

## **POTENTIA**

Potentia House, 12 Martell Street, Fforestfach, Swansea, SA5 8HX United Kingdom

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Artistic Director: Chris Brandrick

## Biography

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Artist: ZONE

As of July 2005

Zone was formed in 1988, by Andrew Cadmore & Chris Brandrick, almost alone amongst contemporary Welsh bands to explore the legacy of pioneer and visionary Velvet John Cale. Zone's eclectic musical influences range from the intense industrial music of Throbbing Gristle, the ambient electronics of Brian Eno & early Tangerine Dream, to the experimental and avant-garde of Karlheinz Stockhausuen, Fred Frith (Henry Cow & Art Bears), Faust, & Can. On occasion gothic, forever ethereal, Zone's music weaves across time into world music of infinite style and express wholeness.

Ever since Zone's formation, Potentia has been the platform and label for all of Zone's work. Since 1991 Zone's musical releases have been handled through World Serpent Distribution, until their unfortunate demise in mid 2004, haven to numbers of radical modern artists including "Coil" "Carter Tutti (formerly Chris and Cosey)", "Nurse With Wound" & "Current 93".

Zone's first musical release 'Sword Of The Sun' launched as a limited edition of only 100, hand assembled vinyl LP's, was released in 1988 and sold out almost immediately. This vinyl release was re-pressed the following year and re-released on CD in 1992. Denoted as "Some of the most devastatingly glamorous music to appear on record since...?", this release marked out Zone as mavericks with their own already integrated take on the past and future – from punk to the Pyramids – that would develop further still into a body of work as unique as it is post-modern, earthy and electric.



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1989 saw the publication of Zone's 2<sup>nd</sup> work, the very limited book entitled 'Beautiful Machine', a collection of images and poetry, a statement of intent on Zone's work and future. "It seems that the beautiful machine may as much be a metaphor for the World in which we live as it is a method of travel conveying the soul from spiritual desert to oasis."

'Born Of Fire', Zone's 2<sup>nd</sup> musical release, was released in 1991, in conjunction with the Italian label Music Maxima Magnetica. "It all pulls together into an admirable spiritual severity on an invisible thread that binds the Byzantine monastery represented on the front cover of the package with the Atomic Bomb Memorial Dome on the back. Don't be afraid of the sacred fire of Zone, listen and absorb what is communicated."

Zone's 3<sup>rd</sup> musical release 'The Divine Simplicity', a magnum opus in two halves, was released in 1994. "Provides powerful ambient music for conjuring spells from the *Egyptian Book of the Dead*," said one well-disposed soul, with another proclaiming an album "saturated with so many cultural influences and traditions as to make fixity of origin a futile pursuit, this is music that is made at once for its own sake and for that of all who listen to it." Crossing borders and boundaries, seen, unseen, figurative and literal, this album made plain Zone's appetite and capacity for vision and innovation.

'Angel Of Freedom', Zone's 4<sup>th</sup> musical release, saw Zone's first collaboration with vocalist Jeremy S.Gluck (Barracudas). Released in 2000, 'Angel Of Freedom' is Zone's most commercial work to date, "clever, perverse, and even witty...part of the new Zone," and "a bemusing journey...a soundtrack of sorts for a Europe lost in itself to the East and surrendered to its fate."

'Alien Nature' latest and 5<sup>th</sup> album, released during July 2005, saw further collaboration with Jeremy S.Gluck (Barracudas) and Syd Howells. "Sound of the machine age making peace with itself and rediscovering mystery. A revolution of the soul of this very unusual musical presence takes place that, more than even before, has resulted in a work of not just power but also beauty."

Eschewing convention and compromise, always seductive and compassionate, Zone's isolated and deceptively primitive approach to recording music has in itself become the third mind within Zone, where the whole is far more than the sum of the parts. Zone's work has always been a passion, never a profession.

Experimental \* Avant Garde \* Electronic \* Ambient \* Gothic \* Industrial \* Ethereal \* World -End-