

BONG



ELEVEN

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The Convention at Camden Palace was very popular - so we're starting to plan next year's already. One bad note was that somebody unknown decided to help themselves to some T-Shirts that were given to me by some visitors from East Germany to pass onto the band - also my clipboard with information of competition winners etc was pinched. Other than that, everything went really well! Special thanks to Lynn Newcombe, Andy Daniels, Elaine Gwyther, Liz and John Doherty, Karin Voss and Beate Klaas for all their help on the day.

The World Violation Tour is now well underway, and everyone who's written to the fanclub about the concerts have only good things to say.

Everyone who's had anything printed in this issue will be sent a 'Wherehouse' tape, courtesy of Second Vision in New York, who kindly found a box or two of them lying under a desk and sent them to me. If you want to write a feature for the next issue get it to me as soon as you can, and if it's published you too will receive a tape.

Back issues nos. 2,3,4,5,6,8 and 9 of BONG are still available at 75p each if you live in the UK and £1.20 each if you live elsewhere. Cheques made out to THE DEPECHE MODE FANCLUB please.

If you sent in an article about bootlegs and are wondering what happened to it, all bootleg stuff is being held over for a special feature in the next issue.

Cover photo by Anton Corbijn, printed with permission Mute Records

DM'S 'WORLD UNIFICATION'

By Katie Holm from Flint, MI.

I attended Depeche Mode's 'World Violation Tour' on June 28th and 29th at Pine Knob in Clarkston, Michigan (USA), and it has been the best concert I've ever seen. I also saw them in 1988 and 1986, but with the addition of many new stage surprises (none of which I'll give away - you must see it yourself!) this tour is the most "finely honed" by far!

Depeche's concerts, as many or all of you know, are not only superb musically, but "spiritually" as well. A sense of oneness cannot be helped as everyone sings along to old and new favourites, including some songs never before performed live! Dave sweats, grinds, bumps, churns and belts out all of Martin's tunes with true heartfelt quality. Meanwhile Fletch and Alan play and bang away, with an occasional jig, and Martin stomps back and forth with his guitar, or sings to an enchanted audience. I went to the concert with two good friends of mine, and left having made dozens of new friends, including Marie, a girl from Denmark! Many of my new friends I will never see again, but we will always remember each other because of Depeche Mode

There were two very special moments during the concert. When Martin and Dave performed 'WAITING FOR THE NIGHT', I wanted someone else to feel as moved as I did. So I grabbed the hands of my friends Marie and Xavier (my friend from France). We held our arms up in a salute until the last sounds died, and when I started to let go of their hands, they gave mine a big squeeze.

Then, when the first encore of 'BLACK CELEBRATION' started, the rain that had threatened all day finally broke, pathetic fallacy....? This time Marie grabbed mine and Xavier's hands, and I grabbed other people's hands, and we all danced and hugged each other in the cleansing rain. When the song stopped, so did the rain.

I could've reviewed the concert, talking about the songs and lights, but that would spoil it for those of you who haven't seen it yet. Besides, this aspect seems more important. Music, especially Depeche Mode's, creates a sense of unity "around the world and back" And during a brief period of rejoicing, three countries (at least) were united not only politically, but spiritually. So, "enjoy the silence" until the concert comes to you!

And a special thank you to Alan, Andy, Dave and Martin for an experience I'll never forget!

PARIS 1990



Photos by Liz Doherty



Photo: Anton Corbijn

LETTERS

Dear BONG

I'd just like to say that the convention was EXCELLENT! I haven't enjoyed myself so much in ages - I can't wait until the next one! A tip for next time - ban tall people from the front when the freebies are being dished out!

I also would like to get in touch with two people who were there. One of them was the guy who came second in the Dave Gahan look-a-like competition and the other one is the guy we met outside who said he had Dave's belt on (Remember us? One of us is the one who won Dave's jacket) So, if either of you are reading this - please get in touch! Here's my name and address:

Lilla Smee
14a Mapledale Ave
East Croydon
Surrey CR0 5TB

Dear BONG

Just a few lines from the Martin look-a-like winner to say thank you for without doubt the best night of my life. Everything was perfect, the venue, the music, the people and the whole party atmosphere! I never expected to get up on stage and win but I've had a smile from ear to ear ever since. A special thank-you to Rebecca Sykes from Sweden who put the icing on the cake for me!

