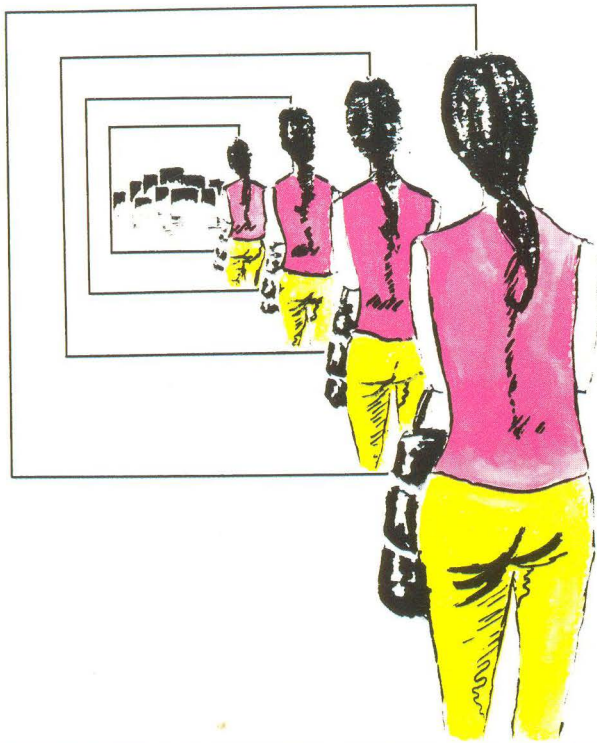


# BONG 12

*Depeche Mode*



**'DREAMING OF ME'  
10TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE.**

dm/live

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Hello.

I'd like to start by thanking everyone on behalf of the band and myself for all the Christmas cards and presents you have sent in. I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year.

As you no doubt noticed from the cover, it's ten years since 'Dreaming Of Me' was first released in the UK. We obviously couldn't let it go unrecognised - see pages 3 and 6.

There's convention news on page 19, and your 'bootleg' letters start on page 16.

Everyone who's had anything published in this issue will receive a 'Wherehouse' tape. Please remember when you write to the fanclub, write your name and address on each page you submit. It can get very frustrating if someone's entered a competition and sent in a letter for the letters page and hasn't put their address on both....Thanks for your co-operation.

Back issues 2,3,5,6,8,9 and 11 of Bong are still available at 75 pence each in the UK/BFPO and £1.20/US.\$2.40 per issue elsewhere. Prices inclusive of postage and packing. Please make cheques payable to 'The Depeche Mode Fanclub'. I have been asked repeatedly whether the other issues will ever be available. Unfortunately, these are out of print and would cost far too much to reprint in such a small number.

Can I please ask again for you not to send in birthday cards, album sleeves etc. for the band to sign. As I've said before, it's virtually impossible to find all the band together at one time, and as we get so many requests of this sort, we can't do some and not others. However, we do occasionally have opportunities for you to win signed photos of DM.

We've had so many letters and features about the 'World Violation' tour. It was impossible to fit them all in. I apologise if yours hasn't been included.

See you on March 31st!

Jo  
xxx

## A DECADE OF DM

February 20th 1991 sees the tenth anniversary of the release of Depeche Mode's debut single 'Dreaming Of Me'. Backed by the track 'Ice Machine', it was available on 7" format only - 12" not being such a popular medium in the early 80's.

February '81 also saw the release of the 'Some Bizarre' album, which featured an early version of 'Photographic'. In a review of this LP, Chris Bohn of the NME (7.2.81 issue) said of Depeche 's contribution: "(Photographic) features very assured, neatly structured and entwined synth melodies, which are partially marred by the 30's futuristic lyrics, but saved by the persistent quiver of a rhythm line." He also referred to the song as "one of the LP's mainstream highlights" (the other being Blancmange's 'Sad Day')

Philip Hall of 'Record Mirror' described 'Dreaming Of Me' as "Floppy fringe music, as predictable and well crafted as any Ultravox song." At the time, DM would rather have referred to it as "a pop song". Vince Clarke was quoted as saying "I think the word 'pop' is really good.....It's a nice word" The reviews were fairly good for a debut single:-

"Bright propulsion, a pert tune and understanding synths just about redeem this one; it suffers from affected vocals that nearly become overbearing. The spoken words at the end are particularly effective, surrounded by tinkling sounds that evoke the dreamy atmosphere of the subject" Carol Clerk, Melody Maker 7.3.81.

"Despite the narcissistic title, 'Dreaming Of Me' is as sweetly unassuming a slice of electronic whimsy as anything by early OMD. Deadpan vocals, programmed rhythm rejoinders and a candyfloss melody makes for a pleasant three minutes. Live, they look great, make comfortable background noises, but don't really sustain attention for much longer than that" Chris Bohn, NME 28.2.81.

"Boys keep swinging, Depeche are among the best of the new breed of techno poppers and this wistful, melodic, soft ditty, verging on (eek!) electro-folk is destined (cross fingers) for Silicon Teens - style success. Romantic and dreamy right down to the reflective 'ooh la la las' bringing up the rear. Refreshing for its total lack of anything deep, meaningful, heavy or arty. Very much an instant, Now sound" Betty Page, Sounds 21.2.81. (one of the 'Singles Of The Week')

'Dreaming Of Me' took almost two months to chart and eventually peaked at no.57. It remained in the chart for only four weeks and, according to Daniel Miller, who produced the single, instigated the flow of 'Indie' releases into the so-called 'pop' mainstream.

The top-selling records during the UK the week 'Dreaming Of Me' was released were; no.1 in the singles chart, 'Shaddup Your Face' by Joe Dolce, and no.1 in the album chart, 'Kings Of The Wild Frontier' by Adam & The Ants.

In a 1985 interview with 'No!' magazine, Dave said "(Making records) wasn't taken seriously at all, we weren't thinking about going in the charts at all, we just wanted to make a record." Martin told 'No.1' "After the surprise success of 'Dreaming Of Me' we thought that this game wasn't too difficult after all.....We all earned a hundred quid so we thought 'Blimey, we're laughing'".

Ironically, it was due mainly to Radio 1 that DM's success really took off. Amazing really, when you think that in May '88, 'Little 15' was released in the UK on import only due to DM's "disillusionment with British Radio."

In the ensuing ten years, Depeche Mode have gone from strength to strength, from the Canning Town Bridgehouse to the Pasadena Rose Bowl, leaving the majority of their musical peers behind. Their world-wide success has brought their fan following up from a few friends in 1981 to millions world-wide in 1991....What next?.....



