so it is worth noting that despite the constraints I faced doing this reconstruction, even if I had been able to finish Unavailable in the 90s there is little reason to believe it would have been better than it now is! At one point the album was to have been produced by Martin Russell and Simon Emmerson but the runaway success of Afro Celt Sound System prevented them from doing so. I have no doubt it would have been a masterpiece if that had happened but I think after 25 years we do at least finally have a reasonably tolerable of the album!

When we were thinking how to title this album - less than a Remix but much more than a Remaster - I looked up 'rescue' in a thesaurus and it nearly ended up as the 2021 Disembarrassment which perfectly described how I felt about it but as it really has come back from the dead the 2021 Resurrection seems equally fitting!

Ai O Meu Amor has now been removed but new versions of that and the four other tracks we wrote and gigged before this album will be released in 2022 as the Lost Treasures EP.

Pete, October 2021



GLOW

Maria João Branco - Lead and Backing Vocals
Pete Ardron - Keyboards & Programming, Guitar, Backing Vocals
Karl Walinets - Bass, Backing Vocals
Bagz - Percussion, Didgeridoo

and from **The Department of Luminosity**
Jo Benjafield - Vocals (tr 3), Tunisian Pipe (tr 1)
Margie Newens - Violin (tr 1)

recorded at Pink Hamster 1995-7, nearly produced by Pete
~~mastered 2002~~
~~remastered 2017~~
reconstructed and remastered by Pete 2021

photo - Erika Schneiders, original graphics - Mandy Peers, additional design - Pete
in loving memory of Jo Benjafield who passed away a few months before this was finished

Pink Hamster Recordings PHDD21