

2003



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Photo by JD Fanger

# < < < Intro > >

## **Hello everyone and welcome to the autumn edition of Bong!**

We hope you had a fantastic summer and enjoyed your holidays as much as we did. It has been fairly quiet these past two months due to summer vacations with the exception of Andy and Martin's birthdays in July. We would like to thank you very much for all the cards and letters you have sent to them both.

The most exciting piece of news came on Thursday July 29, when David's wife Jennifer gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Stella Rose Gahan at 6:25pm in New York City. Obviously, Dave is very happy, and very proud. We have already wished them well on behalf of us at Bong, also many thanks to everyone who sent their best wishes via Bong.

There are no details at the moment regarding the work on new material as mentioned in the previous issue, but we hope to have some news for you soon, so stay tuned.

To encourage you all to take part in our new contests and to contribute to the special sections we have just announced in this issue of Bong, we have decided to give away some prizes from our archives. So take a look and take a chance!

As the end of this millennium is almost upon us, we thought it would be interesting to find out which DM song(s) have influenced you the most and what your selections would look like after voting in the following categories:

- The most favourite DM song
- The most favourite DM single
- The most favourite DM album
- The most favourite DM remix
- The most favourite DM lyrics
- The most favourite DM video
- The most favourite DM videotape
- The most favourite DM tour
- The most favourite DM album sleeve
- The most favourite DM single sleeve
- The most favourite DM packaging
- The most favourite DM photograph

You have three choices in each category, placing them in order. We know it will be a very difficult task to choose only three out of so many songs, videos, etc., DM have so far produced, but give it a go and send your votes to our usual address by November 15 - become a part of the most comprehensive Bong member's poll. There are some prizes waiting in our office for ten of you, including the artwork for "Ultra", signed by the band, for the over-all winner who will be picked at random. Don't forget to mark your votes with your name and address.

Last, but not least, we would like to encourage you to book early for next year's Bong convention that is to be held on Saturday April 15th 2000 at a spacious hotel in Basildon, UK. The event is going to be different this time giving you time to relax and hang out with other fans - you are in for a lot of fun, dancing, videos, competitions, trivia, etc. See you all there! (Booking form enclosed).

Until December, keep moding!

dm/live

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# Everything Counts >>



Please note, that the re-issue of the **3 CD Singles Box Sets**, DMBX1, DMBX2 & DMBX3 is now scheduled for 18th October, not 6th September as stated in Bong 40. They will be limited to 15,000 copies each, and some will be exported to Germany and the USA. Only a limited number will be sent out for review, as they were all previously available.

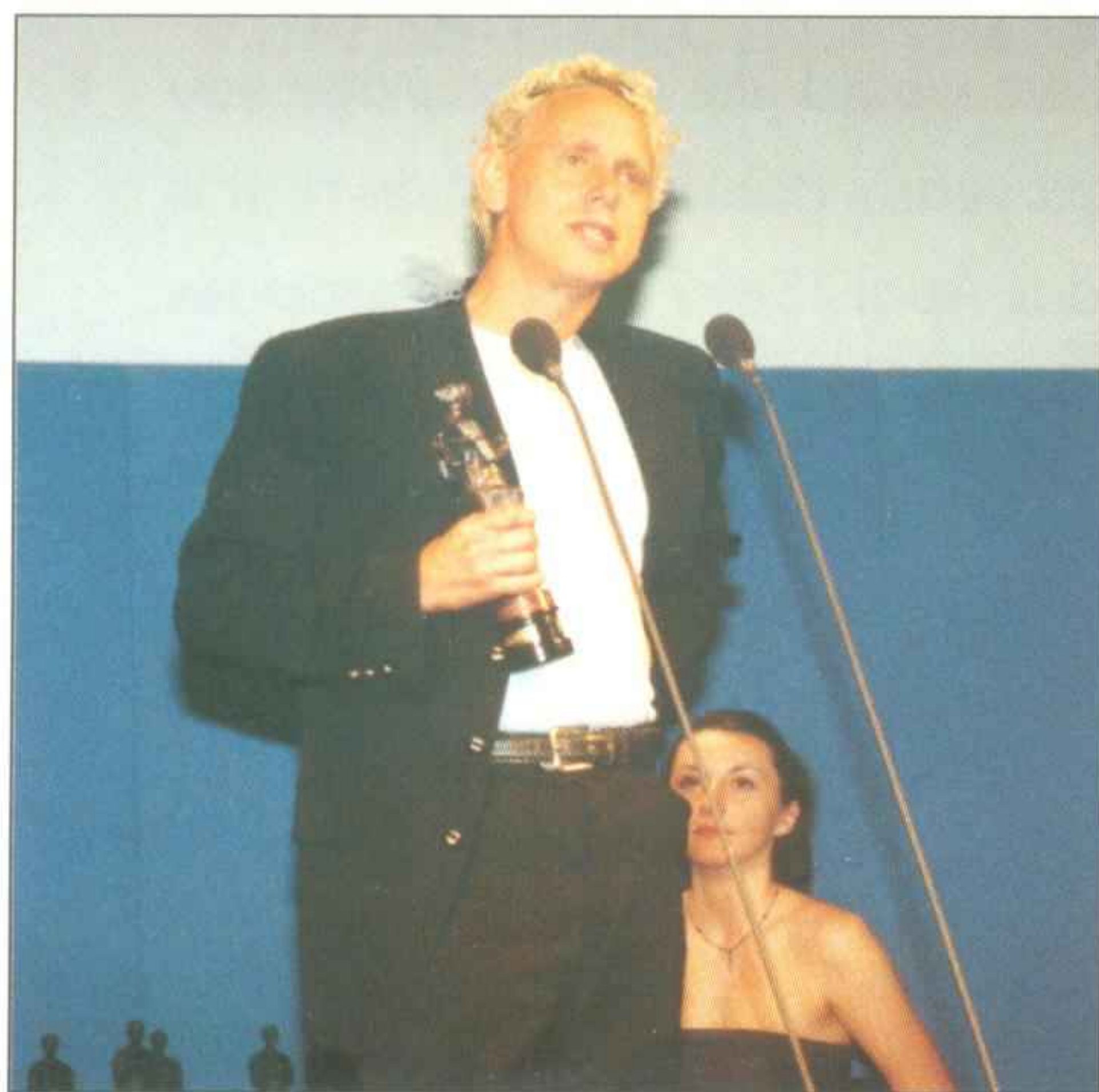
The latest video compilation **The Videos 86-98** is due to be released on DVD in the USA on 5th October. Plans for UK/European release are not yet finalised.

Martin was spending his **summer holiday** in Hawaii during July & August, and Fletch took his holiday in Majorca in August. Dave stayed in New York with his wife Jennifer, anticipating the birth of his daughter.



## The Ivor's

On Thursday 27th May, Martin was presented with an award for "International Achievement", by the British Academy of Composers & Songwriters, at the 44th Ivor Novello Awards, at The Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane in London. Martin was presented with his award by Daniel Miller, whose speech commended Martin's work as Depeche Mode's songwriter, and the fact that for nearly 20 years the band have managed to connect, through their music, with people all over the world. There were over 1000 guests, and Paul Gambaccini hosted the event. Congratulations Martin!



Photos by Doug McKenzie

The very beginning of "Blasphemous Rumours" was used by NBC in America during their broadcast of the NBA game between the Seattle SuperSonics and Detroit Pistons. During half-time, there was an interview with Orlando Magic guard Anfernee Hardaway concerning his decision whether to remain with his current team or sign with another. The very beginning of the song where the slow beats occur was used at the beginning as well as the end of the interview. This game was televised nationally on Sunday, March 27, 1999.

"Pimpf" was used by Sky Box Office as background music to the trailer for 'The Devil's Advocate' movie in June.

On Sunday, April 25, the German TV channel RTL 2 once again broadcast an hour-long recording of the Band's performance on October 5, 1998 in Cologne, Germany during "The Singles Tour 86-98".

On April 18, "Barrel Of A Gun" was used as background music in a report about mobile phones during a TV programme called 'Capital' on the French channel M6.

Page 695 of the UK Computer Shopper Magazine for June 1999 features a section on Virtual Private Networking. The article is split into five main sections titled as follows: Master And Servant, New Life, Get The Balance Right, Shake The Disease and Everything Counts.

Depeche Mode were voted "Favourite All Time Band" by listeners to KROQ 106.7 FM, a Southern Californian alternative rock radio station, in their annual Memorial Day countdown.

Virgin Radio are using "Personal Jesus" in an ad for their daily classic countdown.

The video for "Never Let Me Down Again" was played on the German TV music channel VIVA2 during their show '2Rock' on Wednesday, June 16. It was requested by an American band called Bloodhound Gang, who describe themselves as deep devoted Depeche Mode fans. The singer even did some 'Dave dancing' on the show and sang bits of "Everything Counts" and "Shake The Disease".

There is a new video for "Policy Of Truth" available! This time, however, it is a video for the song covered by the band Kuibul and is taken from the Russian tribute album "Depesha Dlya Depeche Mode" (see Bong 39 for more details).

On Wednesday, June 17, a 90-second remix of the instrumental part of "It's No Good" was used as background music during a trailer for the German film 'Drei stahlharte Profis'.

An excerpt of "Clean" was used during a report about the Internet virus 'Explore.Zip Worm' on Sunday, June 20 on the German TV channel Sat 1.

On June 18, the German TV channel RTL broadcast a programme called 'Life-Die Lust zu leben', and around 10 seconds of "Enjoy The Silence" could be heard during a report about flirting in Majorca. They also used some snippets of "Home", "Condemnation" and "Strangelove" in several other reports. There seems to be a real fan amongst the production team!

Several excerpts of "Useless" were used during a recent report about special car models called 'Auto, Motor, Sport' on June 20, 1999. The show was broadcast on the German TV channel VOX.

"Clean" and "Pimpf" were used as background music in a report about law during a programme called 'Sans Aucun Doute' on the French TV TF1.

The June issue of Select magazine (UK) published the results of research carried out by The Journal of Psychiatry and Mental Health Nursing, regarding the influence of music over peoples moods. Depeche Mode made twelve of their volunteers, who were already angry, feel even angrier, while Boney M's "Brown Girl In The Ring" produced the best results!

The American series 'Nash Bridges', starring Don Johnson, used "It's No Good" and "In Your Room" as background music in an episode about a serial killer who targeted female models.

'Who owns who' an article in the June issue of Q magazine gave a run down of both major and independent labels, with a nice little DM picture thrown in for good measure.

Janet and Jordan made an appearance as backing singers for Placebo and David Bowie during this year's Brit Awards.

"Useless" was used as background music during 'Blitzlicht' a show on the German TV channel Sat 1 in March. They also used fragments of "Nothing" about three times during the same show.

VH-1 used "Just Can't Get Enough" on a trailer for Bob Mill's Big 80's weekend in April.

Brilliant to see Granada Men + Motors channel (UK) showing Depeche Mode performing "See You" live on The Best of The Tube back in April.

On May 22, the Swedish radio station P3 used the intro of "Waiting For The Night" for a fictional story about a boy who had a sleeping disorder.

On June 10, "Barrel Of A Gun" was used as background music on MTV America during the MTV special 'Nine movie moments that made the 90's'.

*Many thanks to Mike Ciardullo, Roger Cracknell, Claudia Meyer, Kevin Jee, Dave Montgomery, Holly Poon, Anna Avekova, Dirk Gerlach, Daniela Vorndran, Judith M. Parker, Emmanuel Bienfait, Beatrice Brass, Esther Czech, Emma Joice, Lena Harell, Laura Iwanenko and to anyone else who sent in contributions. Please keep the information coming in and don't forget that Everything Counts!*

### Everything Counts Plus:

Here is a photo of "Depeche Mode", the racehorse. Perhaps people might get a bit of a laugh to know that there is a fan in Australia who loves Depeche Mode so much he named his horse after the band. He is a three-year-old black gelding bred in New Zealand of American/ New Zealand and Irish descent. To add to the overall wonder of it..."Depeche Mode" came first in his race, which of course did not surprise me, with inspiration like that behind him how else could it be! Unbelievable how far-reaching the Band's influence is...music for the masses indeed... or horses...as in this case! **Judith M. Parker, Melbourne, Australia**

### A chance to win!

This contribution has inspired us to give you all a chance to win some DM related prizes for a short story/article and photograph showing how influential Depeche Mode are in our everyday lives. There must be lots of places (restaurants, houses, etc.) or things (car number plates, boats, etc.) and even pets named after our threesome. Let us know about them...we can't wait to see what you can come up with! All contributions should be sent to our usual address or via e-mail to: [flexible@tnet.cz](mailto:flexible@tnet.cz)



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As we mentioned in the Intro we have a new regular feature in Bong which is called "Mega Devotee File". We would like to encourage everyone who has found love and passion in Depeche Mode, collected the memorabilia, and followed them throughout their career. Basically, we would like to hear from anyone who wants to share their devotion with the rest of us with words and photographs. Here are the categories to fill, but please don't forget to send us a photograph of yourself, including some snaps of your collection of memorabilia. Each contribution printed in this section will receive a surprise gift from our office!