'DAZZY B' & 'MC CUSTARD', GERMANY

photo: Robert "Bab" Cimarosti

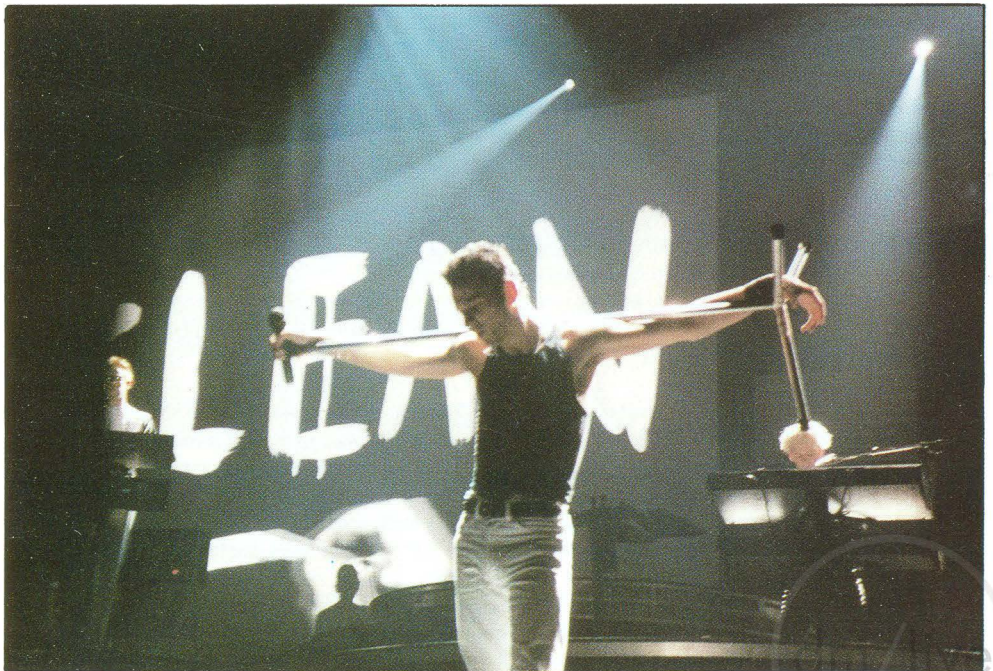
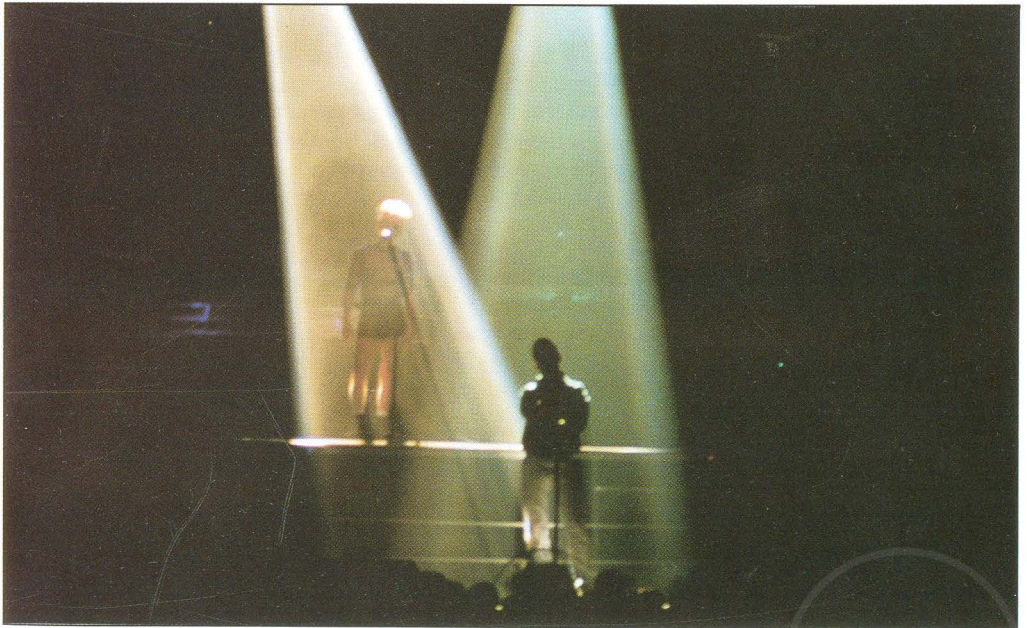


photo: Robert Gimeno



photos: Lewis Lee

## TEN YEARS ON....

Alan doesn't really remember much about the release of 'Dreaming Of Me' as, obviously he wasn't a member of DM at that time. However, there is a (very tenuous) link between DM and 'The Hitmen', the band that Alan was in at the time, who were on a UK tour in January of 1981, and played at the Islington Hope & Anchor on January 22nd (admission £1.00) and Depeche Mode played there on the following night with a band called 'Naked Lunch' (admission £1.50). Some of the many other bands that Alan has been in are 'Daphne & The Tenderspots', who brought out a single called 'Disco Hell' in 1978, and 'Real To Real' (an LP in 1979 entitled 'Tightrope Walkers'). 'The Hitmen' released a single called 'Bates Motel' in 1980. Alan also played on the single 'If I Had You' by 'The Korgis'.

\* \* \*

I asked Dave what he remembered about this time ten years ago:

"When 'Dreaming Of Me' was released I remember it well, I remember the reviews, half good, half bad (nothing changes) I remember a really good write-up in 'Smash Hits' with a picture of Vince that made him look like one of the fish from 'Stingray'. I also remember feeling the hair stand up on the back of my neck when first hearing the song on the radio. We performed a gig supporting 'Ultravox' at The Rainbow on Feb. 14th (it was Daniel Miller's birthday - we bought him a Chelsea football scarf and an M&S jumper, no expense spared)

I couldn't have imagined how successful we were going to be, or that we would still be together in ten years time. As for the next ten, it's the start of new changes in my life, and I hope in ten years time, I'll feel as good as I do now."

\* \* \*

"May 1980: Most kids were taking their 'O'Levels and I was dossing around St.Nicholas' Comprehensive waiting to be "discharged". Then Depeche Mode happened.

Catching a lift and helping move amps (yes, amps) around turned into a job. Within a year vinyl was released and within a further year DM were touring the world and I was there with them.

I've never really questioned the band's continued success and have definitely never analysed it. I believe, subconsciously, I have always known they would get bigger and bigger, almost to the point of taking it for granted.

These days, almost eleven years later, I'm still enjoying working for these four great men. The travelling's not so exciting, but at least the pay's better." **DARYL BAMONTE, JANUARY 1991**

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## OVER THE CHANNEL & BACK

When I asked if anyone would be interested in a fanclub trip to see Depeche Mode in Paris, I didn't realise what a response there'd be! Eventually, there were 150 of us, crammed into three coaches, heading down the A2 towards Dover. Two coachloads of us met up at Marble Arch in London (the third coach having picked people up in Manchester and then Birmingham) You couldn't miss us - a seething mass of black leather and suitcases!

The coaches were equipped with tape machines and videos, so no guesses what we were watching/listening to all the way. I'd managed to get hold of an advance copy of 'Strange Too' and it was being passed from coach to coach on various stages of the journey.

The people on 'my' coach were fairly rowdy - singing and messing around until the need for some sleep finally caught up with us. (I was terrified to fall asleep, as some people were threatening to take blackmail photos of me) We eventually arrived in Paris at around 6.30am, when Mike, our courier, treated us to a sightseeing trip around the city. One of our number excelled himself by getting lost at every stop on the tour, and having to be dragged back to the coach. It seemed at one point that Paris was made up entirely of extensions to The Louvre! We stopped at Notre Dame for some (very welcome) breakfast, and to plan our day, as we'd been told that we couldn't check into our hotel until 2pm).

It appeared that most people wanted to get to Bercy (the venue for that night's concert) as early as possible, so that they could secure a place close to the stage.

