



Announces:



### TRANCERS 1, 2, 3

Composed and Conducted by **MARK RYDER, PHIL DAVIES, and RICHARD BAND**  
Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 356

*By virtue of being a synth score, it sounded futuristic. But this wasn't using electronics for electronics' sake. It was electronics melding into the emotion of the film.*

-- Richard Band

One of the most iconic films in the Empire catalog is the 1984 film *Trancers*, which became a cult hit and launched a series of sequels. Setting the series' noir tone was its sleek, exciting synth score by composers Mark Ryder and Phil Davies. Overseen by Empire house composer Richard Band, *Trancers'* memorable themes became the calling card of Jack Deth during his first adventures. The music is as moody as the '40s film noir, black-and-white pictures that inspired Deth's character, yet as colorfully modern as *Trancers'* time-warped detective. Given the throwback tone of a high-tech future meeting the retro present, *Trancers* seemingly begged for an electronic musical approach, a sound quite different from the mainly orchestral scores that Band had done previously for the studio. The score would be in tune with Vangelis' approach to *Blade Runner*, as well as the new-wave and rock aesthetic of such synth composers as Tangerine Dream and Giorgio Moroder. A classic noir score invariably employs a jazz sound, a sultry sax supporting the femme fatale as darker strings establish the no-nonsense hero. However, the composers took the approach of a moody homage rather than electronically replicating that kind of iconic instrumentation.

To premiere the scores for the first three *Trancers* films on this 2-CD set, Intrada used the ½" four-track scoring session tapes which contained the finalized two-channel stereo mixes.

The hard-boiled, trench-coat-wearing gumshoe is a film noir staple, narrating his encounters with scheming psychopaths and sensual dames while cracking a big case. *Trancers* cleverly added in time travel, propelling the consciousness of a future cop from the year 2247 to Christmas Eve in Los Angeles, circa 1985. Bogart's spirit was very much alive in Jack Deth (Tim Thomerson), a man out of his element in an ancestor's body. Setting out to "sing" the zombie minions of a similarly transplanted foe from his era, Deth finds a May-December romance with Santa's sexy helper Lena (Helen Hunt), who proves to be just as strong-willed at trancer hunting. *Trancers* had instant cult appeal that made it one of the most popular franchises in the prolific output of producer-director Charles Band.

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