As this Century draws to a close, I've been thinking about things that have influenced my life, especially during past six or so years. There are so many things, too many to number, but musically, Depeche Mode have been there for me. Their music is rich with emotion, melody and passion. I find I always come back to Depeche Mode in one way or another.

I've been a fan of Depeche Mode close to 16 years now, and my enthusiasm has never waned. I've collected as much material as money will allow...and now have a rather healthy Mode collection. Even though the Australian music industry can be a little backward in its attitudes, I've been able to find the occasional oddity and rarity. (The label that distributes Depeche Mode in Australia has changed its distribution rights from Festival to Sony and back to Festival in the past five years!)

When I "came out" six years ago, Depeche Mode "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" was a very therapeutic album for me. I found solace in the album's spiritual tones and self-redemption themes. In the uncertainty of changing one's lifestyle...the music of Depeche Mode helped me. (And other music, too, but my emphasis here is on DM!). When the Band finally returned to Sydney after four years...I was in a state of elation. I was only four rows from the stage...and had one of the best nights! Even now, small moments are permanently etched in my memory.

As a gay man living in the late 90's...I have discovered that Depeche Mode have quite a sizeable gay following. I recently worked on Sydney's newest gay/lesbian radio station OUTFM as a DJ and my

first show was a Depeche Fest...three hours of DM from the earliest to the latest. After my show, a few DM tracks seemed to filter through on other shows. Each season that OUTFM has had I've made a pact with myself to play some Mode on air...as Sydney radio is still rather ignorant of Depeche Mode.

I don't think Depeche Mode realise how much influence they have on Australian bands. A couple of bands that I know personally list Depeche Mode as one of their main influences; one from Brisbane...Tycho Brahe were actually praised by saying that one of their songs was like a Depeche Mode song. A local band called Neuropa has a definite Mode sound in some of their songs...and both members idolise them! Another band...Snog - a hardcore synth dance band, actually used a lot of samples from Violator on their first album, and finally a band by the name of Static Icon who have had some success in Europe, were originally a Mode cover band in Adelaide.

The past four years have been the best for me personally, and again, Depeche Mode have had a hand in pushing that along. When "Ultra" came out...I was feeling a lot better about myself...the strength of the songs shone through...and one of my all time favourites for a long time..."Home" became a well played track. I even dedicated the song to my parents (as a thank you for supporting me) on OUTFM. Despite all the panning I heard about the album being too different...I quietly congratulated DM for producing an outstanding album. The lyrics were about exorcising demons of the past, finding your true self, spiritual healing...and of course a new classic Mode song..."It's No Good". I felt I could relate to the songs, as I have in the past. I could lose myself in the intricate melodies and sounds.

I suppose what I'm trying to say in all of this is that everyone finds their own reasons for liking a band. My reasons are varied...and they all come back to one thing. Depeche Mode are a true pop band that have lasted for a long time and I've grown up with them. There are times when I take political meaning from them ("Condemnation" has overtones of gay acceptance in it), and sometimes the songs have a therapeutic quality to them or I'll just enjoy the songs for what they are. I am a fan of Depeche Mode, and I am proud of it...what's your story?

Gavin Dwyer, Sydney, Australia  
dm.live  
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## Mega Devotee File

Name:

Age:

Address:

How long have you been a devotee?

How long have you been a member of Bong?

Your first Depeche Mode record?

What type of memorabilia makes up your DM collection?

How many items (approx.) make up your DM collection?

Favourite items in your collection:

Top three songs:

Top three albums:

Top three videos:

What's your favourite tour?

How many DM shows have you seen?

What made you become a devotee?

Have you seen the Band or their members in person (when/where/how)?

Your message to Depeche Mode:

# < < Pressed In Black >

## Dear Bong,

I recently watched a programme about DM on VH1 called 'Behind The Music'. It was about the Band but most of all about Dave and his drug problem. I've not liked the Band for very long, so I didn't know that much about his problem. Anyway after watching the programme I was in tears listening to what Dave went through. I just had to write about how pleased I am that Dave pulled through and I would just love to say to him, you're not on your own, there's millions of people out there that love and respect you. I am so happy that Dave's OK now and the Band are still as brilliant as they always were. Depeche Mode you are the best.

**Gemma Gannan**  
**Warrington, England**

## Dear Bong,

I must say I am very happy with receiving Bong and everything, but I am very strongly against having the past issues be posted on the website. To me, I think that is wrong because of us who have subscribed and paid good money to receive the information that people on the Internet will now be able to get for free. It is unfair for us who actually subscribe to BONG and are willing to pay all that money. I do not think that the past issues should be put onto the Internet. That may make me seem arrogant, but I just think it is though you are ripping off the old fans who subscribed and paid for it per year when others will get it for free. I do not want to seem as if I'm ungrateful for the magazine,

because I truly love it; however, I just think that is how people take advantage of the Internet to get stuff for free, which is morally wrong. Thank you and I hope that you may be able to see my point.

**Laura Iwanenko**  
**Hickory Hills, IL USA**

**Editors note:** Bong members pay their subscription to receive hard copy issues of the magazine, as soon as it is published, which they can keep forever. Back issues will not be put on the band's web site until they are at least 3 months out of date, and even then it won't be the whole magazine. In addition, it will not be possible to download or print out Bong from the Internet, so there's really no comparison with the service members receive. Hopefully, it will also attract new members.

## Dear Bong,

I thought I would tell you a bit about myself and why I like Depeche Mode so much. I was introduced to their music very early, because my older sister was a big Mode fan. My family comes from the former Eastern Germany and at that time it was not easy to get any materials or information on the Band. What's more there was no way to visit their concerts. When I was a kid my favourite songs of the 80's were "Somebody" and "Just Can't Get Enough". These were the first songs that I really began to enjoy and dance to - even though I couldn't understand the words. When I hear these songs today,

and I close my eyes, I see my sister and myself how we've grown up and I realise how important music is in everyday life. Depeche Mode songs are so powerful and clear....

In December'98 I had the opportunity to go and see DM in concert when I visited some of my friends in Utah, USA, they gave me a ticket for the concert in Salt Lake City as a "good-bye" present. I just couldn't believe it, and had tears in my eyes as I was thinking of my sister who was at home in Germany.

I can tell you I spent two great hours at the concert. The boys were in top form and their image hadn't changed much. Now their music plays a more important role in my life. Mr. Gore's lyrics move me a lot while translating them. The lyrics are very important and it is a pity that people don't focus on them that much in today's music. Not in Depeche Mode songs, though.

I will always respect Depeche Mode for what they have achieved and for the influence they've had on me and my life over the years. I just want them to know: You've still got a huge mass of fans out there who appreciate your work!

**Alexandra Fritz**  
**Nordhausen, Germany**

## Dear Bong,

Thanks for such a good magazine. I really enjoy finding out new information about DM and all their fans. I went to the concert in Manchester on 02/10/98. It was three days after my 30th birthday and I think I've only just come down. It was my first DM concert although

I've bought their music for the past 16 years. I wouldn't have thought a concert could have such an impact on my life. It sounds really corny but I've bored people stiff with comments about DM! There are a few dilemmas I keep experiencing though. Do I actually wear the T-shirts I bought therefore making them age or do I keep them forever unworn? Just a short question: Do the members of DM own every mix of their singles/albums ever released? This would be a massive collection.

**Dawn Mabbett**  
**Poulton-Le Fylde, England**

**Editor's note:** It is, of course, totally up to you whether you wear your DM T-shirts or just have dust settle on them, but we are sure that most fans prefer wearing their T-shirts if only just to show off their devotion. As for your other question, it is unlikely that the band all have every remix at home, although it is very likely that Martin has most of them.

**Dear Bong,**

I read with interest Caroline Leggott's letter in Bong 39 about finding love through pen pals. I have such a story, though one without a happy ending unfortunately.

It all started when I responded to pen pal ad in Bong back in 1992 from a girl in the USA. She wrote back and soon we were corresponding regularly. At first of course we wrote about all DM things, but we soon found we had a lot more interests in common so therefore neither of us were ever short of things to write about! At one point we said, like I am sure all pen pals do eventually, that we must meet each other somehow though that seemed a bit of a pipe dream considering

how far apart we were (at that time I lived in Ireland).

Anyway, after a year or so things just fizzled out and we stopped writing. Then, on a whim I decided to send her a Xmas card in 1996. She instantly wrote back saying how pleased she was to hear from me again. Soon we were back in regular contact and for the first time began phoning each other, which is always a big risk! In our case, we found talking to each other even better (though a bit expensive) and in a matter of months she came over to visit me in London where I had lived. We both had a great time and got on famously. As we said good-bye to each other at the airport we both felt things definitely had the potential to go beyond a friendship.

Plans began to be made but soon it became apparent that no matter how hard we tried or hoped the divisions of land and sea between us would always remain. Still I had promised to visit her this time and did so just after Xmas 97. I had hoped things would be just like her visit but alas it wasn't - we just did not get on. When I returned home I tried for months to revive the friendship somehow but to no avail and so after a while I reluctantly gave up.

I was worried for a while that listening to DM would remind me of things too much but thankfully that was not the case. Of course, certain songs, especially the ones from "Ultra", hold certain memories for me but not painful ones. I hope this doesn't put off anyone from deciding to meet their pen pals. It's just that things don't always go the way you would like and in my case I ended up losing a very dear friend.

**Anonymous fan**  
**London, England**

**Dear Bong,**

I was disappointed to read that no live CD or video has been planned for release following the tour. After seeing the band play a great show in Birmingham I hoped I would be able to buy an official moment to remind me of that great night over and over again. If the band do not want a full commercial release how about a special limited release for Bong members only. I expect most Bong members would rather pay a reasonable amount for a quality CD, than a lesser amount for a dubious bootleg of the tour.

**Tim Robinson**  
**Plymouth, England**

**Editor's note:** We are afraid that it is not possible for Bong to release any video recording for its members as there simply isn't any recording available, other than the one MTV recorded in Cologne for which we don't own the copyrights.

**Dear Bong,**

Thanks a lot for the brilliant issue of Bong 39 with lots of really good pictures. It is nice to see such a great response about the tour from all those fans from all over the world. The cover design is cute as well! I am very grateful to the magazine for giving Depeche Mode addicts the pleasure of reading other people's views on the Band and seeing our common devotion through so many different eyes. Well, I actually want to reply to Andrew Winter and Lee North article called "Russia a la Mode".

I have just finished reading your review of DM's concert in Moscow and must say that it was a great description of the show. I hardly think one could write it better, but I just don't understand why you had so many problems in getting familiar with Russia. The most



terrible thing is that a big mistake crept in your article because when DM played in Moscow, our city was celebrating the 851st anniversary (not 251st as you wrote) since the first mention of the city in ancient manuscripts, which dates back to 1147 and that is a historical fact! All the Russian DM fans I know were shocked reading about your impressions. Your review reminded us of the propaganda like it used to be many years ago during the Cold War, full of clichés: "very grey", "full of soldiers", "hair raising experience", "a nightmare" to name just a few...

We heard quite the opposite responses from English people who have already lived and studied in our city for several months. I have a lot of close friends among them; we always party together and have lots of fun. Besides, I also heard that Depeche Mode liked our city very much. Maybe you will be able to return one day (possibly for another DM show) with a more positive

mind and high spirits to see Moscow in different colours. The main thing about each country are its people and not McDonald's....

Anyway I understand everyone is free to express their opinion, but one should always see not only bad things but the good ones as well, whether we talk about Russia, England and any other nation or country. I am sorry if I seem too offensive but this is only a cry from my heart! Just stay devoted! It is all

about our love to Depeche Mode and nothing else really matters, right?

**Svetlana Gorodova**  
**Moscow, Russia**

**Dear Bong,**

Well, I think it is about time to say 'thank you' for the most unforgettable evening which I spent two years ago when my friend and myself were lucky enough to take part in the Mode's "Ultra" launch party in London.



Photo by Marina Chavez

First of all huge thanks go to my best Dave-sister ever Nadine Schmidt without whom I would have never had the opportunity to spend that holy evening. So I thank her from the bottom of my heart for the greatest gift and send all my highest love and tons of black kisses to her. Let's be endlessly devoted together till death.

Another 'thank you', of course, goes to Depeche Mode themselves.

They were all the friendliest and lovely people you can imagine. Although they seemed to be down to earth they will always be God-alikes for the rest of us fans. It was such a great honour to enjoy the live premier of their fabulous new songs. My biggest gratitude goes to Mr. Gahan who, to our surprise, let us have a glimpse of his private life when we met his family backstage. I will never feel the same again and those precious moments

will always be treasured in my mind and heart. It was a really moving experience!

Thanks to every person involved in that unique event and making my biggest dream come true. When I recall the party I feel hypnotised, I feel paralysed.... I have found Depeche's ULTRA heaven! With faith and devotion we will be waiting patiently for your next visit here in Germany. It is for you only that we lust, guys!