My sister Ali, on the other hand, wanted to sleep! When we were eventually able to check into our hotel, we discovered that the lock on the door was dodgy and only Houdini and the Desk Clerk were able to open it. While Ali snored the afternoon away, I managed to catch up with some friends who'd travelled independently to Paris, and together we cruised the coffee bars and went window-shopping. Everywhere I went there were people in Depeche Mode T-Shirts, carrying scarves and banners, heading for the Bercy.

The gig itself was manic. Before DM had even hit the stage, there were people being stretched away. Whether it was the heat, over-excitement or a mixture of the two I'm not too sure, but the expectancy in the air was amazing. Just as Depeche were about to make their entrance, there was a slight rumpus behind us, and a few French people seated around us started staring. A local singing celebrity was taking her seat in the row behind, and we were politely asked to sit down as she couldn't see the stage. We managed to remain seated for about half the set, but then the urge to enjoy ourselves and dance took over.

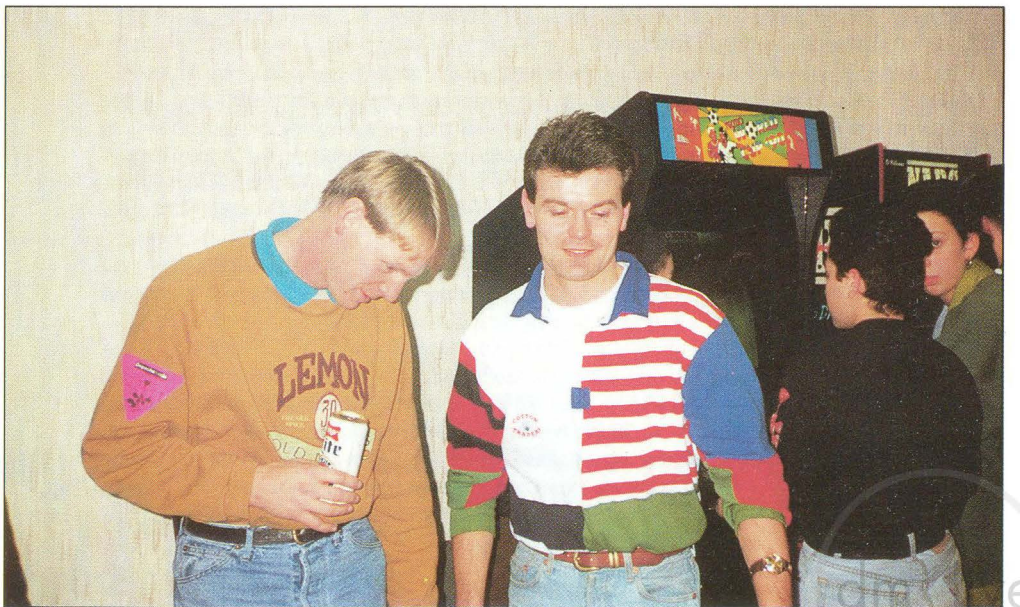
After the show, some of the fanclub members (who'd been pre-selected by the trusty 'eyes closed and pick someone with a pen' system) came backstage to meet the band. Many photos and autographs later, we all shuffled back to our respective hotels. The night was still young, however, and despite the protestations of 'Monsieur Grumpy', the night porter, Ali and I decided to go 'clubbing'. When we finally got back to our hotel, we only had a couple of hours until we were to head for home. How we managed to get up, shower and pack in time for a 9am departure is an unexplained phenomenon. With Clive (our driver) 'Behind The Wheel' we set off, discussing the night before, singing and nursing headaches. The 'Paris Posse' (Larmarman, Gav, Kate, Claire and many others) excelled themselves with versions of 'Never Let Me Down' and 'Personal Jesus' complete with arm aerobics and lighting effects. It was most moving (or was that the after-effects of the ferry journey?)

I hope we can do it all again next time!



"OVER THE MOON!"

photo: Liz Doherty



"SICK AS PARROTS!"

photo: Jo Bailey  
Freely provided by DM Live  
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## NEWS

The Birmingham NEC on November 22nd was the venue for a very peculiar sporting event; Martin Gore and Andy Fletcher versus England/Nottingham Forest footballers Stuart Pearce and Steve Hodge at table soccer! Martin and Fletch won 10 goals to 8. The so-called football 'pros' were seen to hang their heads in shame at the result.

An end-of-French -tour party was planned in Bordeaux. The only slight hiccup was that local clubs have a 2am curfew - not too good when the gig didn't finish till 11 ish. The promoter went directly to the Mayor , who granted the party venue a previously unheard-of extension until 4am.

**Competition:** For a mystery prize; In the 'Waiting For The Night' film shown onstage, which band members' sparkler goes out first? Answers in as soon as possible to the usual fanclub address and marked 'Mystery Competition'.

Nitzer Ebb have been working on a 4-track EP, each track having been mixed by a different person. One of the tracks, 'Come Alive' was mixed by Alan Wilder. The other producers are Jaz Coleman from Killing Joke, Flood, and Barry Adamson. The EP is scheduled for release mid-April. The main track on the 'A' side is the Jaz Coleman produced song and is called 'Family Man'. Alan is also planning to co-produce Nitzer Ebb's next album, along with Flood. They'll be working from April through to the end of July.

Alan's also working on some new stuff of his own, although whether it will be a single, album or nothing at all has yet to be decided.

'Running Blade'and 'Electric Ladyland', Alan's racehorses, have been running in Ireland. 'Running Blade won it's first race at Gowran Park in mid-January and Alan was there for the win. Continuing in a sport vein, Alan says he's depressed about QPR's record this season, but has high hopes and will stay loyal.

Depeche Mode did very well in Billboard magazine's end of year charts, achieving the coveted number one Top Modern Rock Tracks Artist spot.

They also featured heavily in many of the other categories, reaching no.17 in both Top Pop Artists and Top Pop Album Artists, 'Violator' was no.17 in the Top Pop Album category. 'Enjoy the Silence' was no.66 in the Top Pop Singles chart, DM were no.28 in the list of Top Pop Singles Artists and 15 in the Top Pop Singles Artists Duos/Groups and no.10 in the category for Top Pop Albums Artists Duos/Groups. 'Policy Of Truth' was at no.35 in the Top Dance Club Play Singles and no.21 in the chart for Dance Sales 12" Singles, 'Enjoy the Silence' was no.35 in the same category. 'Policy Of Truth' and 'Enjoy The Silence' also featured at no's 2 and 18 respectively in the Top Modern Rock Tracks chart. Finally, Depeche Mode were no.6 in the Dance Sales Artists category.

'Making Music' Magazine recently printed their 1990 readers' poll. 'Violator' was no.2 in the 'Best Album' category, and Martin Gore had an honourable mention in the 'Best Keyboardist' section.

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More tour news:

## POST VIOLATION

By D. Bamonte

So, 27th November at the Birmingham NEC marked the finale of "World Violation" bringing to a close the third and final leg of the tour.

What were the highlights of this nine week European (yes, we are in the EEC) jaunt?

The football? The parties? The riots? The gigs? Oh yes, the gigs.

It's very easy when you're part of a big touring party to put the more repetitive parts of the job to the back of your mind. But to the 16,000 people packed into the Bercy in Paris, "World Violation" was far from repetitive. Even if they did go to all three nights (all sold out of course) In fact, to make things more interesting there was a transport strike in Paris on the weekend of the shows. Andy Franks had to travel to the Bercy on a motorbike! (riding pillion of course)

While we're on the subject of France, the gig in Lyon had to be the biggest indoor attendance for a European concert (23,000 people) Wembley Stadium? Cardiff Arms Park? Look for a roof next time you're there.