Without meaning to sound vain, I'd like everybody who took photos of me to send me a copy so I have as many memories as possible.

Jon Tiller
41 Rambridge Crescent
Bemerton Heath
Salisbury
Wilts SP2 9JE

Dear BONG

Regarding the letter sent in by Thierry Molard in Bong 10....Is this guy off his head or what? He begins by saying he hates 'VIOLATOR' and ends with "VIOLATOR' is the best LP of 1990' Well, I'm sure every reader of BONG knows that 'VIOLATOR' is the best thing of the year (apart from the concerts) but does Monsieur Molard have to criticise four of the best songs on the album just to get his letter printed? He also says that he doesn't like the 'Mode' sound anymore....So!!!!!!? I'm an avid Depeche fan and I love 'VIOLATOR' and when I read BONG, I expect to read articles full of praise for DM. I suggest in the future that Thierry keeps his own critical opinions to himself - or gets a job with the NME. Sort your head out, kid.

I thank you.

Lee
Oldham

Dear BONG

With reference to Pascal Kaszyk's letter in BONG 10, I think the artwork for 'VIOLATOR' is excellent. Although, it would have been nice to see something a bit different on 'ENJOY THE SILENCE' and the 'PERSONAL JESUS' sleeve was awful! Why not let the fans have a go at designing one or two record covers? Even if it was just the initial idea, I'm sure it would freshen things up a little!!

James
Chatham
Kent

Dear BONG

This morning I received my issue of BONG 10 and read through it happily,

looking for the 'World Violation' tour dates.

Imagine my disgust, when I found, to my horror that no dates had been planned for Scotland. It has been stated, time and again, that DM were only going to play large venues on this tour. What is wrong with Glasgow and Edinburgh? Aren't they large enough? On the 'MUSIC FOR THE MASSES' tour at least there was one Scottish date but now there are none and I'm sure many other Scottish fans will be less than pleased at this. We buy just as many records, posters and additional merchandise, elsewhere quite a few "fans" down South probably don't even bother. Unfortunately it seems that Scotland, and Scottish DM fans are being neglected. Of course we understand that band members need time to rest and that concerts are both emotionally and physically draining events but surely a country, right next to England, with plenty of fans should not be forgotten completely when it comes to concerts. So far, five British dates have been confirmed....and there'll hopefully be more....but so far the dates are all in England!! Why are there going to be three nights at the NEC in Birmingham, when the Glasgow SECC, for example, would go down just as well. Three concerts in Birmingham and absolutely none in Scotland!!

Assuming that somebody gets a ticket for one of the concerts, it is very expensive to travel down to Birmingham or Wembley - accommodation, food etc. To quote DM "Everything counts in LARGE amounts" If there are no Scottish dates there will be some very disappointed and bitter Scottish fans.

Yours faithfully

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Robin Kennedy

Darvel

Ayrshire

Apparently, it's not a case of not wanting to appear in Scotland, it's just that Glasgow SECC, the only venue large enough, is unavailable!

Dear BONG

...Or Pascal Kasczyk in France. I think your opinion isn't right. I think the covers of 'Violator' and 'Enjoy The Silence' are great. Yes, 'Personal Jesus' is ugly! Could you make such a good picture?

I like the covers for 'A Question Of Time', 'Music For the Masses' - I think 'Violator' is great! but the videos are terrible! I mean, 'Enjoy The Silence' is great, but 'World In My Eyes' is so uninventive. I also think the photos are terrible. I think Anton Corbijn makes great covers but not videos and photos!

Susan Thomsen

Bronderslov

Denmark

Dear BONG

Wow! What a sheer show of excellence Depeche Mode have over any group in the world! Not only do they stun us with brilliant songs and albums but they most definitely prove their worth 'live'!

I have now seen them three times and every time I personally think that they're getting better and better and even better. I would like to congratulate the lads on a brilliant concert in Dortmund, which I was fortunate to travel to. Mind you, the whole trip was helped by the fact that everybody on the coach were truly devoted 'Mode' fans and a



Photos: Andy Franks

great bunch of people as well. The question is how long do we have to wait until they tour the world again and when is the next fanclub convention?