**Denise**  
**Germany**

**Dear Bong,**

Thank you very much for publishing my letters in the past issues. I was really pleasantly surprised to see my name in the official magazine of Depeche Mode. Thank you again - it was a little joy in my little life.

Now I would like to find out what are the Band's plans for the future and if there is a new album in the works. Time is going really slow without listening to their new music and there is no one who

can fill in for them. Depeche Mode are the only ones who offer such strong and strange feelings through their music.

**Patricia Sellin**  
**Concarneau, France**

**Editor's note:** As we mentioned in Bong 40, the Band are planning to get back together in the studio before too long, to work on some new songs.

**Dear Bong,**

Just to let you know.... I am trying to inspire one of our national papers to run an article on Depeche Mode. The Age in Melbourne is probably an equivalent to The Times in London. Unfortunately, you don't hear a lot about Depeche out here which is something I like to rectify whenever possible. Not that I am in a position to do so, but if anything comes of it I will let you know. I think it is really exciting to give them positive exposure in the media, so if I could, it would make me very happy.

**Judith M. Parker**  
**Melbourne, Australia**

**Dear Bong,**

Friday 21st May was a big day... You could see the posters inviting you to the Geronika Dance Party in the AVC Center in Brussels with a live performance by "Depeche Mode". It wasn't Depeche Mode of Dave, Martin and Fletch though, but of Kris, Bob, Danny and Bernard, and the two dancers Ingrid and Zineke. The set list included ten DM favourites like "Painkiller", "A Question Of Time", "Just Can't Get Enough", "Master And Servant", "Sister Of Night", "It's No Good", "Behind The Wheel", "Only When I Lose Myself", "Personal Jesus" and "Enjoy The Silence", plus two extras: Twin Peaks - "Laura Palmer's Theme" and "Twin Peaks".

At the first rehearsals it became clear that "Behind The Wheel" would be a great success, and at the final rehearsals, just before the party began, I enjoyed myself with "A Question Of Time". There were already some people in the hall (probably DM fans) and I jumped off and on the stage, dancing to the music of "A Question Of Time". This was maybe the most amusing moment of the evening.

The doors opened and the people kept coming and coming. Two hours later, it was time for the "Depeche Mode" performance. When "Painkiller" began, it was accompanied by the beginning of the "101" movie on the huge video screen. "Sister Of Night" was accompanied by the video for the Devotional version of "Never Let Me Down Again" (with the spaceman). "Behind The Wheel" was played along with the video for "Halo". We used the original videos for "Only When I Lose Myself" and "Enjoy The Silence". The "Laura Palmer's Theme" was accompanied by the video for "Walking In My Shoes". Ingrid and Zineke danced on the stage during "Just Can't Get Enough", "It's No Good" and "Only When I Lose Myself".

After "Painkiller" it was a time for me to go on stage and by the beginning of "A Question Of Time" the whole hall rocked. It immediately gave me a good feeling. "Just Can't Get Enough" was known by everyone and was a guaranteed success. "Master And Servant" was even more rebellious and I was already turning with my mike stand. When we started to play "Sister Of Night", most people didn't know how to react. I personally think that it is a beautiful song and it is a pity that it wasn't released as a single. I moved a lot during "It's No Good" (Maybe Dave could learn

something from me - I have certainly learned something of Dave's moves on stage). Then came the highlight - "Behind The Wheel". When the song started the hall exploded. I thought I was in the middle of a house-disco. I was assisted by two dancers, who laid their hands on my shoulders at the "did I need to..." part. I think this song which captures something very sensual and is full of fire and mystery is often underestimated by a lot of fans.

"Personal Jesus" and "Enjoy The Silence" received the same reaction as "Just Can't Get Enough" and then it was over and it was time for Twin Peaks (the mystery serial with Dale "damn good coffee" Cooper).

**Kris Urkens**  
**Vosselaar, Belgium**

**Dear Bong,**

I thought I'd send in this short note to say congrats on the latest single "Only When I Lose Myself" and the Singles album/video. "OWILM" is, once again, one of the best songs that Depeche Mode have brought out...and the mixes were fantastic...especially the mix of "World In My Eyes"! The Singles video is great...all those choice clips, and the exclusive interview following...great value! It was good to hear the guys enjoyed doing the tour, but my only complaint is that they didn't tour Asia/Australia! I hope they intend to do a fuller tour on their next album. I wish Dave, Martin and Andy the best of luck with the new material and no doubt will outshine what they have done in the past! A couple of Oz bands to look out for are Tycho Brahe and Neuropa...great synthpop with definite Mode influences! Thank you Depeche Mode! Regards from Australia.

**Gavin Dwyer**  
**Summer Hill, Australia**

## Scan by Maudy

When I started planning this trip back in May 1998, to attend all the concerts was an impossible task. Not being part of the crew made it a very expensive experience, and phoning up the individual venues to obtain tickets was difficult when the person knew no English. But with the help of DM fans on the Internet, most of the concerts were covered and the ambition to do all 32 concerts became a possibility. Note that this does not include the American leg - this proved to be just too expensive to do them all! My friend Shaun Salter who travelled along with me (sometimes) did most of the concerts as well, but had to miss a week after the UK concerts due to work commitments. Most of the concerts have been reviewed in detail by local people; the intention of my diary is just to give people a feeling of what it is like to follow DM around Europe.

# THE PRIVATE

Written by Harvey Edgcombe, Abingdon, England

Photo by Michaela Olexova

### Pre-Tour

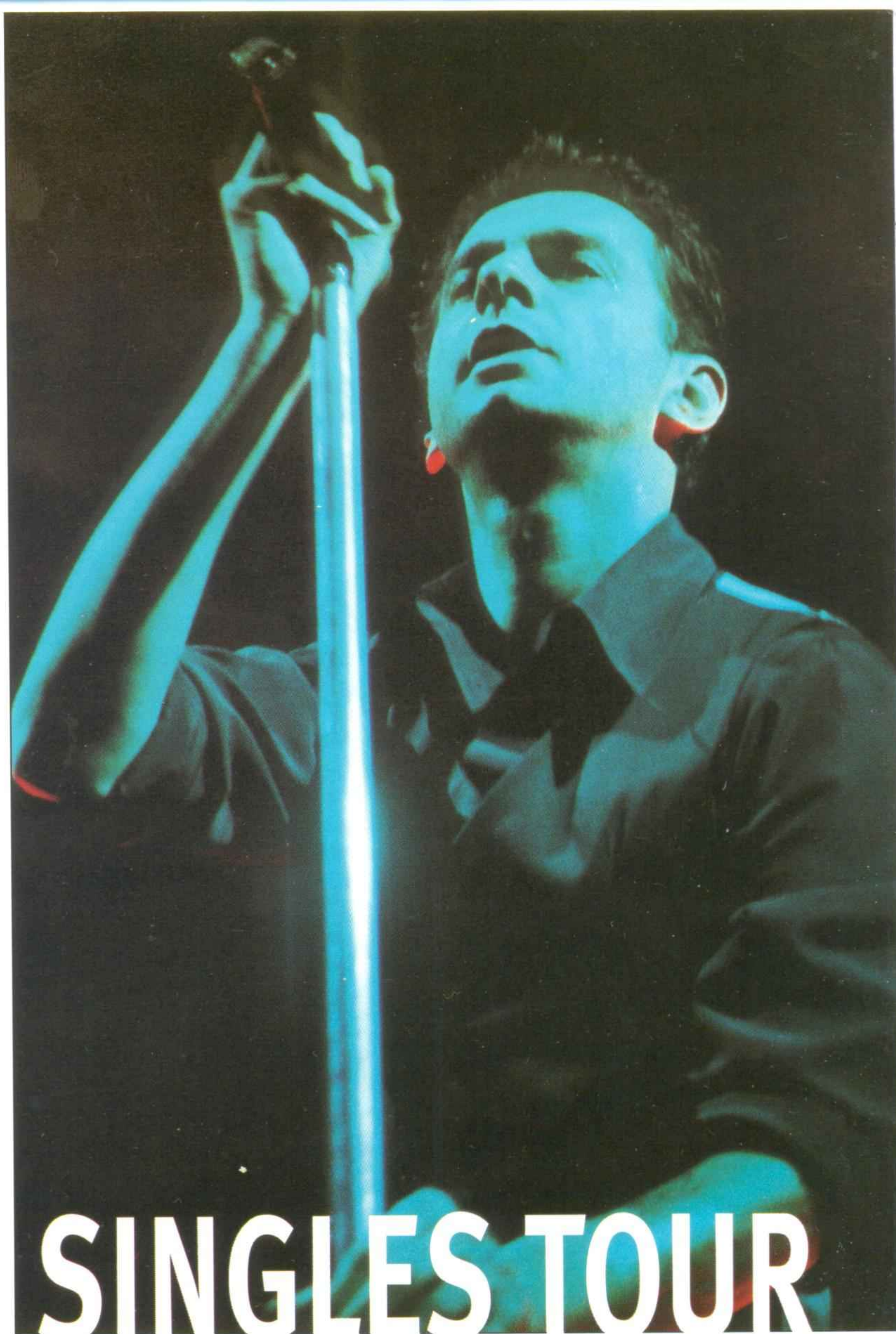
Since the tour was announced in May 1998, I have been frantically on the phone or Internet getting information on where to obtain tickets for all the gigs. Also I obtained an International Rail timetable to ensure that it would be possible to travel and get to all of the concerts. About three months was spent obtaining tickets for most of the gigs, and planning the trains around Europe. The decision to do Estonia, Latvia and Russia was taken at the beginning of August, so a frantic three weeks to organise visa for Russia, flights, trains even though we did not have tickets!

### 1st September 98 – London to Tallinn, Estonia

Flew out from London to Tallinn, Estonia, via Vienna. A missed flight connection at Vienna meant that we had to fly via Vilnius, Latvia and then on to Tallinn, Estonia from there. Of course on arrival at Tallinn, the baggage went missing! This turned up at the hotel later that night. Met some Estonia DM Fan Club members at the Airport who had secured my tickets for Tartu and Riga.

### 2nd September 98 – Tartu, Estonia

The Estonian Fan Club gave us a lift by car from Tallin to Tartu. A quick dash to the airport to see DM arrive by plane. There was quite a reception there for them, and we drove back in convoy to the venue. Not the sort of thing we can do in England! The venue was an open-air arena, and being the first night the anticipation was high. A good crowd of people were gathering around the entrance for the 6 o'clock



doors open. A long wait for Purity was greeted enthusiastically from the crowd but this was nothing compared to when DM came on stage just after 9pm. Opening with "A Question of Time", the crowd went absolutely wild, it was difficult to stay on one's feet, and after about four songs I had moved three-foot from my original position just from the movement of the crowd! Being the first concert there were a few technical hitches, Dave looked a bit nervous for the first four songs but soon settled into the groove. Martin's mike could have been turned up a bit, as he was very distant on "Home". In all a good first concert, the crowd went home very happy, and the weather held - just as well for an open-air concert. After the concert we all got in the car and drove to Riga, Latvia overnight along with several other fans. Getting lost in Latvia was fun, as there where no road signs!

### 3rd September 98 – Riga, Latvia

After some sleep, had a quick look around Riga, a small pleasant city. On the way back to the hotel, bumped into Janet and Jordan. Then we went to the Tennis Hall at Jurmala, on the outskirts of Riga. When the taxi driver did not know where the venue was, we got a bit worried, but he eventually found it okay. After Tartu the venue was a bit disappointing, very small. Around 5000 people packed into the tennis hall, and boy did it get hot. A spirited performance by DM, the acoustics not very good, but the Latvian crowd really went wild and it was great to hear them singing the chorus' with full gusto. Afterwards went to the after party in the centre of Riga and ended up staying there till 5 am before heading back to the hotel for some much needed sleep.

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## 4th September 98 – Riga/Moscow

A day off sightseeing in Riga, then overnight by train from Riga to Moscow. This is the only border control in the world that I have passed through where the border guard, in plain English said "good luck" as he handed back my passport!

## 5th September 98 – Moscow, Russia

Arrival at the Riga station in Moscow. As not many foreigners come in via this station, there was no money exchange, no tourist centre, nothing! After scouting the area found a department store which had a money exchange, a Metro station which at least had a map, albeit in Russian! From here I would be able to navigate anywhere. After finding our hotel it was off to the venue to try and obtain a ticket, but not speaking a word of Russian this proved to be very difficult. Eventually obtained tickets. Later met up with Ilja from Estonia again, and he put us in touch with two other English people who had come to see DM in Moscow - two others? They were Lee North and Andrew Winter who had also come over from the UK to see DM. Venue was huge, a massive crowd and the concert was a blinder. About half way through the concert the top of the M on the DM light display fell off, making the stage look very unique! The best part of the concert was on "Somebody", the whole arena was lit up with candles, the most I have ever witnessed. It is a moment I will never forget. Afterwards we went to a Russian bar with Estonian/Russian/UK fans for some beer, pool and dancing. A good night was had by all.