From France we headed west and then sort of south a bit and ended up in Barcelona, 20,000 people, brand-new gig, chaos. At the eleventh hour, the promoter decided to sell 200 more tickets and Mark Aurelio (assistant tour accountant) is deemed fit to sell them outside from a kind of 'Punch & Judy' stand. Naturally, the local touts get the hump and inform irate fans that the tickets are fake. A fight ensues, the "Box Office" is uprooted and for some reason Mark is the one who is arrested (?) A one-off? The fans in Madrid queued from 7am and then decided to enter the gig through the windows (which they had previously smashed). Even so, an invaluable source described the gig as "mental". Next stop was Italy where we see yet more "Latin intensity" and the now proverbial "Police Escorts" everywhere.

The majority of shows on the European tour were played in Germany. The gigs in Frankfurt were particularly good, especially as tennis "goddess" Steffi Graf showed up and danced, out of time, on the side of the stage.

Frankfurt also saw a rare appearance of the "DM 11" football team against the promoters team (full of ex-pros, incidentally). We were being stuffed 6-1 at half-time until Willie Whitelaw, merchandiser, turned on the charm and the final score was 10-9 (to them I think).

The biggest party of the tour was of course in Hamburg where the band saw fit to spend "loadsamoney" just because one of their crew was a year older (?) - It was my 27th birthday and after being ushered from a bar and then a restaurant for being too loud, we turn up at the club "Subeto" for a surprise birthday that I knew nothing about (even though Franksy told me the night before in Rotterdam) Highlights of the evening were an appearance by legendary rapper "Dazzy B" (work it out) and Ginger Barwick "snogging" with my blow-up doll (aptly named Gina)

Well, there you have it. I could go on forever. Fletch being assaulted by a security man for doing something with a bucket backstage at Hannover? But that's another story.....

So, as we find ourselves in a state of "post violation" transit (no, not the Ford, Franksy) We can only look forward in anticipation to many more "Violators" and many more "World Violations"

STRANGE, BUT TRUE.....

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# 1990 - A MODE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

BY DENNIS LIM FROM PENANG, MALAYSIA

I seriously doubt if the exact turning point in Depeche Mode's illustrious career has ever been established. Many, myself included, believed it to be the emergence of Martin as main songwriter and the much-needed inclusion of Alan which contributed to the development of the Mode sound which we now know. However, as often seems to be the case with DM, I was proven pleasantly wrong - in this case, by the events of 1990 - a landmark year not only for the band, but also for their fans the world over. As the 80's drew to a close, Depeche Mode reinforced their standing as a musical force to be reckoned with in the coming decade with the release of the classic 'Personal Jesus'. Perhaps the more perceptive among us might have taken that to be an indication of the heights DM's career would soar to in 1990 - a year which saw the Mode's metamorphosis from underground favourites to million-selling stadium-fillers in the States and their reinstatement as musical trend-setters on dancefloors just about everywhere.

Admittedly, Depeche Mode had already been massive for a very long time, but their success was largely confined to Europe with mainstream success in the largest record-buying market - the US - seeming inexplicably to elude them. Prior to 1990, their sole American top 40 hit was 'People Are People', but the past year has seen Depeche Mode amass four more - including two gold singles. 'Violator' - an LP which exceeded even the highest expectations with its remarkably effective sparsity and gripping lyrical themes - went on to sell millions worldwide.

In DM's case, the cliché, 'overnight success' does not apply - in fact, it couldn't be further from the truth. DM's success has been hard-earned and gradual - their following growing slowly but surely. Ironically, DM haven't made radical changes in their style for radio playlists - as I heard Martin being quoted over the radio - it's radio playlists which are being changed to accommodate Depeche Mode. After all these years, DM's success can now be termed 'worldwide' - while many of their contemporaries have either disbanded or faded inconspicuously, DM's career is beginning to take on a whole new perspective.

For me though, what remains most outstanding about Depeche Mode's epic past year hasn't been the gold singles or the platinum LPs or the sell-out gigs - It's been Depeche Mode themselves. It's been Alan, Fletch, Dave and Martin remaining as unaffected as is humanly possible by their overwhelming success. Their bank accounts may have swelled, but their egos haven't. Despite the adulation and adoration heaped upon them, they have remained - as reflected by interviews and especially by last year's movie 101 - four unassuming and unpretentious young men, relatively low-profiled superstars (a contradiction in terms?)

Their achievements of the past year have been so outstanding that even DM may appear hard-pressed to surpass them, but we all know better than to underestimate Depeche Mode. So then, what's next in line for the boys who took the world by storm in 1990? World Violation?

World Domination, I feel, would be more apt.

## LETTERS

Dear Bong

As in previous years, I was disappointed yet again to hear that Depeche Mode were not in the nominations for the Brit Awards. Although they received votes in a couple of categories, they were nowhere to be seen in the nomination lists. I think it is about time that the British Record Industry recognised that Depeche Mode are one of the world's greatest live bands and have a massive following all around the world. But the most important thing is that we, the fans, know that DM are the best and I'd like to say thank-you to DM for giving such a fantastic performance at the N.E.C on Nov.22nd.

**Anna-Maria**

**Stratford-Upon-Avon**

*Since receiving this letter, we have discovered that 'Enjoy The Silence' has been nominated for both 'Best Single By A British Artist' and 'Best Video By A British Artist' and the winner is decided subject to a voting system by the general public.*

Dear Bong

Why is everyone going on about Depeche Mode's single/album sleeves? It's the product that counts, not the packaging.

I don't care all that much about what they put on their record sleeves, all I know is that they have great records inside them and that's what counts.

**Sarah Hurford**

**Bridgnorth**

**Shropshire**

*DM take a great deal of care with their sleeves, so it's important to all concerned to hear people's views.*

Dear Bong

Many people dislike Anton Corbijn's work for Depeche Mode. Many people like it, and all comment on it. But for those people who put his work down I would like to ask one question. How many groups in the world can boast each and every sleeve, video and photo they do to be a work of art? Not many. Whichever way you look at it, Anton is an artist, and DM get recognition for it. Can you imagine their videos any other way? It wouldn't be Depeche any more.

Anton's videos have become a part of what DM are all about, and I think that's fantastic.

Yours fanatically

**Daniel Green**

**Rothwell**

**Leeds**

Dear Bong

I'd just like to get a word in about the criticism of Depeche Mode's record sleeves and videos. I think the people writing in and complaining aren't being very open. Everything DM does is art, and, might I add, very good art. I don't think people should go around making criticising remarks about an original DM art work. It wouldn't hurt to say 'I don't care much for that cover or video' but to carry it out isn't fair to the art. I just ask people to think before they go around criticising their favourite band.

Thanks!

