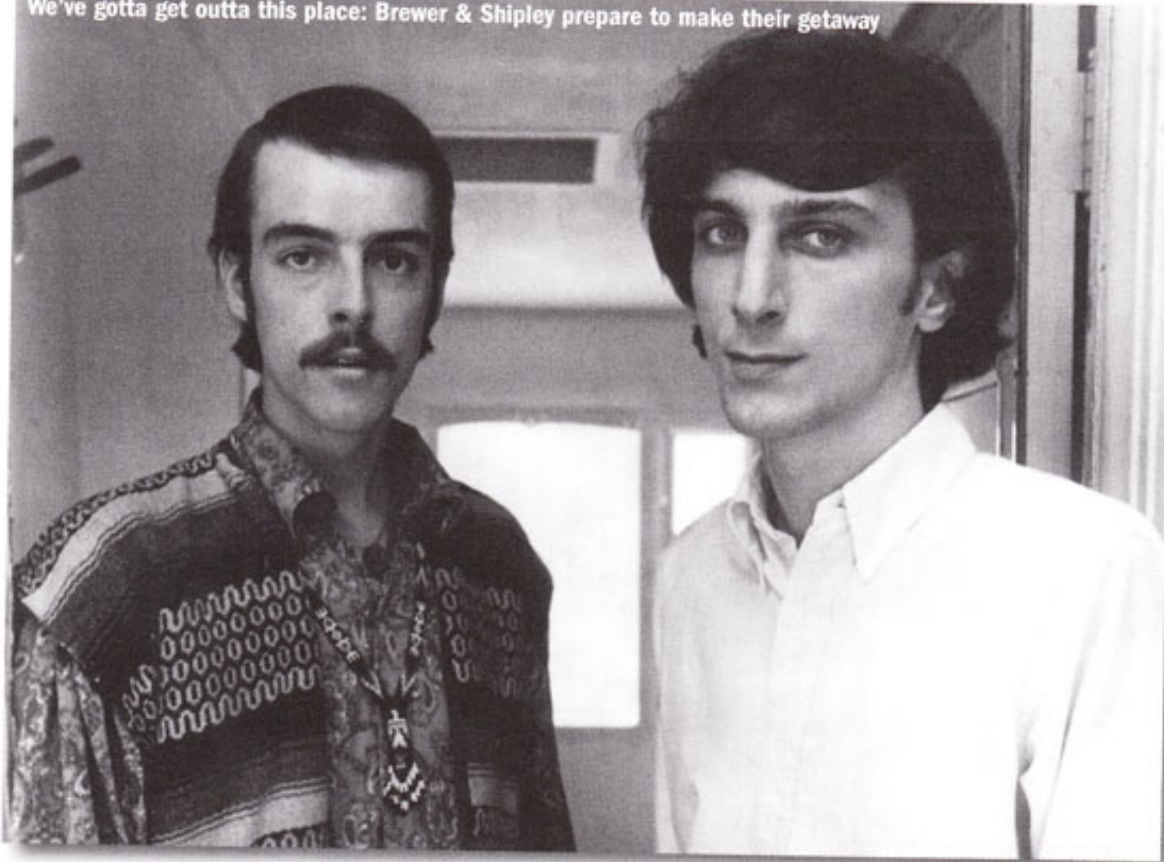


Truly, Right

BREWER & SHIPLEY's long-lost classic, *Down In LA*, finally makes its CD debut. Longstanding fan NICK WARBURTON gets the low down

We've gotta get outta this place: Brewer & Shipley prepare to make their getaway



“We just had to get out of LA; California for that matter. That’s why we named the record *Down In LA*”

Aficionados of the folk-rock and country-rock genre will no doubt have salivated at the news that Cherry Red’s subsidiary Now Sounds has just released Brewer & Shipley’s *Down In LA* on CD for the first time. Originally issued on A&M Records in October 1968, the duo’s tragically overlooked debut outing is a mighty fine collection, brimming full of infectious, melodic songs, striking close-harmony vocals and ringing acoustic guitars.

Creators of the tongue-in-cheek drug anthem, ‘One Toke Over The Line’, a US Top 10 in ’71, *Down In LA* finds the songsmiths coming to terms with life in the big city. Disillusioned, the duo high-tailed it back to the Midwest before the LP’s release, leading the label to assume they’d quit the business.

“What we were actually doing was getting back to what we’d always done and enjoyed the most, performing,” says Michael Brewer, looking back today. “It probably wasn’t the wisest move for having the LP promoted, but we just had to get out of LA; California for that matter. That’s why we named the record *Down In LA*. As Tom and I have said, ‘It took us three months to save enough money to move to California, and three years to save enough to leave!’”

Besides the excellent stunning sound quality, the new reissue boasts a 16-page, full colour booklet, complete with rare, unpublished photos and detailed liner notes, drawing from interviews with Michael Brewer, Tom Shipley and co-producer Jerry Riopelle.