## 6th September 98 – Moscow, Russia

Day off sightseeing, then overnight by train to St. Petersburg, along with half of the other Russian DM fans! With several trains going overnight from Moscow to St. Petersburg, it was by chance that we were all on the same train, so we all met up in one compartment and organised beer drinking through the early hours of the morning. That's what happens when four Brits meet up in a foreign country!

## 7th September 98 – St. Petersburg, Russia

After yet another sleepless night it was time to get up and get to the venue, situated quite a way out from St. Petersburg. Looking at the venue it was similar in style to the one in Moscow - deja vu. After the fiasco to get in, (no queues, just a mass of people in a crush), the performance by DM was the most polished performance yet, ironing out most of the technical hitches expected early on in the tour. Once again on "Somebody" the place lit up, making the arena look more like a church than a concert venue - brilliant. Afterwards we tried to get into the hotel where DM were staying, but alas we were unsuccessful. So we went to a bar around the corner and said farewell to our Russian friends who have been very good hosts the last three days. Without them we would have struggled to get around in Russia. It shows that all around the world, DM fans help each other out.

## 8th September 98 – St. Petersburg, Russia

Day off sightseeing.

## 9th September 98 – Helsinki, Finland

Took the morning train from St. Petersburg to Helsinki. Had to get a hotel on the outskirts because the centre of Helsinki was booked out - I wonder why? Met some Russian fans sightseeing in the centre, they had come by bus for 20 odd hours from Moscow to see DM in Helsinki - devotion or what? The venue was very modern, and it was the first place we had tickets for. They were seating tickets and I could not have picked a better seat, right next to the stage on the right hand side. Another polished performance by DM, the sound echoed a bit around the stadium spoilt the acoustics a bit. The crowd were brilliant, a lot of people standing and dancing in the aisles. Afterwards we bid farewell to Ilja, Lee and Andrew, but we would meet them again at Wembley, only 15 concerts away!



## 10th September 98 – Helsinki to Stockholm & Copenhagen

Early start to catch ferry from Turku to Stockholm. Met some of the DM stage crew on the ferry and got to know about what each of them were doing on the tour, and what other gigs they have worked on - most of them seem to have done Pink Floyd! After the 10-hour ferry journey it was straight onto the overnight train to Copenhagen from Stockholm. The crew travel by bus.

## 11th September 98 – Copenhagen, Denmark

After sightseeing around Copenhagen, had beers with some Danish DM fans before heading to the concert venue. A big hall type venue, it got very hot and very sticky again. "NLMDA" was done by much gusto from the crowd. A fairly good concert.

## 12th September 98 – Gothenburg, Sweden

A day travelling by train to Gothenburg, then after a quick sightseeing tour it was once again to the venue for another polished performance by DM. We stood slightly towards the back of the stage, watching Martin swapping his guitars over between songs. Great stuff.

## 13th September 98 – Stockholm, Sweden

Train over to Stockholm and then to the venue. We did not have good seats for this concert so I do not remember much about it!

## 14th September 98 – Stockholm to Malmo

Train to Malmo to catch overnight train to Prague. This involved a three-hour ferry crossing over to Sassnitz, Germany where they actually put the train on the ferry.

## 15th September 98 – Prague, Czech Republic

First day washed out by rain. Met some of the Czech DM fans in Wenceslas Square, also a lot of Polish fans in attendance. It is a shame that DM did not do Poland this time around. The venue was a really cool venue, with no assigned seating or standing, just go where you want. Thus getting to the front was hard work but worth it. The crowd was brilliant.

## 16th September 98 – Vienna, Austria

The first of many 'Messehalles' on this tour. I thought the crowd where a bit reserved for what was a very good performance by DM.

## 17th September 98 – Vienna, Austria

Day off sightseeing in Vienna, and then an overnight train to Berlin.

## 18/19th September 98 – Berlin, Germany

This took the 'Best Venue' award; an open-air arena set near the Olympic complex, a sort of Amphitheatre sunk in some woods. From the front not only did you get a good view of DM, you also had a great view of the crowd sat all around you behind you, which made great spectacles on songs such as "NLMDA" and "Personal Jesus". Both nights were packed out and brilliant. My only regret is that they did not change one or two songs on the second night.

## 20th September 98 – Erfurt, Germany

Three gigs in a row take its toll, so I wonder how the band must feel! My voice is going with all the singing and I feel really tired, some of it may be due to the many late nights I have been having recently! The concert for me was a bit of a disappointment, but that may be due to fatigue more than with the concert itself.

## 21st September 98 – Day off

Some much needed sleep!

## 22nd September 98 – Brussels, Belgium

After catching train to Brussels, met several Germans who had made the trip over the border. Forest National is a great venue, nice and compact, it had a cosy feel about it. The concert was needless to say brilliant.

## **23rd September 98** – Stuttgart, Germany

The train journey took all day from Belgium, but from what I saw of Stuttgart it was a very nice place. The venue was a very modern messeshalle and DM gave a very slick performance.

## **24th September 98** – Munich, Germany

A day off so chose to go to Munich for the Oktoberfest. Great idea! And Great Beer!

## **25th September 98** – Zurich, Switzerland

The concert - it was a disaster. Dave sang wrong verse on "NLMDA" and his voice started to break up on "OWILM". Martin sang "A Question of Lust" and "Home", but "Condemnation" was dropped from the set list. Two lines missed from "BOAG" due to Dave's voice being rough. "Stripped" and "I Feel You" also dropped from the set list. In the end, a bad night. I felt sorry for the Swiss fans who would be attending this one concert only and saw DM not at their best.

## **26th September 98** – Bologna, Italy

A wonderful trip through the Alps by train, probably the most scenic in Europe. I met up with my sister in Bologna, come over especially to see DM in Milan, but also wanted to do Bologna. A bit apprehensive about this concert after last night, but Dave's voice has recovered. "Condemnation" and "I Feel You" still dropped, but a welcome return to "Stripped", even if the crowd had to sing most of it!

## **27th September 98** – Milan, Italy

A fantastic concert, the Italian fans went wild. The same two songs dropped as per last night, Dave now getting back on song, his voice sounding good again.

## **28th September 98** – Home!

After four weeks on the road, it was nice to fly home to get some clothes and catch up with a few things.

## **29/30th September 98** – London, England

The home gigs for me are always going to be special, and these two were good. With "Condemnation" and "I feel You" reinstated and Dave's voice really on song now. On the second gig, another cock up on "NLMDA", Dave singing the second verse this time, as opposed to Zurich, so he's balanced it all out!

## **2nd October 98** – Manchester, England

Awesome venue and similar to Helsinki in Finland. The crowd was really special tonight, very good concert and well polished.

## **3rd October 98** – Birmingham, England

The last UK gig for this tour was good. The seats at the front were a novelty as everybody stood anyway!

## **5/6th October 98** – Cologne, Germany

Flew out to Cologne from London and arrived at 6pm. Just enough time to get a ticket for the first concert. MTV cameras present on the first night, so a faultless performance from DM. The crowd were magnificent. On the second night, the crowd less vocal (MTV cameras not there?) and on "Enjoy the Silence" Martin's guitar not sounding on the first two chords of the remix part of the song - Dave just pointing and laughing.

## **7th October 98** – Paris, France

Paris Bercy seemed to have grass growing on the outside of the venue - weird! Inside the venue was awesome, the acoustics were especially brilliant, the crowd were really up for it and DM played a blinder of a gig - brilliant!

## **8th October 98** – Paris to Hannover

Day spent travelling from Paris to Hannover by train and recharging the batteries after three gigs in a row.

## **9th October 98** – Hannover, Germany

Great crowd in a massive Messehalle, very wide so the acoustics not as good as Paris. In some areas of the venue it was a bit quiet. I quite liked the idea of putting that beer tent near the front of the stage!

## **10th October 98** – Leipzig, Germany

The second concert to be held in the former East Germany. The Messehalle was old and had character. Very loud towards the front, especially when Purity were strutting their stuff. The East Germans were very vocal, singing to every DM song.

## **11th October 98** – Frankfurt, Germany

Fantastic venue, the most complete show yet and the German crowd were very vocal again and very noisy, it was hard to hear DM above the din!

## **12th October 98** – Frankfurt to Munich

Day off so travelled to Munich, no Oktoberfest on, so a quiet night in.

## **13th October 98** – Munich, Germany

During the day I visited Fasson, Neuschwanstein castle which was spectacular amongst the autumnal leaves on the trees and the Alps. Off to the Olympic venue in Munich for the concert. We had seats and had a good look of the debacle going on below.... When DM came on stage the barrier at the front of the stage started to give way. About 30 to 40 security people were at the front trying to hold back the barrier and the hundreds of DM fans pushing their way forward. Meanwhile more security people were trying to re-fix the barrier back in place - it must have taken hour to get all this done. The concert sort of settled down a bit then - a good one but there was something missing.

## **14th October 98** – Munich to Zaragoza

This would be the toughest two days travelling yet. Train to Zurich for a train to Geneva, for an overnight train to Portbou (on the French/Spanish border) for another train to Barcelona, and then across to Zaragoza.

## **15th October 98** – Zaragoza, Spain

Eventually arrived at 1400hrs after travelling all day and all night and half of today again. Spanish fans queuing outside the venue already - and the doors do not open until 7pm! After all the travelling, the concert was brilliant and a bit of a relief as this was the last concert I did not have a ticket for. Now knew that I would make all 32 concerts!

## **16th October 98** – Barcelona, Spain

My first time in Barcelona and the city is beautiful. The venue was part of the Olympic complex, which was quite a sight to see in itself. The crowd was awesome, and the concert too was quite fantastic, the best part was on the encore of "Just Can't Get Enough", the crowd chanting way after the band had stopped playing.

## **17th October 98** – San Sebastian, Spain

The last one and it had to be good. It was good - even though the crowd was not big, and getting right to the front was easy - the singing and chanting throughout the show was magnificent. When it all ended and the lights went up, I was sad. And happy too - to have done all 32 concerts in Europe!



Comments or questions, or praise e-mail me at: [devotedh@yahoo.com](mailto:devotedh@yahoo.com)

PS: Thanks to Ilja Judeikin, Anton Blinof and Roman for obtaining tickets for Estonia and Latvia. Also thanks to them for giving us a lift from Tallinn to Tartu and Riga by car, very much appreciated!

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Jo and Scott with Fletch

*If you met Depeche Mode or one of the band members and would like to share your experiences with the other fans, this is your chance. We are giving you an opportunity to tell us when and where you met the Modes and under what circumstances. You can send us full stories or simple details, whatever you prefer. We would also appreciate any photographs you have that we could print as it always makes the page more interesting and will prove to everyone that you were really there! Please, be assured that we will take a good care of your photos and return them to you on your request. Don't forget to mark everything with your name and address.*

It took me 14 years but my dream came true when I got to meet and get a picture with David Gahan on The Singles Tour during their Florida visit on Nov 13-15, 1998. I was able to go to all three Florida dates and had a blast at all three shows! I went with my friends Gabe, Melanie, Nicci and Christy. I also was able to meet my best friend Ron who I met in the DM chat also during this tour! After their show in Tampa, Gabe and I went back with Ron and his friends to their hotel, The Don Ce Sar for some drinks. We had just bought our drinks and were talking about the show when Fletch walked up - I was totally surprised! We had no idea they were at this hotel. I said hello and started chatting to him; he was so nice and very talkative. We talked for about 20 minutes then Martin and Peter showed up along with some members of the crew. That's when the party really started, it lasted well into the morning

and a good time was had by all. I went back to the hotel on Tuesday to say good-bye to Ron and his friends, I just happened to find out that DM was leaving that day too, so I stayed and waited. It was almost 3pm when everyone started to come down to the lobby and when Dave came out of the elevator, my heart stopped! I knew this might be my only chance, so I walked over to him and waited for him to finish his conversation. He was very nice but seemed to be in a bit of a hurry. I only had my camera with me so I asked politely for a picture with him, he agreed and said "a quick one". But I had a problem, I was alone so I had no one to take the picture. I was trying to call over a hotel guest when Dave took the camera out of my hand and asked his bodyguard to "take a snap shot". I put my arm around him and smiled.



Lisa with Dave

I thanked them repeatedly and told him that the shows were fantastic. I also told him he looked and sounded fabulous. He kept saying thank you but he had to go. I thanked him again and headed to my car, where I let out a scream of excitement! I don't even remember the drive back to Tampa, but I headed straight to get my picture developed! After being a fan for 14 years I never thought this day would come. I will never forget the day of November 17, 1998 and I now have a beautiful picture with Dave as my reminder.