Best wishes

Jason Corbett

Strood

Kent

Dear BONG

I've just returned from a trip to see DM in Dortmund and I was disgusted. Not at DM - They were absolutely brilliant. No, it was the audience that I was disgusted with. During the support act, Electribe 101, the German fans booed, chanted and threw things on stage. Personally, I quite enjoyed their performance and did my best to support the group by cheering and singing along. Even members of our group who didn't particularly like Electribe 101's songs were disgusted at the audience's rude behaviour.

It seemed to me that many of the Germans had never heard of Electribe 101 and perhaps that is why they gave them such a cold reception. Maybe they had forgotten that once upon a time, DM were a new band, supporting more established groups. Everybody has to start somewhere and the public have to give new bands a chance.

Congratulations to Electribe 101 and to Depeche Mode for an amazing and memorable night.

Deborah Banton

Mansfield

Notts

In actual fact, DM have never toured as a support band, although they have appeared in festivals with people including Elton John and Rod Stewart.

Dear BONG

I strongly felt I had to write a few words about DM's fantastic tour. I went to see the lads in Gothenburg, and it was the most beautiful concert I've ever seen (people around me were actually crying). DM didn't let anybody down and the success was complete when 10,000 fans chanted "Reach Out And Touch Faith" The black-and-white movie that was shown during the concert brilliantly matched the songs and helped to pump up the show. It was an unforgettable night even if I had to queue up outside the arena for hours before the show started. It was freezing cold and raining cats and dogs. The crowd was wet and tired, and when a few fans started pushing the situation actually got a little bit scary. Once inside the atmosphere started to build up, and when DM went on the stage I found the meaning of life....but in an instant it was all over.

The concert was so good that I wished DM would release a video of the tour. Any plans? If not, consider it!

Never Let me Down.....

Stefan

Sweden

At the moment, I don't know whether there're any plans to release a tour video - sorry.

If you've got anything to say about DM or BONG, write in to:

THE LETTERS PAGE

BONG/DM FANCLUB

P.O.BOX 1281

LONDON N1 9UX

The senders of any letters published will receive a 'Wherehouse' Tape.

DEPECHE MODE FANS IN YUGOSLAVIA

By Andrea Zagar

I live in Yugoslavia, but the mail from the DM fanclub I receive in Germany where my parents live. It's quite hard for me to be a DM fan, because I can't see them playing live.

When I heard that they are going on tour, I went at once straight to Germany to buy a ticket. But, as I arrived, the tickets were all already sold! My last and only hope disappeared. Depeche Mode haven't given any concerts in Yugoslavia yet, and there aren't any planned.

For many people here, it's a dream to be able to see the Depechies live. It's almost impossible to buy DM LPs and virtually impossible to get hold of singles, so most people get their records abroad.

In Zagreb there's only one radio station that plays DM. It's a local station called '101'. Most of the young people listen to this station as they don't only play top-ten stuff, but also real music - Depeche Mode. When they played 'VIOLATOR' for the first time, many young people called the station to find out the name of the band. From that day, DM became favourites. There is also a disco in Zagreb which on certain days plays only DM music.

We all love Depeche Mode and we hope so much that they will come sometime to Yugoslavia.

NEWS

The October issue of UK music magazine 'Select' has a free cassette on the cover which features Depeche Mode's album track 'CLEAN'. For those Mute collectors among you, side two of the tape consists solely of Mute material. Unfortunately, due to copyright reasons, the tape is only available in the UK.

Alan, Martin, Fletch and Dave would like to pass on their thanks for all the birthday cards and presents they received from Fanclub members this year.

The support for the European/UK leg of the World Violation Tour are Electribe 101, who recently supported Erasure at their one-off gig at The Milton Keynes Bowl.

'WORLD IN MY EYES' was released on September 17th and entered the UK 'Gallup' Chart at number 28, rising to number 21 the following week. The single peaked at no.17 in it's 3rd week of release. At the time of writing, it had dropped to no.22.

