

Arntz, W. (2003) "Cool Water" [album track 3 (special edition), CD] *Change* InsideOut: UK, Ger *DPRP CD Reviews - 2003 - Volume 18*. [online] Available at: <http://www.dprp.net/reviews/200318.html> [Accessed: 10 Feb 2013].

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Ray Wilson - Change



Country of Origin:	UK
Format:	CD
Record Label:	Inside Out
Catalogue #:	IOMCD 123
Year of Release:	2003
Time:	41.14
Info:	Ray Wilson
Samples:	MP3 sample

Tracklist: Intro (0:26), Goodbye Baby Blue (3:58), Change (4:09), Along The Way (3:39), Yesterday (2:31), Beach (2:26), Oh If You Want To (3:26), Beautiful Child (2:57), She Fades Away (3:34), I Look For You There (2:55), Believe (3:03), Another Day (3:49), The Last Horizon (4:12)

Bart's Review

It's hard to think of this as Ray Wilson's debut album, after all he's been around for quite some time. Scored a worldwide hit with hardrock band *Stillskin*, with the single *Inside*. He then moved on to replace one Phil Collins in a small unknown band called *Genesis*, and was subsequently unjustly blamed for the demise of that band.

Ray went on to form the band *Cut* with his brother Steve (no, not "that" Steve Wilson), with which they had some success in Germany.

Last year we reviewed the excellent album *Live And Acoustic* which was recorded at a successful Scottish pub tour in Ray did in 2000, and earlier this year he scored a minor hit with Dutch DJ Armin van Buuren, with the song *Yet Another Day*.

So since 1994 Ray Wilson has moved from hard rock to prog to pop to acoustic to dance... So how does that translate to a solo album? Quite simple, something completely different again! Actually you can compare it to the first solo outing by Damian Wilson (what's with that surname anyway?), whose solo album was completely different from his work with *Landmarq* (neoprogr) and *Threshold* (progmetal). Not that these two Wilsons sound similar, but the experience is similar.

On this album Ray plays most instruments himself (guitar, bass guitar, mouth organ, piano and strings) and he is helped once again by his brother Steve (guitar and backing vocals) as well as singer Amanda Lyon - both had also contributed on the *Live and Acoustic* album.

There's a whole range of guest musicians too, most notably *Calling All Stations* drummer Nir Z (on all tracks but two) and Alan Parsons / *Fish* bassist David Paton.

Michael Stipes (REM) uses to make good songs into a great ones, while *She Fades Away* has a very raw vocal, giving the songs a certain Neil Young character. Elsewhere there's a deeper, mournful voice to *Beach* - the most atmospheric track. While *Believe* has a great lyric and a classic singer/songwriter vibe, with Wilson's vocals just standing above an acoustic guitar and harmonica.

With his hands also on the production, Wilson has kept a very gentle touch on the controls - resisting the temptation to fill out the sound. Instead letting the songs stand on their own two feet.

The title track, which is earmarked as a single, is probably the most poppily-catchy number (think Kip Winger with a bit of Bryan Adams). With a bit of airplay this could easily cross into the mainstream. My personal favourite, is *Another Day* which matches Kip Winger in its introspective, questioning tone but with the added attraction of the melodic touch of Mike Tramp. A masterful piece of simple songwriting.

Yesterday is a bit too Fairport Convention folk pop for my tastes and without the three instrumental interludes, it does clock in a little short - at under 40 minutes. However, overall I can say that Ray Wilson will now and again make a very welcome "Change" to my normal listening.

Winston's Review

When Ray Wilson, formerly active in *Stillskin* and *Genesis*, returned to the music scene last year with the live and acoustic album *Live And Acoustic* recorded at the famous Edinburgh Festival, I was glad. He has that kind of voice that has a own unique sound and should be heard more. His career could easily have been a lot more huge by now when *Genesis* would have persisted and made a second album. It wasn't meant to be as we all know by now. The acoustic tour Ray Wilson did in 2001 and 2002 led the way to record this album *Change* and it is the first studio album since *Genesis' Calling All Stations* (1997).

After a short intro *Goodbye Baby Blue* walks in and the atmosphere is set immediately. Ray stays on the acoustic path he firmly set foot on. This song reminds me strongly of *Not About Us*, one of the highlights of *Calling All Stations*. Ray's voice is stronger than ever, he sings with great passion about love and life, throughout the album. Although the acoustic guitar is used in every song, mainly by Ray's brother Steve Wilson (co-songwriter) the songs have a warm and full soundscape, drums, keyboards, percussion, clarinet, accordion and violin played by various friends, *Genesis* drummer Nir Z is one of them. Amanda Lyon is doing backing vocals again. Steve and Amanda are in the band that Ray took on the road recently.

The titeltrack *Change* would be a great single, with hit potential even! The MTV people and fans were able to see and hear Ray in *Trance/Dance* DJ Armin van Buuren's remix of *Another Day* called *Yet Another Day*, a catchy piece of work. It's a very clever move to put *Another Day* on this album too. It differs from the *Live And Acoustic* version, rearranged and a bit different hook and I like it very much. Other highlights are *Beach*, a very intimate song, *Oh If You Want To*, *Beautiful Child* (notice *The Beatles' ELO* drumsound) and *The Last Horizon* a *Stillskin*-styled song.

One thing has to be said though, but I don't think it is a negative thing. The general mood of the album is very dark and sometimes even depressing. Together with the beautiful artwork (a sure thing with *Inside Out* releases) these emotions are emphasized and paint a dark picture. A concept that works well with Ray's voice which really comes to fruition on *Change*. Hopefully Wilson's career can pick up where he left off in 1998 when *Genesis* disbanded but it my eyes and ears he already did. It's great to have another great voice back in business.

(The Digipack edition contains three bonus tracks, an instrumental and two other great songs *Dark* and *Cool Water*).

Conclusion:

[Bart Jan van der Vorst](#) - 8 out of 10
[Ed Sander](#) - Refrained from giving a Rating
[Andy Read](#) - 8 out of 10
[Winston Arntz](#) - 8 out of 10