**Lisa "Kaleid" Warhul  
Tampa, Florida, USA**

I was in Brussels for The Singles Tour and was lucky to have the name of the hotel where the



## Scan by Maudy

band were staying. I went to their hotel the morning after the concert where a bunch of fans were already hanging out - I asked them if it was the right place. We waited patiently in the lounge when a hotel employee informed us that the band were leaving early in the afternoon. I was really annoyed because my train was leaving quite early and it would have been a pity missing an opportunity I had been years waiting for. So I went to the station to change my ticket and time of my departure. I returned to the hotel and a few minutes later I spotted Andy. Despite the fact he was with his wife and kids, who joined him a bit later, he was kind enough to give us his autograph and have some photos taken with him. We then sat at the bar and had a couple of drinks hoping for the arrival of Martin and Dave. After a while we saw Andy Franks, some of the musicians and Darrell, the security guy. We all went outside, and Darrell gave us tips for approaching the band, explaining what to do and what to avoid (thanks for the chocolate, Darrell!). The first to come out was Andy, along with his children, followed by Martin who had a lovely smile on his face. He came over to us and signed some of our stuff, he was so nice to us. Unfortunately, we didn't get a chance to approach Dave as he headed for his car so quickly we weren't able to ask for his autograph or a photo. It was great to see him so close, though. After their cars were about to leave, we waved good-bye to Martin and Andy and they waved back. At the end of the day, I did not regret my decision to leave Brussels later than originally scheduled as it was really worth all the money I lost with the ticket exchange.

**Béatrice Brass**

**Paris, France**

These pictures of Martin and Dave were taken in February 1997 during the Band's promotional visit of Fun Radio in Paris. Our special thanks go to JD Fanger who helped us to meet the guys.

**Christian & Bérangere**

**Courcelles Les Lens, France**

Being a fan of Depeche Mode since 1989, I thought I'd write and tell you about one of the most special nights of my life. It was Monday 28th September 1998 and I had just travelled down from Glasgow that day for the two gigs at Wembley Arena. I arranged to meet my friend Jo (whom I met at the Camden Palace Convention in 1997) at the station. That night I was just going to relax in my hotel room after a full day of travelling, then Jo came up with the idea of going to Fletch's restaurant in St. John's Wood. I agreed, so we got ready and made our way there. On arriving we were shown to our table and served our food and drink. While Jo was in the 'ladies', I sat with my drink and my back was to the door. I don't know why but I turned round and there was Fletch standing with about four or five friends with him. They went downstairs and I just sat there not believing my eyes. I had to at least try meeting him, as it could be mine and indeed Jo's only chance to meet any of the band. Thinking quickly, I beckoned over the waiter and explained our situation about being down from Glasgow for the gigs and being fans etc. and asked if it would be possible to meet Andy. He said he would ask but couldn't promise as he may be too tired from the tour



Christian with Dave...



... and Martin

and travelling. Anyway, Jo came back and I explained whom I'd just seen and she just laughed at me through her glass! She wasn't laughing for long as the waiter came back and said: "No problem, Andy said just go down when you're ready". The look on Jo's face was a picture and she quickly guzzled down her virtually full glass of wine. Feeling quite nervous we went down to a little room where Andy and his company were sitting. He came straight over and said "Hi" and although I was obviously nervous about meeting him I felt quite comfortable too. I thought he came across really friendly and was very enthusiastic talking about the tour. We spoke about music, football and Alan Wilder, he even posed for some photos with us. We also got an autograph on a compliment slip, which was fab! After about 25 mins chatting we wished him luck for Wembley and cheekily asked for backstage passes. Unfortunately, he already had too many family and friends going and said that it would have been impossible, but you can't win them all. We still had an amazing night and strolled off into the night with our heads in the clouds, just to cap it all off, we still had the next two nights to look forward to - amazing!

**Scott MacFarlane**  
**Glasgow, Scotland**

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# >> Blasphemous Rumours

Considering the fact that not everyone can get hold of all the newspapers and magazines with DM interviews, reviews and gossip, here are some of the most interesting bits that were published on DM not just in the press but also on TV and radio. If you would like to take part and help us, then send us copies of any relevant articles you may find in the newspapers of your country together with an English translation to the usual Bong address. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

## Only When I Lose Myself

"They actually hit new depths of moodiness with 'Only When I Lose Myself', an intoxicating mix of loping beats, epic strings, unnerving electronic pulses and stabbing industrial. It comes on like a post-millennium James Bond song and is erotic, sensual and highly atmospheric. It's the perfect antidote to the silly season. Slip in between its dark sheets and, er, lose yourself."

**Splash, UK  
(September 1998)**

## The Singles 86>98

"This album proves why Depeche Mode have moved with the times and not joined other 80's bands on the synthesiser scrap heap."

**Bristol Evening Post, UK  
(4th October 1998)**

## The Singles 86>98

"A best of the best of the best from the synth pop through the synth grunge to the no-synth blues. You'll have heard just about everything on it over and over but it's almost worth buying to play the following game. Cringe at some of those electro moments which you thought were so cool way back when (*Strangelove*), bow down to the timelessness of others (*Stripped*), ask where the synths have gone (*Condemnation*), say: "They weren't as good as they used to be" (*Useless*), and "Oh not again" (*Everything Counts - Live*)."

**Andy Jones, Future Music (Autumn Special 1998)**

## Depeche Mode fans

"I have an opportunity here to sing these songs like I never have before, from a completely different perspective. There's not many bands that have got so many fans as loyal as ours after 20 years, so we must have been doing something right!"

**Dave Gahan,  
Manchester Evening  
News, UK  
(2nd October 1998)**

## Painkiller (Kill The Pain Mix) - DJ Shadow vs Depeche Mode

"Originally released back in March on Mo Wax, Shadow's soundclash with the Essex indie demigods continues to tear up sound systems everywhere. Shadow adds fierce hip hop beats and dark chords to Depeche's guitar-based indie sound to great effect. If you like DJ Shadow, you'll love it."

**Nathan Hearn, Dream, UK  
(October 1998)**

## Depeche Mode

"The group has had more Top 10 hits on the indie chart than any other, starting in 1981 with *New Life*. It's a measure of how much indie repertoire has changed that their current chart chums are artists like *Age Of Love*, *Truce* and *Murk*. Indeed, Depeche Mode are the only act in the Top 20 whose music could be even vaguely described as indie, since pop and, to an even greater extent, dance music now dominate the indie chart."

**Alan Jones, Music Week  
(26th September 1998)**

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Scan by Maudy

### **Depeche Mode**

"They started out as twee, New Romantic, Essex-based synth dweebs, but over the years mutated into mean'n'moody, global-straddling rock terrorists who wore black a lot and sang about religion, faith and domination."

**Splash, UK  
(October 1998)**

### **The Band's crises**

"I went through periods when I thought 'what is the point of all this?' It was supposed to be about enjoyment, but nobody seemed to be enjoying it anymore. I had to look at the bigger picture. I really enjoy making music and going out to play that music live for your fans is something you should relish and not find a nightmare."

**Martin Gore, Splash, UK  
(October 1998)**

### **Only When I Lose Myself**

"The Top 20 single 'Only When I Lose Myself' was a haunting, moody, string-laden ballad haunted by the trip-hop spectre of Massive Attack."

**Splash, UK  
(October 1998)**

### **The Singles Tour - Manchester**

"Just when you thought they couldn't get any darker - they go all disco. The usual Depeche Mode darkness was in full force for the first couple of songs, but the mould was broken by the arrival of two Supremes-type backing singers in sequin dresses. When the lights kicked in and the dancers started bopping, there was no going back. The mad mixture of an audience was parted into those who bravely stuck with it and the those whose who were wondering what the heck was going on."

**Clare Fletcher, Oldham Evening Chronicle, UK**

**(6th October 1998)**

### **The Singles Tour - Birmingham**

"The cheers were music to the ears of narcissistic frontman Dave Gahan, who hurled his spindly body around the stage with true exhibitionist zeal."

**Leigh Rowley, Stourbridge Chronicle, UK  
(9th October 1998)**

### **Depeche Mode**

"One of the first acts to use sampling techniques, they recall days spent going out and about Shoreditch in London with a tape recorder. 'It was really good fun. We'd go under railway arches and record the sounds we made hitting metal skips and dustbins. It was an exciting period - we felt we were creating something really new.'

And they were. Such techniques eventually went on to influence whole areas of music such as hip-hop and soul, and the band went down a storm in the USA."

**Sunday Post, Glasgow, UK  
(11th October 1998)**

### **The Singles 86>98**

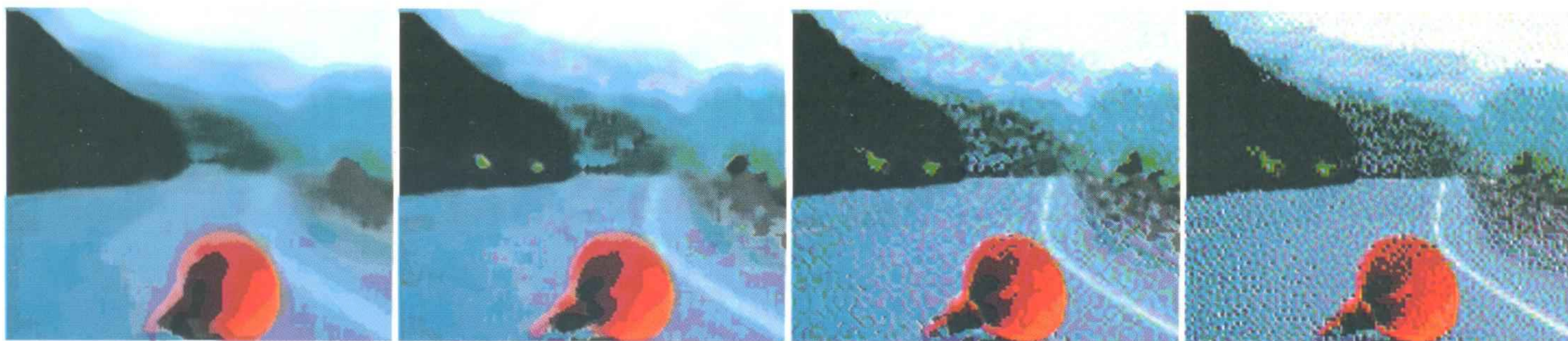
"Peerless double album of brooding, epic, insanely catchy hits from the hugely influential Basildon boys. Faultless, but the Glitter stomp of 'Personal Jesus' and the homo-erotic escapism of 'Never Let Me Down Again' shine brightest."

**Gay Times, UK  
(October 1998)**

*Many thanks  
for your  
contributions.  
Keep them  
coming!*

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# moding <sup>os</sup> angeles

**The 1999 Los Angeles Depeche Mode Convention  
The Palace - Hollywood, California, USA**

**Reviewed by Daniel "The BRAT" Barassi**

This year's convention was an absolute blast! The promoters (London Calling, and KROQ) always manage to get the event packed, but this year it was completely sold out!

The event started at 6 pm. The "masses" were greeted with three different rooms of people selling various DM goodies (t-shirts, pins, posters, music...the typical stuff). After spending money on DM stuffs, people started filtering into the main area (dance floor). At 6:45 pm, Richard Blade (KROQ DJ) welcomed everyone, and introduced about 30 minutes of video I edited together for the event. Richard came back on stage after the video presentation and hosted the "Band Look-A-Like/Sing-A-Like" contest. Most of the contestants (all males this year) opted to sing, but the winner of the event was a guy dancing like David (usually is). We also had a "Name That Tune" contest that had the entire crowd screaming song titles as snippets of songs were played for the contestants picked from the crowd.

After the contests (and throughout the night), give-aways were being tossed to the crowd (12"s, posters, pins, T-shirts, and about four dozen Evil Bendys I still had at my house). Between contests, and the unannounced band of the night called Odium State, I was spinning DM tracks, as well as screening the entire 1997 Los Angeles Shrine Expo Ultra Show (special thanks to MTV for unknowingly helping out with that). This went on until a little past 10 pm.

When 10 pm hit (actually a few minutes past 10) the dancing began. I'm not one of the better DJ's in the world, but I had the crowd dancing until midnight, playing as many cool DM tracks as I could throw in (including some demo recordings, and some of my own remixes). While everyone was dancing, I was screening video on the big projection screen.

Midnight came upon us faster than I expected. I played the final two tracks of the night "Sister Of Night", and "Enjoy The Silence" from the 1998 KROQ Acoustic Christmas, got on the microphone, and said goodnight to everyone. The problem was the crowd just couldn't get enough. The entire crowd started screaming for more Mode, and then a group of people that met from the depechemode.com message board (and flew long distances to meet at the event) started a "Just Can't Get Enough" chant. After failing at my explanation that The Palace security wanted us out, I decided to have them sing the song in a capella. They actually did it (don't doubt the devotion of DM fans). I finally gave in, and played "Just Can't Get Enough" (my co-DJ/helper/friend Arta pulling the CD for me as I tried to calm the crowd). From the crowd reaction, you'd think we were at a concert. They were singing along to the entire track (well...actually...L.A. crowds don't really sing along at concerts, but that's a different story). Even though I got a lecture from The Palace security as I was trying to leave, I'm glad I was able to help everyone have that moment. It was a great ending to a great night.