Mute Films are releasing a new Depeche Mode video on October 22nd. Titled "STRANGE TOO - ANOTHER VIOLATION" it features Anton Corbijn's videos for 'PERSONAL JESUS', 'POLICY OF TRUTH', 'ENJOY THE SILENCE', 'CLEAN', 'HALO' and 'WORLD IN MY EYES'. The video to 'HALO' features Martin as a clown, Dave as The Strongest Man In The Universe and Alan and Andy as two peculiar 'undertaker' looking characters. The video will be available from the usual outlets for around eight pounds.

To date, the most exciting part of the tour occurred in Phoenix, Arizona and involved Daryl and Ginger Barwick, the merchandiser...

On their way home from a club, they were attacked by a mad cabbie. His meter had broken, and he wasn't sure what his fare should have been. He radioed his controller who said a flat fare of \$20 would do. Daryl and Ginger obviously heard this and paid him the \$20. The cab driver was none too pleased and attacked them, saying that they'd ripped him off. Daryl and Ginger defended themselves and ended up smashing his car. The cab driver then decided to chase them and run them over. By this time, someone had notified the police and three squad cars chased everyone up a mountain.

Ginger ran back to the hotel and hid in his room.

Daryl gave himself up "To save the rest of the crew being woken up and getting hassle from the 'feds'". The police decided that the damage to the taxi should be paid for but the driver was most unhappy at this and insisted on carrying out a citizen's arrest on Daryl for attempted murder. 'Our hero' was handcuffed and read his rights. Daryl, being a smooth talker, managed to get the police on his side and highlighted many inconsistencies in the cabbie's story. The police eventually decided that Daryl should pay \$100 for the damage to the vehicle and the issue is finished. Back at the hotel, Ginger was forced into paying up \$50 for his share and the evening ended with the drinking of a celebratory crate of Corona.

Channel 4's 'The Word' broadcast a Depeche Mode feature on September 28th. It consisted of a series of short interviews with fans outside the Dodgers Stadium in LA, plus Martin, Fletch and Alan and K-ROQ DJ Jed The Fish who said that "These guys are God over here!" Quotes from fans were along the lines of "I would die for them" This from a fan who'd seen Depeche Mode in concert fifty-one times! According to 'The Word', some people were paying up to \$5,000.00 for a ticket and there were 800 security staff in the venue each night that Depeche Mode played. The video for 'WORLD IN MY EYES' was also shown and was featured on 'The Chart Show' on September 29th and 30th and 'Top Of The Pops' on 27th September and 11th October.

BBC2 broadcast a Depeche Mode special on 12th September as part of their Def II schedule. The programme ran for half an hour and was cut down from the 'Making Of 101' special shown in 1989.

Smash Hits magazine have released a compilation album called 'SMASH HITS 1990' which features the DM single 'ENJOY THE SILENCE'

During the tour, DM will be presented with Platinum awards for sales of 'Violator' in France, Germany and Spain , and Gold awards in Italy, Switzerland and Belgium. They will also receive Gold awards for '101' in Spain, France and Belgium. DM were unable to include Mexico on this tour, but 'Violator' has gone Gold there too.

A FEW LINES ON BEING A DM FAN

By Rebecca Oliver from Hornchurch in Essex.

What's it like to be a typical fourteen year old English girl who loves Depeche Mode more than any other band in the world?

Well, many fans say it and it's definitely true in my case. Depeche Mode have changed my life. For 1 1/2 years whatever I'm doing at whatever time of day Dave, Mart, Fletch and Alan are always there lodged in the back of my mind, nagging away at me not to forget them for a second. So, my eyes and ears are always open for the slightest mention of Depeche - whether on the Radio, TV or in the magazines. Even the tiniest magazine and newspaper mentions are cut out and kept with a note of when they were printed.

Alan, Dave, Fletch and Mart are like best friends to me, it's funny to think they don't know I exist, let alone know who the hell I am! But I am totally and utterly devoted to them - whether it's Martin's spooky lyrics, Dave's 'waggish' behaviour, Alan's brilliant Keyboard skills or Andy's down-to-earthness. They are such a great bunch of guys, no mistake!

Yeah, I know they're not Gods. Just four normal guys who like to lead a fairly normal life when they're not working. I respect that, and I think all true fans do. Everybody needs privacy, what makes Dave, Mart, Alan and Fletch any different?