**Kelly Hayward**

**Dallas**

**Texas**

Dear Bong

I'm writing in defence of Anton Corbijn's sleeve and video work for Depeche Mode. His minimalist sleeves reflect and complement the group's recent economy of instrumentation, that is, their more carefully chosen layering of sounds. 'Enjoy The Silence' is my favourite DM sleeve. Against a backdrop consisting of a deep, spiritual blue and a hint of a refreshing rainfall is attached a simple, silent white rose. Corbijn's video work is very challenging in its unconventionality. It is completely different from the videos we usually see. Corbijn is primarily a photographer; he films like one. For instance, in 'Enjoy The Silence', each frame is a compositional wonder; for a while, he rests our eyes on each of them. He doesn't edit according to the rhythm, like most videomakers do. Therefore, the image seems peculiarly detached from the music, in a positive way, as if the music could be coming from a separate part of the room and the images just happen to be matching it. I'd like to add my joy over the fabulously abstracted concert video for 'World In My Eyes'. I missed this one.

of a cancellation; if these screens were in fact the stage backdrop, it must have been astonishing! Anton Corbijn's work is gloriously artful and stimulating. It complements and brings further dimension to Depeche Mode's incredible human electronic music.

A serious fan.

**Charles Duchesne**  
**Ottawa**

Dear Bong

I was really shocked when I read the Letter from Lee from Oldham in Bong 11! It's a big impudence to say that someone only criticises DM to get printed in the magazine. Isn't a fanclub magazine like Bong the right place to say what we really think about DM? I think so! And there are not only good things to say! I'm a very big DM-fan too, but there are in fact some things to criticise:.....no more words about the last record sleeves....BUT....as a DM record collector I get more and more angry about the terrible DJ remixes like the 'Enjoy The Silence - Bassline' or 'Mode To Joy - World In My Eyes'! It's sad to see (or rather hear) that DM remixes are now like normal Disco songs. I can't understand how a real DM-fan (and longtime fan!) is able to like those mixes! 'VIOLATOR' is absolutely great, but the 12"ers get more and more awful. The Berlin concerts were great (Except the 'Everything Counts' remix and the very frightening Electribe 101. Isn't there a better group to support DM? In the States they had Nitzer Ebb, didn't they?) The lightshow and the projected pictures were perfect and we all did enjoy the evenings more than silence! The last thing I have to say is that 'Sea Of Sin' is an absolutely brilliant track. It's so great and perfect! It's so Depeche Mode!

Thanx and bye!

**Tobias Matkowitz**  
**Berlin**

Dear Bong (or should I say Lee from Oldham) I can't understand your excitement. I think you have to accept other people's opinions. Don't get me wrong, I'm a DM fan too, since 1981. I listen to their music and have been to six concerts so

far. But I also don't like every song! I think it's okay if someone says that he doesn't like a few songs, why not? If you only want to read articles full of praise for Depeche Mode, put down this magazine. If you don't want to read other people's varied opinions you shouldn't read Bong. I guess the different and interesting ideas make this magazine worth reading. It's time for you to understand that DM can make mistakes, just like you or I.

Good luck to you!

**Conny**  
**Germany**

Dear Bong

Here is a brief report:

**Findings - Depeche Mode live in concert, 22nd November 1990 at the Birmingham NEC.**

**Conclusions - Absolutely Brilliant.**

**Recommendations - Keep It Up.**

**Chris Maynard**

**Hessle**  
**N.Humberside**

Dear Bong

I must tell you and all Depeche Mode fans that on November 5th 1990 when DM played at the Palau St Jordi in Barcelona.

It was wonderful. There were times when I couldn't hear Dave sing, because the crowd were singing along so loudly. There were two brilliant and special moments for me, first the incredible performance by Martin, when he sang 'I Want You Now' and 'World Full Of Nothing', and the fantastic finale with 'Route 66'.

Greetings to all the members of the fanclub.

**Santi Trilla**  
**Barcelona**

Dear Bong

'Moody songs, Weird covers, Strong lyrics' announced the local record shop when DM released 'Personal Jesus' into the national music charts.

I was even more excited to hear that DM were going to perform at Wembley in November. I very quickly got my ticket for the concert for November 19th, courtesy of my mum's Access

card.

This was my first DM concert and I knew I wasn't going to be disappointed despite having a seat right at the back of the venue.

I enjoyed every minute of the concert from start to finish. DM played all my personal favourites eg:- 'Stripped', 'Black Celebration' and 'Policy Of Truth'

There was one point of the concert that really struck me, when DM played 'Waiting For The Night' lots of little lights appeared around the venue where other fans were holding up lighters, people were holding hands and putting their arms around each other.

With the lyrics, the music and Anton's film in the background it all seemed to draw you closer to the band.

I'm sure I speak for many other fans when I say 'congrats' for a great concert and a great night out.

**Simon Scott**  
**Ilford**  
**Essex**

Dear Bong

I went to see DM on Nov.26th at the NEC. I got the coach down there with my mum. I was really excited because I'd been longing for that day for months. It was the first time that I'd seen DM and it was absolutely brilliant. They performed well throughout the whole concert. When they sang my favourite song, which is 'Shake The Disease', I cried my eyes out. My mum and I both enjoyed it, my mum especially enjoyed it when DM sang the old Rolling Stones song 'Route 66'. All the people on the coach, on the way back said it was great. Thank you Martin, Dave, Alan and Andy for such a brilliant concert.

**Eleanor Warwick**  
**Prestwich**  
**Manchester**

Dear Bong

After seeing DM in concert four times - Wembley once and the NEC three times - I just had to write and congratulate DM for such fantastic shows. The very last show on 27th November was really great!

DM; you can never do wrong in my eyes!  
Strangelove always.

**Samantha Wainwright**  
**St Johns**  
**Worcester**

Dear Bong

What a fantastic time I had at the Depeche Mode concert at Wembley on the 20th November. Thank you DM and Electribe 101 for a truly wonderful night that I will never forget.

By the way, if any Bong members out there have an Amiga 500 computer, I'd like to recommend a public domain disk of 'Depeche Mode' that I bought a few weeks ago. It features instrumental versions of the following tracks:-

- 1: Blasphemous Rumours
- 2: Everything Counts
- 3: Just Can't Get Enough
- 4: Master & Servant
- 5: Never Let Me Down Again
- 6: Pimpf
- 7: Shake The Disease
- 8: Somebody

I think they sound pretty much like the original. The disk is available from 'NBS' public domain (No.=MO63)

Yours sincerely

**Neil Ashmore**  
**Stockport**  
**Cheshire**

Dear Bong

Incredibly huge, owe-you-my-life-debt thanx for the brilliant Depeche Mode concert on August 31st! Not only the best concert ever, but a dream come true for me as I got to meet Martin and Fletch backstage afterwards.

It was such a fantastic night; all the way from the great quality/value tour merchandise, through to the brilliant light system during the show to the grand finale with one of my favourites 'Route 66'. My only complaint was that it had to finish. I hope Dave's voice gets better soon - it must have been frustrating for him to get here and see all these fans for a sold-out concert in somewhere they thought they weren't so popular and then have voice problems! Poor guy.

The reviews were great though, so he can rest assured that the concert was too. I hope the rest of the band/entourage are feeling better than they were after eating at that today Indian place.

in Darlinghurst (Oh! Calcutta?) which is just down the road from my hospital ward. They should have dropped in to see me; the hospital food might have been better than whatever they ate.....But then again.....

Thank for giving me a brilliant night.

**Tatianja Levoux**

**Sydney**

**New South Wales**

Dear Bong

I attended Depeche Mode's concerts on the 19th and 22nd November at Wembley and Birmingham. I had only seen DM once before on the 'Music For The Masses' tour, although I have liked their music for a number of years.

For me the memories of those evenings will last for evermore.