After everything was done, we were all sweating (almost 1500 people, mixed with weak air conditioning and dancing will do that to you), but happy! This was a welcome break from html coding, and I can't wait until the big 2000 convention!

# >> Pen Pals >>

*If you'd like to correspond with other Depeche Mode fans, send us a postcard with your name, address and a brief description of yourself and your interests. Please, mark your envelope "Pen Pals".*

**Sabine Lichtenhof**  
**Winkstr. 17**  
**85053 Ingolstadt**  
**Germany**

Hi DM fans! I am Sabine and I am a 32 year old DM fan who would like to exchange letters with other DM fans from all over the world. My interests include: playing keyboard, singing, going to concerts, travelling, sports and music (Depeche Mode, Recoil, Erasure, Yazoo). I hope to hear from you soon. I promise to answer every letter.

**Natalia Kurlanz**  
**Malabia 1161 3°E**  
**1414 Buenos Aires**  
**Argentina**

Hi! My name is Natalia, I am 23 years old and I have been listening to Depeche Mode for nine years. I'd like to contact all the fans from all over the World. My other musical interests include Radiohead, Garbage, The Cure, Prodigy, Soundgarden, S.T.P., Smashing Pumpkins, etc. I also like photography, reading, X-Files, Millennium, Seinfeld, The Nanny, Friends, and many more. Please write to me in English or Spanish. I promise to answer all letters.

**Katja Hau**  
**Lindenweg 2**  
**36119 Neuhof**  
**Germany**

Hi there! I am 26 years old girl and a total fan of Depeche Mode since I was 14. I would like to correspond with DM fans from all over the World, to share my views about the world we live in and life in general. Seeking someone who Just Can't Get Enough of Depeche Mode. See you!

**Vladimiro Ferrara**  
**Via Giotto No. 18 (Parco Argo)**  
**81031 Aversa (CE)**  
**Italy**

I am a 20-years-old Dm fan and I surely think they're the best in the World. I am looking for pen pals from anywhere and I would also like eventually meet them. So, devotees who have an easy-travel live, write to me (especially girls - eh, eh).

**Maria De Los Angeles Cedillo Rivas**  
**Calle A**  
**Ñil No. 277**  
**Colonia Granjas Mexico**  
**C.P. 08400**  
**Mexico D.F.**

Hi! I'm a 28 years old girl and have been a fan of Depeche Mode for 9 years. I want to correspond with Depeche Mode fans from all over the world. Please write to me in English or Spanish. I'll answer all letters. See you.

**Komel Malhi**  
**14900 Simonds St.**  
**Mission Hills**  
**California 91345**  
**USA**

Hi Devotees! I am a 17 year old girl from the USA and I am looking for anyone who is as big as a Depeche Mode fan as I am, and also someone who loves these bands as well: U2, The Smiths (Morrissey), The Cure, Radiohead, and of course, Depeche Mode!

# Contacts <<<

A quick hello and thanks to all the people who answered my ad in Bong 39: Stuart M., Stuart G., Sean, Lena, Magnus, Karina, Conny, Anja, Katja, Stephen, Gareth, Sheryl, Monica & Federica, Josephine, Francesca, Jarek and Toni. Carin

Sebastian Sobolewski - where are you? I still owe you a video, so please get in contact with me as soon as possible. This is my new address: Giacomo Solazzo, 5D Block A, Cordwainers Court, St. Thomas Square, London E9 7PS, England. To Lucia and Moto, you can also write at the above address. Paul, your website is always the best. Carsten and Vincent, keep moding. Sylvie, I love you and I miss you so much...

I want to say thanks to my dear sister Grit, who I really love and thanks also to my friends Kurt, Kali & Tim from Utah. I will try walking in your shoes! Alexandra

To Michela Moscone: Thanks for being my pen pal so we can talk about the magic DM, the world we live in and live in general. A big ULTRA hugs from Gemma.

Depeche sent the only true friends I call mine, all my love and faith to: my craziest soul-sister 4eva...Yasmin (Never give up honey, there is always hope and Depeche Mode! Can't wait to have you right here by my side!), my heissgeliebtes Schusterlein (I'm happy that I have you!), telephone mouse Katrin, my Gahan lovers Gea + Isabel + Maren, Gore devotees Susi + Solange + Faith + Nadine + Agnes, Wildergirls Katka + Micaela, DM boys Peter + David + Mark + Sven + Christian + Juan Jose and partypeople Andre, Tessi, Manu, Michael and Thomas (You see, I haven't forget you!! Ha, Ha!). Faithfully devoted to you all...Nadine Schmidt, Germany.

I would like to send my regards to Barbara Bertolin, a DM fan from Rome. She's my girlfriend and, believe me, it is beautiful to stay together and listen to Depeche Mode. Walking with their music in our ears, the music that surrounds us.... the greatest feeling in the world. Thank you Depeche Mode for making my dreams come true. I love you DM. I love you Barbara. Vlady-Judas.

To Mario Vella from England: Do you still remember me? I am your friend Kary from Argentina. Please contact me soon as I plan to go to UK and do want to meet you. I miss your great letters very much. My address still is: Pedernera 340 dto. 1, El Palomar 1684, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

I would like to invite you to join the ukmoders mailing list. This mailing list is for Depeche Mode fans living in the UK. Chat/meet up with local fans in your part of England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales. You can join this list by going to the following web page: <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/ukmoders>

I would like to congratulate Igor Czech on his birthday (October 7), wish him all the best, and all his wishes to come true. I am forever grateful to DM as they were the reason for us to meet. And I am thankful to Igor for showing me, at least, part of the world in his eyes. I love you. Anna A., Moscow, Russia.

*If you're sending a contact message, please make sure the person you are contacting is a member of BONG. Please, mark your envelope "Contacts".*

>>> **Bootlegs & DJ Mixes** <**KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas****Format: CD****Origin: USA**

I did it! I found a bootleg of the "KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas", the performance by Depeche Mode. It was on T-Rex Records and I would advise every Mode fan to get it. I have heard other recordings of the show that were muffled but this is excellent quality. The show itself must have been awesome and some of the new live versions are fantastic. Dave sounds better than ever on vocals and the arrangements were brilliant. The disk contains "Barrel Of A Gun" which sounds better and more heavy than ever, "Policy Of Truth" which is sung to perfection, "It's No Good" again it sounds just great live and probably is the best version I've heard. Then Dave blasts the crowd with "Walking In My Shoes", Martin sings "Sister Of Night" and "A Question Of Lust" accompanied only by piano. This is an awesome feast for your ears. An almost harmonium maybe original "Enjoy The Silence" version is definitely a classic. The live Zephyr Mix of "In Your Room" is again heavier in style but another must-have. "Behind The Wheel" and "Personal Jesus" come after to great crowd response and finally the famed duet with Billy Corgan on "Never Let Me Down Again" is a perfect end to this CD. I paid \$25 for it and for the quality and the song versions would have paid a lot more. They should release this material, as it really is one of the best shows that I have heard from Depeche Mode on CD. It really shows that they are getting better with every show. Find it and buy it!

**Fergal Furlong****Chicago, USA****The Singles Tour - Live at Hannover Messehalle 09.10.98****Format: 2CD****Origin: Unknown**

This CD contains the concert in full, although there is a bad edit between

*Thanks to everyone for sending us your contributions for our "Bootlegs & DJ Mixes" section. We appreciate it as much as the fans. Having reviews of bootlegs is an invaluable help and can save a lot of mistakes and money when buying. We look forward to receiving more of your Bootleg reviews.*

"Home and "Condemnation" where the tape has probably been changed. The sound quality, although bootleg, is quite good, but "Just Can't Get Enough" is a bit muffled due to the live drums and an over-exited crowd. Martin's guitar has a technical problem on "Walking In My Shoes" which creates a funny sound all the way through the middle solo. On "I Feel You" towards the end of the song Dave comes in too early and doesn't realise, so the band have to follow him, the only problem being the Midi System does what the computer says and not the band, which creates some rather strange sounds!

**Now This Is Fun****Format: CD****Origin: Unknown**

This is a remix album by DJ Mel and Jonathon McBride and features the following tracks: "Barrel Of A Gun", "The Bottom Line", "Sister Of Night", "It's No Good", "Insight", "Just Can't Get Enough", "Any Second Now", "See You" and "Now This Is Fun". The "Ultra" tracks are a complete waste of time, if you have a computer with soundcard software you could do them yourself, they are just basically extended tracks. However, if you're a keen collector, you may want to hear the older track mixes. Although overdubbed with techno/dance beats, they can be quite catchy. I paid £ 10, but don't consider this CD to be a valuable item in my collection.

**Mark Watson****Saltburn, UK****Hommage****Format: CD****Origin: Unknown**

It contains "Boys Say Go!" (Unreleased Rough Mix), "Coming Back To You"

(Unreleased Track), "Rush" (KROQ Mix), "Policy Of Truth" (The Brat Mastermix), "I Feel You" (The Brat Mastermix), "Waiting For The Night" (The Brat Mastermix), "Personal Jesus" (The Brat Mastermix), "Stripped" (Extended Dub Mix), "Walking In My Shoes" (Random Gonads Mix), "My Joy" (H.I.S. Mix), "Flexible" (94 Remix) and "Kaleid" (Concert Intro Version). The remixes are good as well as the sound quality, apart from "Rush". Total time 72:39.

**Polished Gold Forbidden Fruits Vol. 2****Format: CD****Origin: UK**

This CD features 20 tracks, but there are only few remixes worth mentioning, including: "Personal Jesus" (Who Is Jesus Remix), "Boys Say Go!" (Session Version for the BBC on 21/06/81), "I Feel You" (Cut-off Metal Mix), "Route 66" (Dave Allen Remix Edit) and "A Question Of Lust" (One Canal Mix). The overall sound quality is fine. Total time 80:06.

**Italian Tour 11/87****Format: 2CD****Origin: Italy**

It was recorded live in Rome during the "Music For The Masses Tour" in 1987. The track called "Pleasure And Pain" named on the booklet is in fact "Shake The Disease". The sound is quite good.

**Gold Collection Remixes****Format: CD****Origin: Unknown**

The tracklisting of this CD is following: "Just Can't Get Enough" (No Source Remix), "Enjoy The Silence" (Indefinite Mix), "Strangelove" (Bomb The Bass Remix), "Policy Of Truth" (Arabian Mix), "Route 66" (Nile Rodgers Remix),

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## Scan by Maudy

"Personal Jesus" (Brat Mastermix), "Master & Servant/Set Me Free" (Razormaid Mix), "World In My Eyes" (Dub Mix), "A Question Of Lust" (Gore Trance Mix), "Never Let Me Down Again" (Western Remix), "Flexible" (Harp Remix) and "Boys Say Go!" (Rough Mix). All the remixes are very good and the sound quality is also OK.

**Marie Regis**

**Gauchy, France**

### **Sounds Of Mode**

**Format: CD**

**Origin: Unknown**

This is a collection of remixed songs featuring the following tracks: "Enjoy The Silence" (Classic Mix), "Dangerous" (Hazchemix), "Enjoy The Silence" (Instrumental Edit), "Pimpf" (Axis Level Mix), "Behind The Wheel/Route 66" (Mega Single Mix), "Strangelove" (Bong Very Extended Mix), "Lie To Me" (Deep Beat Mix), "Mega Pimpf Mix", "Mixo Phone Mode", "Policy Of Truth" (DJ Vision Mix) and "It's No Good" (Video Mix). The sound quality is excellent and highlights are the classic mix of "Enjoy The Silence" and the two mega mixes. The sleeve contains pictures that are exactly the same as the pictures by Marina Chavez used in Bong 35. In other words, if you see it buy it!

### **More Of Mode**

**Format: CD**

**Origin: Unknown**

This is a similar CD to "Sound Of Mode" with the same sleeve design, but different tracklisting, featuring: "Barrel Of A Gun" (Psycho Mix), "Clean" (Evil's Mix), "Halo" (Demo Version), "Happiest Girl" (Orbital Vocal Mix), "Insight" (Within Mix), "It's No Good" (Club 69 Funk Dub), "It's No Good" (Club 69 Future Mix), "Personal Jesus" (Instrumental Dub Mix), "Song For Europe", "Strangelove" (Disconnect Mix), "The Love Thieves" (Silence Mix), "Useless" (US Promo Edit), "Surrender", "In Your Room" (Live at David Letterman). Also excellent and if you see it, get it!