I won't bore you with a list of all the Depeche Mode items I've collected so far - what's the point? I love Depeche because I love their music. I'm not the sort of fan that goes and spends £50 on a T-Shirt because it's a very limited edition. I think all that proves is you've got a lot of money to throw around, not that you really like DM's music. I would spend that amount (or even more!) on a limited edition record though, that, in my view, is worth it. You might disagree on that point - fair enough.

I haven't met them yet....maybe one day? If I did meet them I'd probably make a prat of myself and say something stupid. Ain't that always the case?

So, keep loving Depeche, (What could be simpler?) - where would they be without us? On the other hand, what would life be like without them?

DEPECHE MODE CONVENTION -
CAMDEN PALACE SUNDAY 8TH JULY 1990

By Lynn Newcombe - Fan Club Assistant

We arrived to set up about 11.00 am and there were fans already waiting outside - even though the doors didn't open until 5.00 pm! When the time finally came, over 1,000 DM people of all nationalities flowed through the doors, and made their way to the front of the stage where all the action was. By 6.30 the place was packed out, all that could be seen from the stage were bobbing heads and DM t-shirts in abundance.

There was a massive video screen suspended from the middle of the ceiling, thus enabling everyone either side of the hall to see what was being shown, there was a video-taped message from the band, recorded by fanclub member Liz Docherty when she and Jo were in New York in June. The DJ, Tom Smith (who also did the convention last year at the Borderline) had a real mixed bag, including some new remixes (where does he get them from?)

Jo was busy on the stage throwing goodies into the adoring crowd (she loved it!) Then came the competitions, this was a lot of fun, I especially enjoyed ploughing through the crowd 'persuading' unsuspecting victims to enter. The winners were as follows:-Jon Tiller, from Salisbury, was our 'Martin' and overall winner. His prize was one of DM's mikestands and the last Violator watch in existence. 'Dave' was Mark

Welbourne from Surbiton, who won Dave's grey jacket, Peter Mahoney (press-ganged by me) from Herne Bay won the 'Alan' part and walked home with another one of DM's mikestands and Adam 'Fletch' Tribe was presented with Andy's football shirt. (We don't know much about Adam, as the clipboard with all the info' about him on was swiped from the stage - thanks!)

We also held a dancing competition, with entrants dancing on the stage. We were finally left with Gary Pryce from Scotland (but works in Germany) and Violet from Ireland. Gary very kindly conceded to Violet and she won a framed & signed 'Enjoy The Silence' poster.

Earlier in the evening, we had distributed DM quiz forms and a guy called Faith answered them all correctly thus winning Dave's black leather jacket, asworn on 'The Tube' and the 'Black Celebration' tour.

As eleven o'clock drew near, yet more goodies were distributed from the stage, mega sized posters (courtesy of Mute), signed photographs, postcards, 'Warehouse' tapes and lots more.

On the whole, I think everyone enjoyed themselves, lots of people kept telling us there should be more conventions. We agreed, of course - so we'll see you at next year's!

WORLD VIOLATION - CANCELLED SHOWS

As you know, Depeche Mode rarely cancel shows. In fact, prior to the World Violation Tour, there were only two shows ever cancelled, and in both cases, for reasons outside the band's control, and never due to sickness.

Unfortunately, the World Violation Tour has had two shows cancelled, and one near miss.

In Ottawa, the road crew discovered Blue Asbestos in the roof structure of the venue, some of which was dislodged during an inspection of the beams which would support the equipment. The mess was subsequently cleaned up by a man in a moonsuit and breathing apparatus would you believe? To proceed with their work would have caused further dislodgement of asbestos particles, and the road crew felt that this would expose them to further contamination, and that if the show went ahead, the band and audience would also be exposed, and so the work was stopped. We were given no prior warning that this building contained Blue Asbestos.

In Salt Lake City, an open air show had to be cancelled, because it had poured with rain all day, and the stage covering was inadequate. We were lucky enough to be able to re-schedule the show indoors on the following day, and, of course, the weather was wonderful.

