



## MICHAEL HEAD & THE STRANDS

### The Magical World of The Strands

Label  
**MEGAPHONE UK**

Format  
**CD**

Catalog Number  
**MEGAUK 024CD**

UPC  
666017292021



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**PRICE CHANGE**

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Territory  
**NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE**

Genre  
**FILE UNDER - H - ROCK**

megaphone

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## DESCRIPTION

2015 is a busy year for **Michael Head**. His second single as **Michael Head & The Red Elastic Band** was released in March 2015 on his Violette Records. "I Know You Well," a 1990 single by Head's band **Shack**, leads off **Jon Savage's** 2015 *Perfect Motion* double LP compilation, described as "a musical return-trip to these fondly remembered years spanning 1988-93." And now, his classic 1997 album *The Magical World of The Strands* is available as a deluxe reissue. This reissue of this all-time classic also appears alongside *The Olde World* (MEGAUK 023CD/LP), a collection previously unreleased tracks and remixes from the album sessions. Finally, both the reissue and *The Olde World* arrive in advance of Head's first gigs as **Michael Head & The Strands**, where they will play *The Magical World of the Strands* in full. In 1993, Head teamed up with his brother **John**, his longtime drummer **Iain Templeton**, and two new recruits, **Michelle Brown** on bass and **Les Roberts** on flute, and began two years of recording sessions. The sessions came to a halt when Head was offered a major label deal, not for his current work, but for him to record as Shack again. Weaving rough mixes and sketches – by engineer **Steve Powell**, made in Liverpool – with completed mixes by producer **Mark Coyle**, **Stephane Bismuth**, the French promoter who initiated the Strands sessions, finally released *The Magical World of The Strands* on Megaphone in 1997. This work-in-progress garnered great critical acclaim and is rated by many as the "rarest jewel of the 90s" (Q). The CD version of this reissue includes two bonus tracks, the B-sides to the 1998 NME and Melody Maker Single of the Week "Somethin' Like You." "Green Velvet Jacket" is an acoustic solo piece by Head, and "Queen Matilda (Demo)" was recorded in early 1993 and produced by the band's friend and live engineer **Ian Eastwood** on a four-track Tascam cassette recorder. The CD and LP both include a 20-page booklet containing new liner notes by Head himself and photographs testifying to album sleeve's work-in-progress.

## TRACKLISTING

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01. Queen Matilda       | CD Bonus Tracks:         |
| 02. Something Like You  | 12. Green Velvet Jacket  |
| 03. And Luna            | 13. Queen Matilda (Demo) |
| 04. X Hits the Spot     |                          |
| 05. The Prize           |                          |
| 06. Undecided (Reprise) |                          |
| 07. Glynys and Jaqui    |                          |
| 08. It's Harvest Time   |                          |
| 09. Loaded Man          |                          |
| 10. Hocken's Hay        |                          |
| 11. Fontilan            |                          |

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Deluxe reissue of **Michael Head & The Strands'** all-time classic 1997 album *The Magical World of the Strands*.
- Includes a 20-page booklet containing new liner notes by Head himself and photographs testifying to album sleeve's work-in-progress.
- CD includes two bonus tracks, the B-sides to the 1998 NME and Melody Maker Single of the Week "Somethin' Like You."
- LP pressed on 180-gram vinyl and presented in gatefold sleeve.
- **Michael Head** began recording *The Magical World of The Strands* in 1993, but left the project unfinished in 1995; when the patchwork album was finally released in 1997, it garnered great critical acclaim.
- "A lost genius and among the most gifted British songwriters of his generation." –NME
- "Like pure **Nick Drake** strumming along with **The Stone Roses**." –NME
- "Incredibly affecting, a staggering album." –Q
- "One of the furthest reaching English guitar records this decade." –The Guardian
- "Bigger than a legend." –The Times

**Official web site:** [michaelhead.net](http://michaelhead.net)

Also available:

(MEGAUK 023CD) Michael Head & The Strands: *The Olde World* CD [UPC #666017291925]  
(MEGAUK 023LP) Michael Head & The Strands: *The Olde World* LP [UPC #666017291918]

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