**Floris de Kok**

**Eindhoven, The Netherlands**

### **Summer Tour 1994**

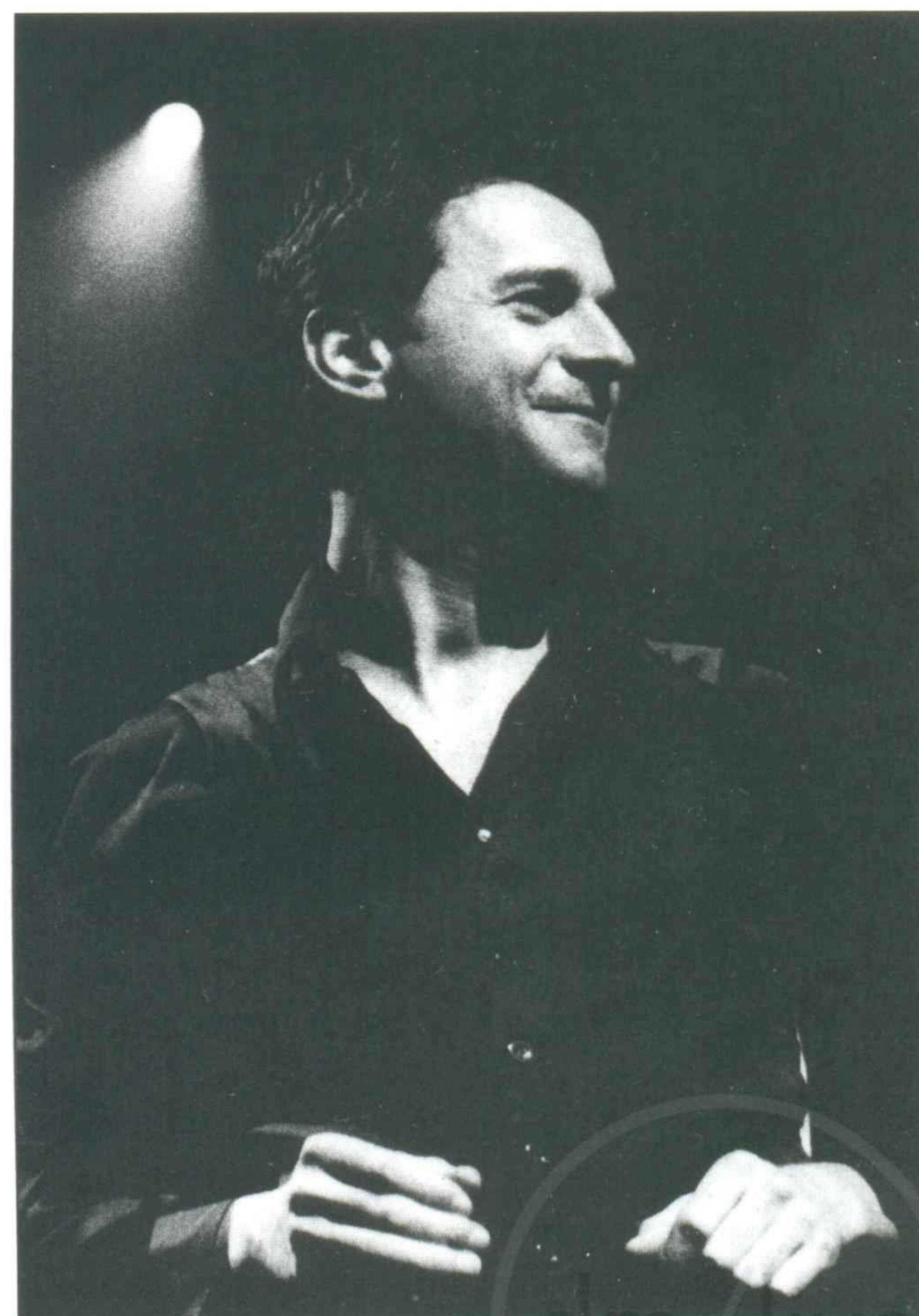
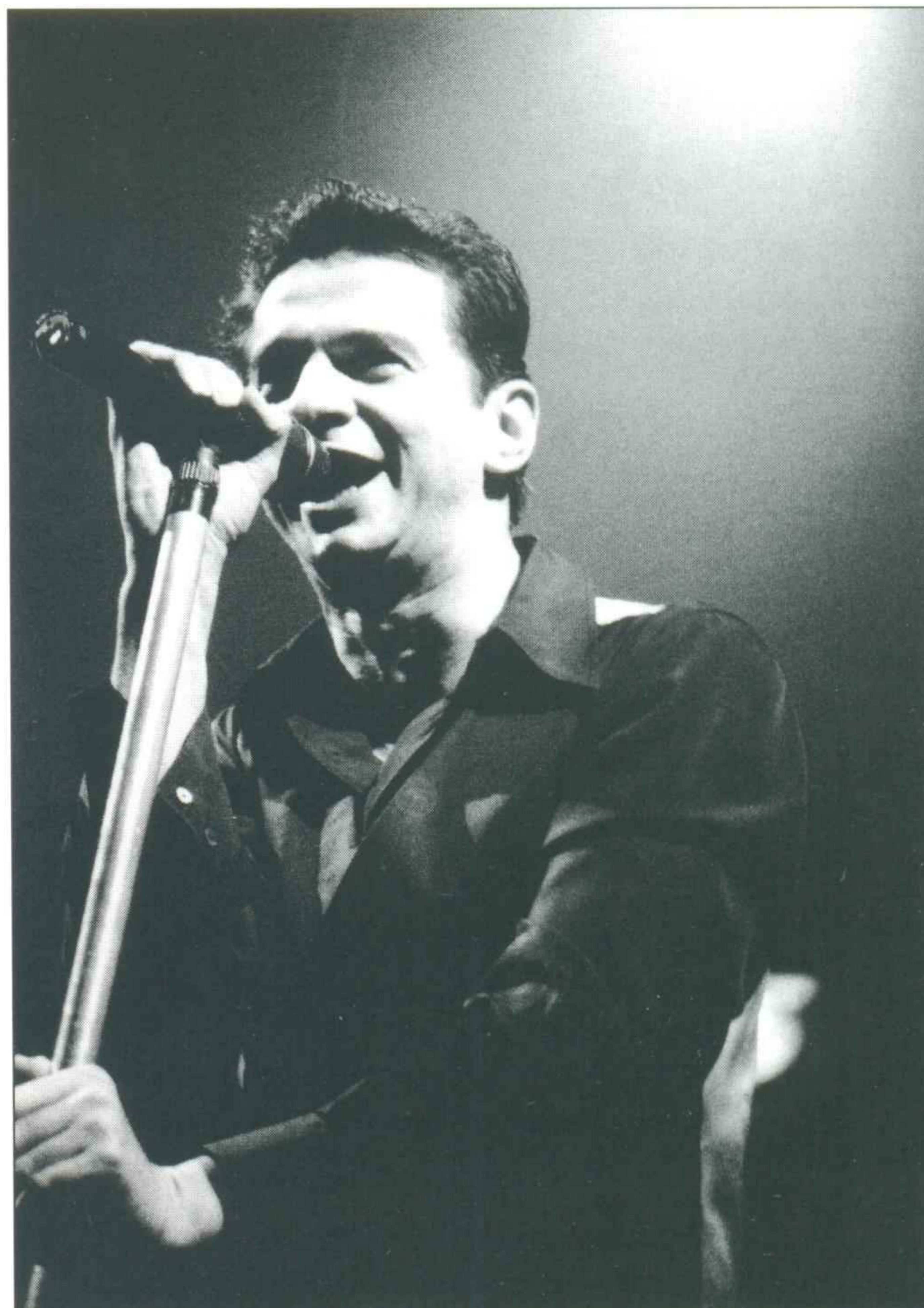
**Format: 2CD**

**Origin: USA**

Recorded live at the concert in Mountain View, California, this double CD features almost every song from the Devotional video, along with a couple of Depeche Mode classics - a total of 16 songs. The tracklisting follows: Disc 1 - "Rush", "Halo", "Behind The Wheel", "Everything Counts", "World In My Eyes", "Walking In My Shoes", "Stripped", "Condemnation" (Martin on vocals), and "I Want You Now". Disc 2 - "In Your Room", "Never Let Me Down Again", "I Feel You", "Personal Jesus", "Somebody", "Enjoy The Silence", and "A Question Of Time". Just like the live version of "SOFAD", this album delivers exceptional sound. The only differences are Dave shouts "Oooo" more often, and you'll hear more of the music than the screaming fans. I bought this at the L.A. DM Convention and it cost me \$ 40. I think if you have the money, this album is worth getting - it's a great collectible for fans, like me, who missed the '94 tour or for those who just want something of the tour to treasure.

**Holly Poon**

**Los Angeles, USA**



Photos by Michaela Olexova

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# (set me free) remotivate me

Written by Martin L. Gore

© 1984 Grabbing Hands Music Ltd/EMI Music Publishing Ltd

Set me free

Remotivate me  
Set me burning  
After years in deep freeze  
My body is yearning  
For a new lease on life  
Add a little spice

Set me free  
Remotivate me

Give me a reason  
To scream and shout  
Give me something  
To get excited about  
When everything is looking dull  
I'm sure it isn't impossible to

Set me free  
Remotivate me

Don't think I'm impatient  
Because I'm willing to wait  
But something must happen  
Before it gets too late  
It could be my imagination  
But wasn't there more than this  
numb sensation

Set me free  
Remotivate me

Set me free

# flexible

Written by Martin L. Gore

(c) 1985 Grabbing Hands Music Ltd/EMI Music Publishing Ltd

Fame

Can have strange effects  
Money  
Can have strange effects

I ask myself  
Is it a sin?  
To be flexible  
When the boat comes in

Open the window and out go ideals

Drink  
Can alter you  
Girls  
Can have strange effects, too

We all know boats don't last  
We all know cars are fast

dm/live

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# Satellite <<

The addresses below are printed for your information only. These fan clubs are unofficial and therefore BONG takes no responsibility for their activities. If there is a fan club in your area, a DM party or convention being organised we'd like to hear about it. Please, send us all the details to the BONG address.

**DMF**  
**Apartado de Correos 42064**  
**Madrid 28080**  
**Spain**

The Hungarian DM FC  
Budapest  
Petöfi Csarnok  
1146 Zichy M.U.14  
Hungary

**Mode Evolution**  
**3 Marne Avenue**  
**Walton**  
**Peterborough**  
**PE4 6AJ**  
**England**

Devotees - DM FC  
Rua Manuel Mendes, 21-3A  
1800 Lisboa  
Portugal

**DM fans in Riga**  
**E-mail: roman@parks.lv**  
**http://www.parks.lv/home/roman**

DM Club  
Linda Andreasson  
Norrskensq. 21  
37151 Karlskrona  
Sweden

**Devotee MODE**  
**42, Rue Armand Carrel**  
**62970 Courcelles-Les-Lens**  
**France**

WorkHard  
apdo. correos 12.283  
46020 Valencia  
Spain

**DM Devotees**  
**A.D. 1154**  
**Vilnius 1**  
**2001**  
**Lithuania**

A la Mode  
E-mail: pcyopick@titan.tcn.net  
http://www.tcn.net/~pcyopick/alamode

**Danish DM FC**  
**Boys Say Go!**  
**Brian Valentin**  
**Ryttervaenget 16 I.th**  
**6400 Sonderborg**  
**Denmark**

Rush  
Crabethstraat 15  
2801 AL Gouda  
The Netherlands

**Hot Wire**  
**German fanzine**  
**c/o Andy Drabek**  
**Allendestr. 66**  
**08062 Zwickau**  
**Germany**  
**E-mail: HOT-WIRE@t-online.de**

The Estonian Depeche Mode Web  
www.depechemode.ee  
Ilja Judeikin  
P.O. Box 6016  
Tallinn 13 502  
Estonia

**Empty World 2**  
**Paltholmterrasserne 78 F**  
**3520 Farum**  
**Denmark**

Devotion  
Apartado 5265  
47080 Valladolid  
Spain

**De.Mo.**  
**Poltavskaya st. 2-45**  
**603024 Nizhny Novgorod**  
**Russia**

Depeche Mode Friends  
P.O. Box 239  
160 41 Praha 6  
Czech Republic  
E-mail: info@dmfriends-silence.cz  
http://www.dmfriends-silence.cz

**Shake The Disease**  
**Stefan Bültner**  
**Paul-Grasse-Str. 23**  
**D-10409 Berlin**  
**Germany**

DM Fan Club BCN  
Apartado de correos 3004  
08080 Barcelona  
Spain  
E-mail: dmfcbcn@aiind.upv.es

**Club For The Masses**  
**Suipacha 463 (6-B)**  
**(1008) - Capital Federal**  
**Bs.As. - Argentina**  
**E-mail: dm\_arg@hotmail.com**

Ultra DM FC  
c/o Giovanna Siragusa  
C.da Conte, Coop Conte  
sc.2 int. 1  
98168 Messina  
Italy

**Movement Of Faith**  
**Atenen, 8, 1º**  
**08720 Vilafranca Del Penedes**  
**(Barcelona)**  
**Spain**

Satellite - Canadian FC  
P.O. Box 63527, RPO Capilano  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
V6V-1J4  
Canada

**Musings For The Masses**  
**UK fanzine**  
**c/o Red**  
**159 Whiteacre Rd**  
**Ashton-under-Lyne**  
**Lancashire OL6 9PS**  
**England**

The Estonian Depeche Mode Fan Club  
P.O. Box 26, 72202 Turi  
Estonia  
http://edmfk.cafe.ee

**Black Day**  
**c/o Szymon Derucki**  
**ul. Wegierska 18/21**  
**65-638 Zielona Gora**  
**Poland**

If You Want  
Depeche Mode  
P.O. Box 23  
678 01 Blansko  
Czech Republic  
E-mail: kysa@bknet.cz

**DM fans in Czech Republic**  
**E-mail: marekf@depechemode.cz**  
**http://www.depechemode.cz**

## Moding Prague

Depeche Mode Party being organised on 27th November 1999 at the Prague's Club Rock Cafe. Why don't you organise a week-end in the city of Prague, Czech Republic and celebrate a night of Depeche Mode music, videos and a live performance of the popular cover band Demode? The party begins at 8pm and lasts till 5am. The tickets cost approx. £ 2 and are available at the door. More information at: marekf@depechemode.cz or http://www.depechemode.cz

## Moding Cologne

The next Depeche Mode Party in Cologne is going to be held on October 15th, 1999 at the Live Music Hall in Cologne with the appearance by DJ Elvis. The event starts at 9pm and is presented by World Of Music, Germany. Come and join us.... it's going to be More Than A Party! For more information write to: ultracompany@netcologne.de or www.ultra.fanclub.ms

Competition Time Again!!!