Finally, we were very upset at having to cancel the show in Melbourne. In spite of some lengthy rehearsals, Dave strained his voice badly during the show in Sydney, but managed to finish the show. (Sydney was the first of only two shows in Australia, and the first show of the Australian/Japanese leg of the tour, after a three week break). A doctor was arranged to be at the Melbourne venue the next day, before soundcheck, who examined Dave's larynx, and told him he could not sing for at least two days. This meant that we couldn't even consider re-scheduling, because of our Japanese dates.

Cancelling a show, for any reason, is very distressing for all concerned, especially the fans who have bought tickets. Voice problems are not easy to predict, because the voice always improves during the course of the day. This is why the Melbourne show was cancelled so late. Dave was particularly upset that a show had to be cancelled because of his voice for the first time in his career, and everyone was sorry that it happened on Depeche Mode's first visit to Australia.

MODE VIOLATION, SOUTH AND WEST

By Jean Louie from San Antonio, Texas, USA

Catching one show on the Depeche Mode 'World Violation' tour was great, but winning a second chance to see them was fantastic.

I was lucky enough to win that chance from a local radio station in my hometown of San Antonio, Texas.

I caught DM at The Woodlands in Houston on July 6th. Nitzer Ebb kicked off the show, and had the crowd singing and dancing in no time. They played an energy-packed set that lasted about 40 minutes. Crowd favourites were 'Chant' and 'Lightning Man'. As their set closed, we awaited the arrival of Depeche Mode.

As DM hit the stage the crowd went wild. Everyone was on their feet immediately and we sang and danced throughout the show. The audience kept shouting for their favourites hoping to bring the Depeche guys back out for encore after encore. The show was great! I told all my friends about it, and how much fun I had. About a month later I had a big surprise...

I entered a contest with KSAQ-96FM in San Antonio, who were giving away DM cassettes. I won one of these and a week later I won a trip to L.A to see Depeche Mode at the Dodgers Stadium on August 4th.

Nitzer Ebb opened the show with another energetic set. Then Electronic and The Pet Shop Boys came out to perform. They all seemed to have fun, especially Bernard Sumner from New Order, who danced the whole time he was onstage. As their set ended, we were told DM would be out on stage soon. We settled back amid paper fights, food fights and even beach-ball throwing!

As the lights went out to signal their approach to the stage, we were up on our feet. Depeche hit the stage as the sky went dark and the crowd went crazy.

As usual, Dave did a great job with vocals, Martin, Alan and Fletch got rowdy with their keyboards and percussion. One of the best parts of the show was Martin's 'bondage angel' which really stole the show!

Even though the show was 2 hours long, it was over too soon. Winning this trip was a phenomenal experience. My thanks go to Dave, Alan, Martin and Fletch. I can't wait to see what the future will bring.

THE MELBOURNE STORY

By Jeremy M.

Being a Depeche Mode fan from New Zealand I was excited at the news of the band coming down our way on their current tour. I was perhaps a little disappointed that New Zealand was excluded, but I accepted the fact, and booked tickets to fly over and see them in Melbourne (Australia). I had everything organised and paid for and left on August 31st for Melbourne. I was extremely excited about seeing DM for the first time as we have waited so long for them to come down here.

The big day finally came and I arrived at The Festival Hall at about 4pm. There were many other fans already queuing that had travelled from all over Australia to see the show. Everyone talked 'Mode' for the few remaining hours, excitement and anticipation was building, especially when the band could be heard inside the hall soundchecking 'World In My Eyes'.* Shortly after this an announcement was made over the P.A. that our concert was to be cancelled due to Dave having a severe voice strain. I could not believe it, I was at a loss for words. Other fans around me were crying and there was a general 'state of shock' atmosphere. A few people including myself went round to the stage door and waited for the band to come out. We got to see Dave and Andy (and took lots of photos) as they jumped into a car and took off.

I am very disappointed that we missed out on a fantastic show and can also understand that these incidents can occur on tour. It was a shame that they had to leave Australia so quickly and couldn't reschedule. I hope that they will return on their next tour to both Australia and New Zealand.

* What Jeremy heard wasn't Depeche Mode soundchecking, but the crew playing a tape - Dave's voice was completely gone, and he was under doctor's orders not to even speak.