The lights, atmosphere, music and performance were outstanding. My favourite songs which were performed were 'Personal Jesus', 'Waiting For The Night' and 'Black Celebration'.

The only thing that soured the event was the fact that the fanclub members standing in the front area had their ticket stubs taken away and I was a bit disappointed that I couldn't have kept this as a souvenir, I'm sure there was a reason behind this course of action. I suppose the security aspect?

**Simon McNamara**

**Thornton Heath**

**Surrey**

Dear Bong

If you have been wondering how DM are doing in Canada.....

Toronto's biggest radio station, CFNY, has these numbers for Depeche Mode:

'Personal Jesus' - no.1 for three weeks

'Enjoy The Silence' - no.1 for four weeks

'Policy Of Truth' - no.1 for two weeks.

On 'Much Music' (the Canadian equivalent to MTV) Canada's biggest video station they had these numbers for DM:

'Personal Jesus' - no.7.

'Enjoy The Silence' hit no.2 the week before they came here to Toronto. The night they were here it dropped to #9.

**The Biggest DM Fan In Canada**

**Greg Coleman**

**Oakville, ON**

Dear Bong

I have just joined the DM fanclub and subsequently have just received BONG 11.

This is a brilliant way of keeping fans in touch. I've been a fan since the beginning (I'm 21 - GASP!) and have always had the strange feeling of being out on my own. But at last a whole book full of DM fans and their views - it's a coming home.

Also, sincere thanks to all who made the world violation concert on Tuesday 20th Nov. extra-special - even the bloke who stood on my foot 3 times. The whole occasion was one of great emotion - to end up holding hands with people you just met!

Thank-you one and all - it was truly a 'Black Celebration'!

You 'Never Let Me Down'.

**Lisa Cosma**

**Ilford**

**Essex**

\*\*\*\*\*

**We try to make Bong as objective as possible - but we honestly received no letters saying anything about the 'World Violation' Tour that wasn't the highest praise!**

**If you'd like to write to the letters page, send your opinion to Bong Letters Page, The Depeche Mode Fanclub, P.O.Box 1281., London N1 9UX. Please print your name and address on it, as the writer of each letter we publish receives a prize.**



Freely provided by DM Live  
dmlive.wiki

# BOOTLEGS

In Bong 10, we asked for features on the myriad Bootleg and DJ Remix records of Depeche Mode that are available. Here are a few of the replies we received:

## BOOTLEG TAPE :- DEPECHE MODE BLACK TULIPS

This is a compilation tape of some very rare DM tracks.. Being a collector, I was quite excited finding some pre-Mute tracks that I have never heard before.

TRACK LIST: PHOTOGRAPHIC (Some Bizarre Version)  
I SOMETIMES WISH I WAS DEAD (Flexi-disc)  
DRESSED IN BLACK (Record Mirror Mix)  
MASTER & SERVANT (Hammerhead Mix)  
NEVER LET ME DOWN (Groovy Mix)  
I LIKE IT (Live Cover Version)  
SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT (Live Hammersmith '82)  
THE SUN & THE RAINFALL (Live Hammersmith '82)  
NODISCO (Instrumental)  
TORA!TORA!TORA! (Session)  
LET'S GET TOGETHER (Interview with Vince and Martin '81)  
THE SUN & THE RAINFALL (Demo)  
\* TELEVISION SET (Live 79/80)  
\* THE PRICE OF LOVE (Live 79/80)  
\* TOMORROW'S DANCE (Live 79/80)  
\* REASON MAN (Live 79/80)  
\* UNDERSTOOD (Live 79/80)  
STRANGELOVE (Network Chart Remix)  
NEVER TURN YOUR BACK (Single Version)  
MASTER & SERVANT/PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE + EVERYTHING (Radio Remix)  
THE LANDSCAPE IS CHANGING (Live)

\* I was very pleased with the quality of this tape, especially with these five early tracks which are all electronic with early keyboards and drum machines. Unfortunately, only a small crowd, I estimate 100 maximum, about 20 of which are clapping. I think it is live in Romford but this is only an educated guess from information from magazines.

**By C. Scaife**

## ITALIAN TOUR 11-87

One of the worst DM Bootlegs ever put out has to be the 'Italian Tour, 11-87'. I hope no-one is fooled by the gold sticker stating "CERTIFIED:COLLECTORS EDITION" as I was.

The cover pictures are horrible. There are three pictures of Dave on the front and individual shots of Fletch and Alan on the back. All five pictures were badly taken and developed with a blurry effect. There are no shots of Martin on the sleeve, which is quite unfair.

There are nineteen live songs. All of them, except 'Pipeline' can be heard in the same order and with better sound quality on 101. In fact, the only 101 songs missing are 'Just Can't Get Enough' and



'Somebody'. This record is so faulty, it lists 'Shake The Disease' as 'Pleasure And Pain'. The sound quality is almost unbearable, like listening to the radio without an antenna, but with a poor reception. Not only does the actual show sound faraway, but also a riot of singing and screaming Depechers are heard over the music. It's an awful 2-record item, and I tell everyone considering buying it not to waste their twenty-five bucks on this piece of junk.

**DM FAN,  
USA**

*(Could the person who wrote this please mail me their name and address so that I can send their prize)*

I recently bought an 'On U-Sound Megamix' 12" from Adrian's costing £6.99. This is a US import and is the second 'On U-Sound' release - a previous release entitled 'Strangemix' came out in 1987 - and is a rather poor 'megamix' centred on 'Strangelove'. I'll give a brief review of both:

I was attracted to both 'megamixes' by the 'On-U-Sound' label - expecting involvement of the great Adrian Sherwood: I was disappointed. Side one of 'Strangemix' consists of the various 12" mixes of 'Strangelove' combined with one another and with excerpts of other DM songs such as 'Master & Servant', 'Set Me Free' and 'Get The Balance Right', lasting fifteen minutes in total. None of the attempts at mixing these songs into 'Strangelove' works particularly well - and in some cases it only partly succeeds because the speed of one song has been altered to get it to fit in. I wasn't impressed. Side two may be more appealing to fans - containing two tracks mysteriously entitled 'Deathwish' and 'Photogenic' - which turned out to be reasonable remixes of 'I Sometimes Wish I was Dead' and 'Photographic'. Whether these justify fans forking out six or seven pounds I'm not sure, the 'Megamix' certainly doesn't in my opinion.

The more recent megamix release contains more up-to-date songs from 'Violator', 'Music For The Masses' and a little from earlier LPs. It's about thirty minutes long and covers both sides of the 12". Side two with 'Violator' and 'Music For The Masses' songs works okay but side one has all the same problems present in 'Strangemix'. DM's songs, basically, can't be combined in this manner. The only successful megamix I've heard was the US 12" version of 'Behind The Wheel' and 'Route 66' which combine quite nicely.

It's quite interesting to note that neither megamix release has a producer's or engineer's credit; perhaps too embarrassed to own up to these wastes of vinyl. What Adrian Sherwood thinks of it I'm not sure but I seriously doubt he has sanctioned such a production.

**BY DAVID STEVENSON  
MUIREND  
GLASGOW**

You asked us in BONG 10 to write in about our DJ mixes. Well I have five mixes which I will tell you about. I'll start with the worst: 'Dangerous' the mix which comes on an 11 track CD or 12". It's not that great - there's nothing new on it and it is just like the original 12" mix, except that the first verse repeats itself. Not worth £15.00.

