

Chameleon Circuit's *Still Got Legs* (2011)

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Whovians of Stetson, rejoice. In an attempt to pass the time as we await the next season of Doctor Who in about nine months and to fill our empty hearts following Matt Smith's departure as the Doctor, pick up your fish fingers, get the custard out of the ice-box and take a listen to *Still Got Legs*, a very Doctor Who-based concept album by Chameleon Circuit.

The album opens with four David Tennant-era songs, *The Subwave Signal*, *Regenerate Me*, *Nightmares* and *Travelling Man*. These songs serve to segue from Chameleon Circuit's self-titled first album, which was more Tenth Doctor-based, into an Eleventh Doctor, or Matt Smith, theme.

They iterate the character and fan-base fears of loneliness and the Doctor's enemies coming to kill him, forcing him to change his form (and the actor who plays him) in the television serial *The End of Time*.

The following two songs, *Everything is Ending* and *Mr. Pond* tell the stories of the Doctor's traveling companions, Amelia "Amy" Pond and Rory Williams. *Everything is Ending* tells of Amy's inner conflict of loving both the Doctor and her fiancé Rory.

*Mr. Pond* expresses Rory's frustration at being second, in Amy's eyes, to the Doctor. These are particularly powerful in the most recent era of the show as the Doctor's companions have become main characters like the man himself.

*Kiss the Girl* (no, not from the *Little Mermaid*) is a sort of interlude based on an episode in which the Doctor, time traveler and alien, must face playing Human for a number of days while encouraging his new roommate to, well, kiss the girl.

The second half of *Still Got Legs* alternates between Tennant-era and Smith-era Who. *Teenage Rebel* and *The Sound of Drums* give insight into the Doctor's past and how it affects his present. *Knock Four Times* and *The Doctor is Dying* summarize two seasons worth of foreshadowing about the Tenth Doctor's death and the transition into the Eleventh Doctor.

Eleven is a reprise of the Eleventh Doctor's main character theme from his first season on the show. Big Bang Two and Silence and the End of All Things, while they are several tracks apart, go hand in hand.

Big Bang Two is easily the largest, hammiest track on the album, retelling the story of two-part final episode of Smith's first season, The Pandorica Opens and The Big Bang. Silence and the End of All Things is a somber, tear-jerking (perhaps even more so than the original) telling of the Doctor's last words to Amelia Pond the night they met when she was a child.

And finally, the last track on this album is, perhaps, the silliest. Still Not Ginger is wholly about the Doctor's explosive transition from Ten to Eleven and his seasons-long complaint/running joke that he's never had the chance to have ginger hair.

All in all, the album has a lot of great moments. It plays to the sole fan-base, as large as it is, commanding and holding high quality throughout. There are dull moments, but are largely outshined by exciting and invigorating tracks. Still Got Legs has earned 4.5 out of 5 Hats.