Lynn with 'Martin', 'Andy', 'Dave' and 'Alan'



Photos: Jo Bailey

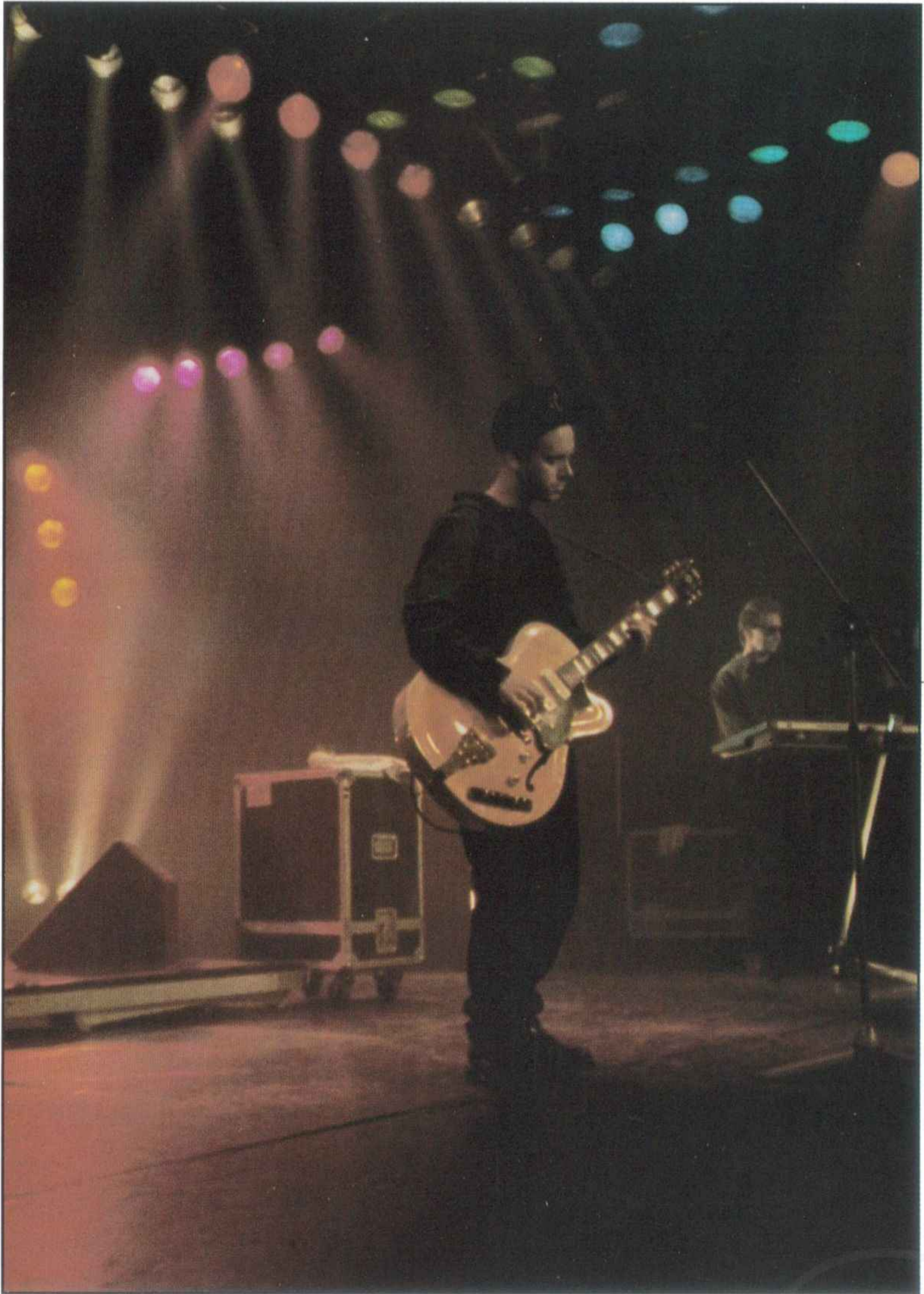


Photo: Daryl Bamonte

PENPALS

Christa Kostecki

Gavin Dwyer

Mark Davies

Sharon McIlroy

Monica Mak

Martin Levinsohn

Strangelove