Next is 'Enjoy The Silence'. Many will have heard it at last year's fanclub convention. This is brilliant, it comes on an 8 track 12". There are two 12"s, both pressed in red vinyl. I like this set as it also has a good mix of The Beloved's 'Hello'. This cost me £17.99.

'New Dress' is good on one 12" with three other tracks, one of them New Order's 'Touched By The Hand Of God'. 'New Dress' lasts for around six minutes and is great quality orange vinyl. The original will cost £30.00 but I got the re-issued generic sleeve for £15.00. This is number four in the DJ top ten mixes in 'Record Collector'.

'Pleasure Little Treasure' is the best mix of all and was worth the £28.00 I paid for it. This is number six in the 'Record Collector' list because of it's value, but it should be number one. It comes as two orange vinyl 12"s with seven other tracks. Most Razormaid mixes are 6-7 minutes long, but 'Master...Set Me Free' is a staggering 9.13 minutes. This cost the most and is 'Record Collector's no.1 with a price tag of £70.00. However, do look around as I picked up the original for £40.00. It's worth every penny as it's such good quality and the sleeve is breathtaking. Both the vinyl and the sleeve are orange and it comes with three other songs. It does seem a lot of money to pay for about 7 minutes of DM but the Razormaid mixes are really worth their price. Do look around first.

I also have a brilliant mix of 'Strangelove' this is not a Razormaid but it is mixed by Phil Harding and comes under the name of the 'Fresh Ground Mix'. This promo used to change hands for £90.00 but there are many around now and you can probably get hold of one for around £18.00. The 'B' side is the 'Blind Mix' and is definitely worth every penny.

Do be careful - I've been ripped of a couple of times, most recently with a DM album under the name 'Italian Tour' I bought it specifically for 'Pipeline' which is virtually inaudible. DON'T buy this. I paid £24.00 for it on blue and yellow vinyl. Stick to 101.

**BY ANDREW WINTER  
SURREY**

JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH/MASTER & SERVANT/SITUATION(Yazoo)/ZOO MIX (Yazoo)  
An 'On-U-Sound' release. The mixes are awful - recorded too loudly and useless. This cost me £19.00 in 1989. One to avoid.

#### TOYS

Live LP. Good recording, good cover. Features Shout/I Sometimes Wish.../Boys Say Go!/Puppets/ Now This Is Fun/Ice Machine/New Life/ Tora! Tora! Tora!/ Meaning Of Love/Just Can't Get Enough/Photographic/Dreaming Of Me/I Like It. I bought it for £15.00. A must!

#### TOMORROWS DANCE/MEANING OF LOVE

A single with an awful sleeve. Not very interesting. I bought it for £7.50. Avoid it.

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC (Demo Version)/I SOMETIMES WISH.....

Supposed to be a Spanish promo on the RCA label. Apparently released in 1981 but it has the Grabbing Hands/Sonet credit on it so it's probably from around 1987, when I paid £7.50 for it. Good recording, great sleeve.

#### PIMPF

Portugese 'release'. The grooves are on a postcard! Inaudible. A sting at £10.00. (I'm so stupid for buying it!)

#### TOLD YOU SO

A great Spanish single in a red sleeve. Both sides feature Told You So. Great.

**BY JEROME GRANDVEAUD  
TOULOUSE  
FRANCE**

If you've bought a Depeche Mode bootleg or DJ remix and you feel ripped off because it's bad quality and cost a lot, or even if it's really good value and a good recording, please send a short review to the usual fanclub address. Every one printed will receive a prize.

## CONVENTION 1991

After the success of last year's convention (see Bong 11) the 1991 convention will be held slightly earlier in the year, hopefully to bypass exams and summer holidays, things which, according to your letters, were the only things holding you back from attending the last two.

The date is 31st March (Easter Sunday) at The Camden Palace (the same as last year). The doors will open at 4pm and it'll end at 11pm. (The bar will close at 10.30)

Tom Smith will be the DJ as usual, and Competition prizes and giveaways are already cluttering up my office. We'll be having a DM quiz again, and most of the answers will be in your back issues of Bong. Also, if you look like Dave, Martin, Alan or Andy, make sure you enter our lookalike competition.

There'll be exclusive Fanclub convention T-Shirts on sale, and back issues of Bong. Also, if anyone wants to join the club while they're there, they can do so.

Tickets cost £5.00 each from the fanclub. There's no limit to the number you can order - so bring your friends!

Send in the form below (copy it out or make a photocopy if you don't want to cut up your magazine) and send it, along with your cheque/postal order to:

**'BONG CONVENTION TICKETS' The DM Fanclub, P.O.Box 1281, London N1 9UX.**

Please make cheques payable to The Depeche Mode Fanclub, and write your name and address on the back. Don't send cash. If you include a self-addressed envelope, you'll get your tickets by return post.

.....  
Please send me .....ticket(s) to the 1991 Depeche Mode Fanclub Convention. I have enclosed a cheque/postal order for £.....

Name:.....

Address:.....  
.....

Daytime Telephone No:.....





photos: Lewis Lee

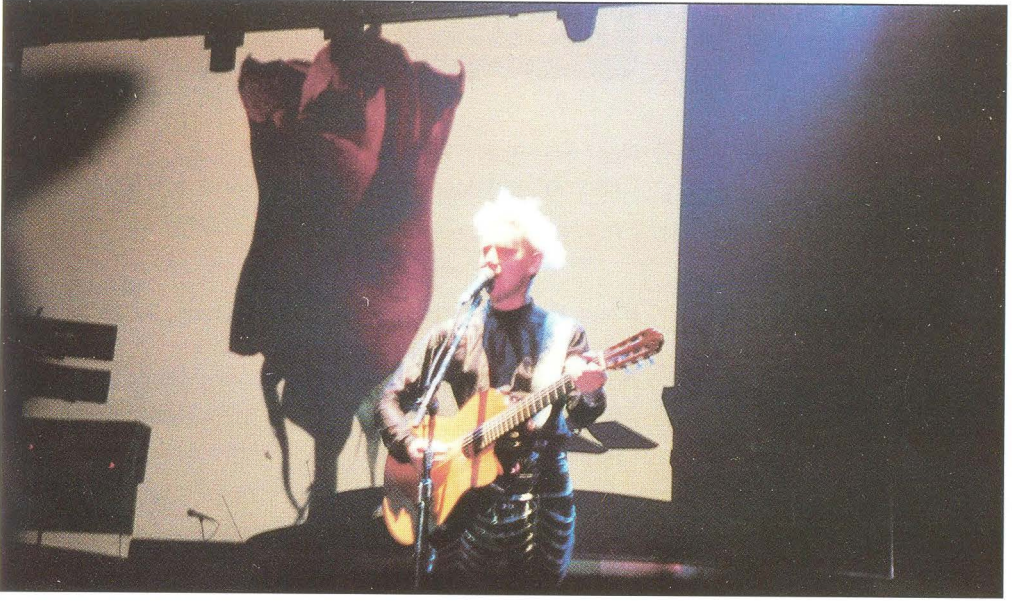


Photo: Robert Gimeno



Photo: Liz Doherty

## PENPALS

"Sometimes"  
27 Dana Road  
Monsey, NY 10952  
USA

Need Something To Do? Bored With Life ? Feeling Unknown And All Alone? Put It In Words and write!

