

Albert Hammond Jr

Born: Van Nuys, California: a suburban area known as The Valley

Schooling: Was schooled in The Valley. Studied film in NYC, but dropped out to study Jungian philosophy and the underground

Work stint: Record store employee. Alphabetized records, movies and porn.... lots of porn. Got fired....

Music stint: Formed The Strokes with 4 other accomplices.

Name: Albert Hammond Jr. shortened to AHJ. Found the best sound was at maximum amplification.

Changes: Found a mask to tell my story. Found my lost persona in Francis Trouble

Marital Status: Wife Justyna

Domicile: A throwback to the life style of Henry David Theroux in the Catskill Mountains near Bethal, New York.

Do not fear the unknown for it is constantly there.

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Albert Hammond Jr's fourth solo album Francis Trouble explores a deeply personal topic – the stillborn death of his twin brother, Francis, and the lingering effects that event has had in his life and music.

In November of 1979, Hammond Jr's mother, Claudia, miscarried. Although they rushed to the hospital, Claudia and Albert Hammond Sr. were told that the baby was far too premature to live. Albert continued to grow inside of his mother undetected until she was nearly six months pregnant.

Although he had always known of the existence of Francis, it was not until he was 36 years old that he learned from an aunt that part of Francis had remained behind in the womb and was born along side him – a fingernail.

With his music moving in a different path than before, Hammond Jr wondered if this new direction came from another avenue of himself, perhaps emanating from whatever he and the departed Francis had shared for the few short months they had together.

Taking a page from Bowie, Hammond Jr says: “What the music says may be serious, but as a medium it should not be questioned, analyzed or taken too seriously. I think it should be tarted up, made into a character, a parody of itself. The music is the mask the message wears and I, the performer, am the message.”

Working within this mentality, Hammond Jr created Francis Trouble, an homage to both the death of his twin and his own birth, as well as the complexities of identity that arise because of their intermingling. The number 36 became especially relevant, as he had learned more of Francis’s story at that age, and because he was born on the 9th day of the 4th month of the year. Significantly, the album is exactly 36 minutes long.

- Mindy McGinnis