Nicole Emmons

Erik S.Pedersen

Jenny Brown

David Cooke

Ginny

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Sylvia Stumpenhause

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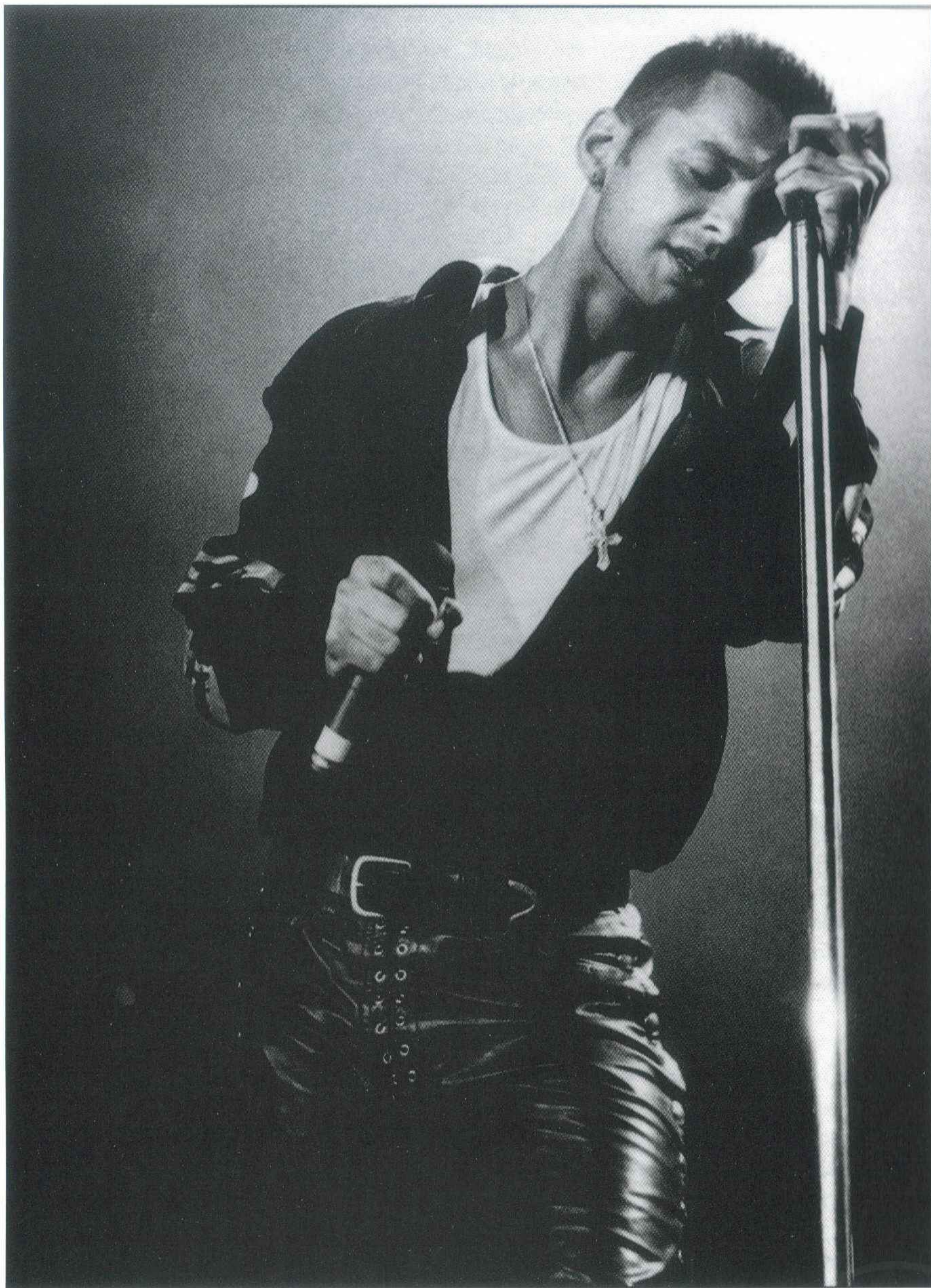


Photo: Anton Corbijn