Karren Hughes  
13 Glan Y Mar  
Llansteffan  
Carmarthen  
Dyfed SA33 5LL  
WALES

If your Personal Jesus is wearing a Blue Dress, A Clean Halo and it's Sweetest Perfection is Waiting For The Night To Fall. Write to me. We could play Master And Servant Behind The Wheel.

Catherine McClure  
74 Chinauley Pk  
Banbridge  
Co Down BT32 7JL  
N.IRELAND

"Some things in life are worth having", like DM T-Shirts, records, tapes, posters, books etc and the band for tea!! Well we can't have everything. If you're a real DM fanatic write to me (quickly!!)

Michael J Carroll  
19 Sharps Lane  
Lochee  
Dundee DD2 3EU  
SCOTLAND

Richard Attenborough here, I'm in possession of an enchanting rare species "Triathletus Depeche Modus". Observation has revealed that (he) is 19 years old, loves swimming/biking/running and is fond of electro music. It would be a tragedy to let this species become extinct, so if anyone has a female variant get in touch and we can compare notes!

Steven Berenger  
3 Tudor Road  
Barking  
Essex IG11 9RX  
ENGLAND

'Halo' to all DM-crazy girls from Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. I'm a 20 year old DM crazy boy from England, Dressed In Black, Going Crazy With Boredom. If you're Feeling Unknown And You're All Alone write to me with A Photograph Of You!

Linda Forsberg  
Briljantg.69  
42149 V.F  
SWEDEN

Enjoy the Violation! Hi there all brothers and sisters! Looking for a new friend or just a penpal? If there's anyone out there who's slept outside a venue for a DM concert get writing - I did it! Write to a 16 year old fan now! I'll answer all letters!

Lindsey  
28 Cedarwood Grove  
Tunstall  
Sunderland SR2 EJ  
ENGLAND

I need Somebody to share my favourite band, Share My Innermost Thoughts, Know My Intimate Details. I NEED contact with DEVOTED DM fans.

Yuko Iwatani  
23-6-402 Higashiashiya  
Ashiya-City  
Hyogo  
659 JAPAN

Hi! I'm 21 years old, Japanese and crazy for Martin. I'm looking for anybody who loves DM. Please write.

Johanna Askola  
Metsamuseontie 7  
96460 Rovaniemi  
Finland

HIEVERYBODY! I'm 16 years old and a real DM fan. I especially like Dave. I'd like to have penpals all over the world, so start scribblin' - I'll answer as many letters as possible!

Mark Beaney  
7 Aldrin Close  
Stanford-Le-Hope  
Essex SS17 7DA

I'm looking for any devoted DM fan who's followed or seen DM around 1980 onwards. I'm also interested in recordings such as 'The Bridgehouse'.

Stephanie Meisel  
67-38 108th Street  
Forest Hills  
New York, 11375  
USA

I'm an 18 year old girl who "just can't get enough" of DM. So if you're as obsessed as I am, grab your pen and paper and start writing - I'll answer all letters!

Paul Thurlby  
26 Oak Tree Close  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham NG2 5DE

I'm a 19 year old boy and I need something to do, so I'm looking for 'Modettes' to write to about the world we live in and life in general. I'll be your personal Jesus. I'll write to anyone who encloses a photo with their letter.

Rebecca Roache  
10 Barnlake Point  
Burton, Milford Haven  
Dyfed  
S.Wales

Any Punks and Goths who like DM, The Clash, The Cure, Sisters Of Mercy, The Damned, New Model Army and The Mission, write to a 16 year old girl. I'd especially like to write to people in the UK. Replies guaranteed!

**If you'd like your name included in the penpal section of 'BONG', please send in a postcard with your name and address and a few lines about yourself. Address it to: PENPALS, BONG, P.O.BOX 1281, LONDON N1 9UX.ENGLAND.**

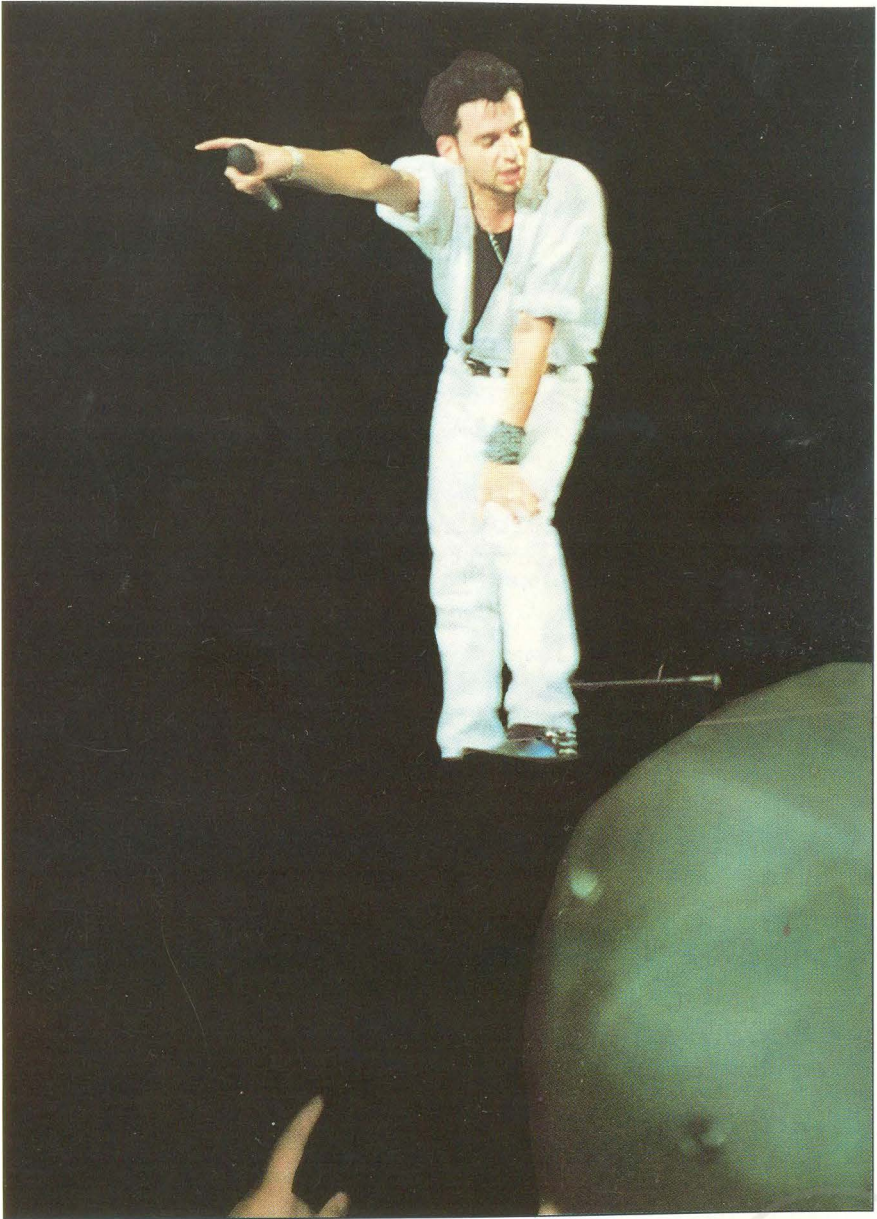


PHOTO: 'THE BRISTOL BOYS'