

The Band

Draws A Circle, 1987

By the fall of 1986, Disneyland After Dark was getting to record their second album. However, the carefully worked-out cowboy image had already been taken to its fullest and was beginning to be a little less enjoyable. Change in the form of new sounds was looming on the horizon.

The change in the band's music also related to an incident in August 1986 when the band had, tongue-in-cheek, agreed to participate in a big country festival in Denmark. They were met by country enthusiasts and people who wanted autographs on the American confederate flag. The band refused as these people had obviously completely missed the band's thick trademark irony.

There was no way the band wanted to be seen as saviors of country music or associated with all the things about American culture that they were making jokes about. Besides, the band had also run out of cowboy themed ideas and so the music and lyrics they were coming up with changed accordingly.

When the time came for recording the new material, Frank Marstokk had left Mega Records, and the band had to look for a new producer. They chose Mark Dearnley, who was English and had worked as a technician on AC/DC's Highway To Hell. Dearnley accepted the job offer without having heard the band play.

Recording began in November 1986. Dearnley was now in charge of getting order out of the band's sometimes-chaotic surplus of ideas. Amongst other things, Dearnley:

- Vetoed the sitar solo on I Won't Cut My Hair that Cobber wanted.
- Cut the original 16 verses in the song 10 Knots down to two. (However, an ad-lib was added at the end.)
- Intervened when Stig invited a journalist, who came to do an interview, to sing a chorus hooligan style.

The recording sessions where three tracks were recorded at a time in Copenhagen's Custom Sound studio alternated with mixing in the Puk Studios in Randers. This very tight and disciplined production schedule made it possible to record the entire album in only 30 days.

The album was named D.A.D. Draws a Circle and was released on June 16, 1987. The album title had a dual meaning: it meant simply 'make a record' but also signalled that the band came full circle while covering a lot of ground with all the different style elements included: gospel, punk rock, country, and hard rock – to name a few.

The album received fairly positive reviews, and the record-buying audience agreed: the album sold 30,000 copies in Denmark – twice as many as Call of the Wild. However, the band was disappointed because the promotion that Mega Records put into the album did not live up to their expectations. In the summer of 1987, the band went on tour and they also played extensively in December 1987. By this time, they were already writing new material again – and beginning to consider their options for the future.