Do you have a permanent or henna tattoo? Does it symbolise Depeche Mode or anything that associates with the Band? Why don't you send us a photograph of your "artwork" to our usual address and tell us what inspired your decision to have it done? You could be one of three winners to receive a special prize from our archives and the three best entries will be printed in a future issue of Bong. The closing date for "Tattoo Contest" is November 20.

## Copenhagen - 11/09/98

I would like to express my gratitude to Depeche Mode with this letter for their latest wonderful European tour. The first time I saw them live on that tour was in Copenhagen and I was simply overwhelmed by the show. During Martin's performance of "Somebody" I was so impressed and moved that I had to cry throughout the entire song and I was not the only one! I also visited the shows in Gothenburg and Berlin where I had the chance to meet the three Modes backstage, which was just great! However the Brussels show was the best one up to that point. The atmosphere was simply breath taking! The concerts in Zürich and Milan were a little disappointing because of Dave's cracked voice. It went back to normal at my next stop in Frankfurt where Dave proved to be in great shape again. But the best show ever, with a great performance by Dave and rest of the Band, the audience response and the overall atmosphere, happened to be in Barcelona. It was an unforgettable experience! The gig in San Sebastian was then quite sad, as it was the last concert of the European leg of the tour. Dave seemed very tired and so was I after following the Band at ten shows...but it was worth it.

**Sebastian Sinterhauf**  
Berlin, Germany

## Bologna - 26/09/99

Reading all the letters from fans in Bong 39, I have noticed that they are mostly from UK, Germany, and Canada, USA, etc... but where are all the 12 000 fans who were in Milan and the 13 000 fans who were in Bologna on 26th and 27th September? Believe me, my city Bologna seemed to be invaded by devotees back then. It was amazing to see how soon the Palasport filled up with fans, and the atmosphere was incredible well before the concert started. I can't explain what went on inside of the venue when Andy, Martin and Dave appeared on stage. It was manic! I can't really describe exactly how I felt that night but I know that it will never be the same and so powerful as on that beautiful day. It was my first Depeche Mode concert and where I spent the best two hours of my life. I really want to thank everyone who was there and who helped the Band to put on such an excellent show!

**Alessia Palmieri**  
Bologna, Italy

## London - 29/09/98

Well what can I say? After three concerts and one convention I feel exhausted, no wonder the band look so tired sometimes. I practically felt as though

I was personally on tour with them during that week of the Wembley dates and NEC but after five years it was well worth it. Picture this -Tuesday 29th September 1998, front row (standing of course) with Martin Gore's microphone stand right in front of me, after being slightly deafened by a very-rave-type noise, produced on stage by those ladies, which I personally felt was not appropriate for a Depeche Mode audience. Then anxiously watching Tim Simenon 'doing his bit', not really knowing what to expect from our now threesome - I just knew it would blow our heads off and that it did. "Painkiller" was a fantastic start to the show and it really got the fans going. At this point, I was protecting my rib cage waiting for a sudden surge but it never came even when Dave bolted on stage with that cheesy grin. The audience went wild and even though the frantic movements of the "SOFAD" age never appeared, a more raunchy and gentle flow of dancing appeared from the man we all probably deep down never thought would tour again. I saw new life in all the band members that night, they

# SHOWS IN THEIR P



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all looked and sounded fantastic. Martin's voice floated above me, after all I was practically standing underneath him. I was, though, slightly disappointed that they didn't sing "Everything Counts" and that the shows were exactly the same even when Dave made a point of telling us that Martin Gore was the man we had to thank for it all. I think we know that already, thanks for reminding us Dave!

**Janie Wells**  
**Leics, England**

## Leipzig - 10/10/98

After seeing our Gods twice in September and the day before in Hannover, the best concert, at least for me, was the show in Leipzig. My friend and I came directly from the Hannover gig, taking the night train, arriving at the concert hall at about 9am. Later, when a few of our pals joined us, it started to rain. We all

stood together under the big umbrellas, had great fun and didn't care about the cold and rain, as we were pretty sure that tonight would be one more highlight of the tour. Unfortunately, it was raining all day long, but as we stood in front of the stage again in the evening, we were the happiest people again. As always, Depeche Mode came on stage at 9pm and all the fans were getting crazy. There was a smashing atmosphere in the Messehalle right from the beginning and Dave had one of his best performances ever, always with a smile on his face. He didn't need to ask the fans to sing along, everybody in the hall was already singing. One of the highlights that night was "Enjoy The Silence" when after the song Dave said "Danke Schön" in pretty good German. What a fantastic reward this was for us. Later on he stood right in front of me and my friends and was trying to reach our hands. But the gap between the stage and the barriers was too big to make contact... He then went down on his knees and kept on smiling while we were singing "Let me see you stripped down to the bone..." Oh, I wished Dave would do that - ha ha! All this made that gig so damn special for me. I don't want to forget Martin and Fletch who seemed to be enjoying the show as well and gave away simply the best! When the show ended I noticed there still was a bottle of mineral water on stage Dave was drinking from during the show and I was crazy enough to ask one of the security guys to give it to me. And yes, I got it! It's still half full and I will treasure it forever. I thank you Depeche Mode so much for

giving us such a huge present last year. It was the best tour ever seen on Earth and we all look forward to seeing you on stage soon again!

**Nadine Schmidt**  
**Grossalsleben, Germany**

## New York - 28/10/98

It was October 27, 1998 and I heard that DM had finally come to the States to play the second leg of the tour. Many rumours from Europe were going around about the highlights and success of the long-awaited tour - such as "In Your Room" being played as the Zephyr Mix, Martin playing more guitar than on the previous tours, Andy's clapping coming back, a live drummer playing for the whole show, a new keyboard player and of course, Dave's voice coming back stronger than ever. This gave hope to all of us fans in the USA. When the next day came, it was my turn to experience why DM were so capable of bringing so many people around the world to see them. I personally waited about three years for this moment. Well, when Stabbing Westward (opening band for the US Leg) came on, I became so intense in what was coming next. About an hour later, the lights dimmed and the electricity sound of "Painkiller" got everyone off their seats and clapping! The October 28 show at Madison Square Garden, NY was great! Their sound was much better than on past tours, the set list and how the songs were performed surprised me. I was so anxious to see them again on the second NY show on the 29th and I was expecting it to be much better than the 28th show. I also planned on meeting some DM fans on that day. Well, by the time we met with them it was like I was on a rush to see DM, but of course it was a little too early to go in. As soon as it was show time, we all got up from eating and went straight to Madison Square Garden. I didn't care too much for Stabbing Westward this time...I was just too impatient to see DM. By the time they were done I had to wait another hour just like the previous show. We all went out in the halls bit I soon heard the sound of "Painkiller" and we all just ran back to our seats. One of us even got lost! But in total the show was great. As for Depeche Mode, they did it again! They made me so happy and played an even better, more intense show! DM have been a big influence in most of our lives. We waited, and it was worth waiting for. Showing that they can Never Let Us Down. They simply have their own style that gives every fan a feeling that no one else can give. Dave, Martin, and Andy, you're the best thing that has happened to my life and other devoted fans!

**Josh Alvarado**  
**Bronx, NY, USA**

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# EYES



Photo by Anton Corbijn

# < Classified >>

I am looking for Bong issues No. 1-13, 15-17, 19, 25-31. I also look for any rare videos and CDs, tour programmes, photos, merchandise, calendars, etc. Please send your list to: Sabine Lichtenhof, Winkstr. 17, 85053 Ingolstadt, Germany.

Looking to swap or trade DM stuff. I am mostly interested in unreleased songs and TV appearances, including Vince Clarke era. Get in touch! Jonatan Martin, Avda. Costa Azul 8, 9 C, 08214 Badia Del Vallés, Barcelona, Spain.

I am looking for Bong issues 1-13, 15-17, 19, 25-31 and 33. I am also looking for the book "Strangers" by Anton Corbijn. Can anybody help me, please? If possible, please send your list to my e-mail address: vorndran@hotmail.com. If not, please write to: Daniela Vorndran, Feldstr. 27, 96515 Sonneberg, Germany.

I am looking for the following Bong issues: No. 1-15, 25-28 and 30. I hope someone will be able to help. I will pay a really good price. Please make

an offer to: Manfred Greisert, Am Stadtweiher 1, 40699 Erkrath, Germany.

I have the original UK Ltd. edition of 12" "Everything Counts" + other live tracks (red cover, good condition, numbered A 0063). I will swap it with the original Black Celebration Tour programme (good condition). Please write to: Michele Andina, via Privata, 6988 Ponte Tresa, Switzerland.

Absolutely desperate for video recordings of MTV's broadcast of the Cologne show from The Singles Tour 86-98. Offer details to: Craig Forder, 29 Englemann Way, Sunderland, SR3 2NY, England. Greatly appreciated.


I am desperately looking for the "A Broken Frame Tour" programme, old postcards and photos of Alan Wilder. I am also looking for autographed items and magazine articles (no Bravo!). I am also willing to swap photos. Please send offers to: Angela Pilidis, bei Lewandowsky, Erich-Weinert-Str. 49, 10439 Berlin, Germany or e-mail: angie@klan.de

Depeche Mode photos for sale! I am selling a part of my photo collection. Please write me for the list, enclosing IRC or stamp. Tobias Schulze, Am Stadtpark 48, 08261 Schönebeck, Germany.

I am trying to collect as many DM concert tickets from every place and time. Could you help me and send a copy of your concert ticket(s) for my collection? Recent and old ones needed! Please contact me at: Vince Delmot, Rue des Prairies 5, 5020 Vedrin, Belgium.

For sale: Large selection of DM items including CDs, vinyls, videos, T-shirts and posters. For list send S.A.E. or IRC (if you live overseas) to: John Bretherton, 20 Rosedale Ave, Woolston, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 4NX, England.

*If you'd like to place an advert in this section, send us postcard with your name, address and brief description of what you want to buy, sell or swap. Please note we CAN NOT accept any advertisements for bootleg records, CDs, tapes, videos, etc.*

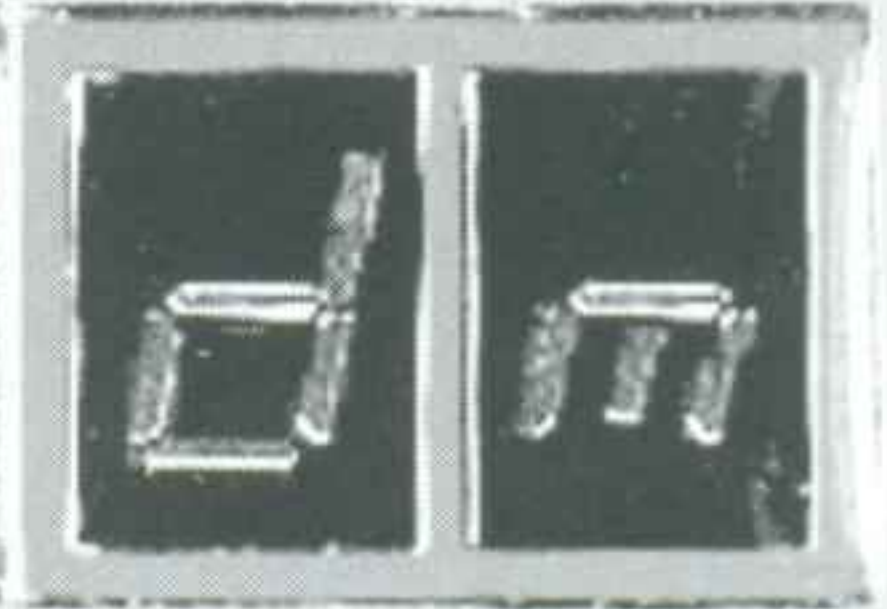


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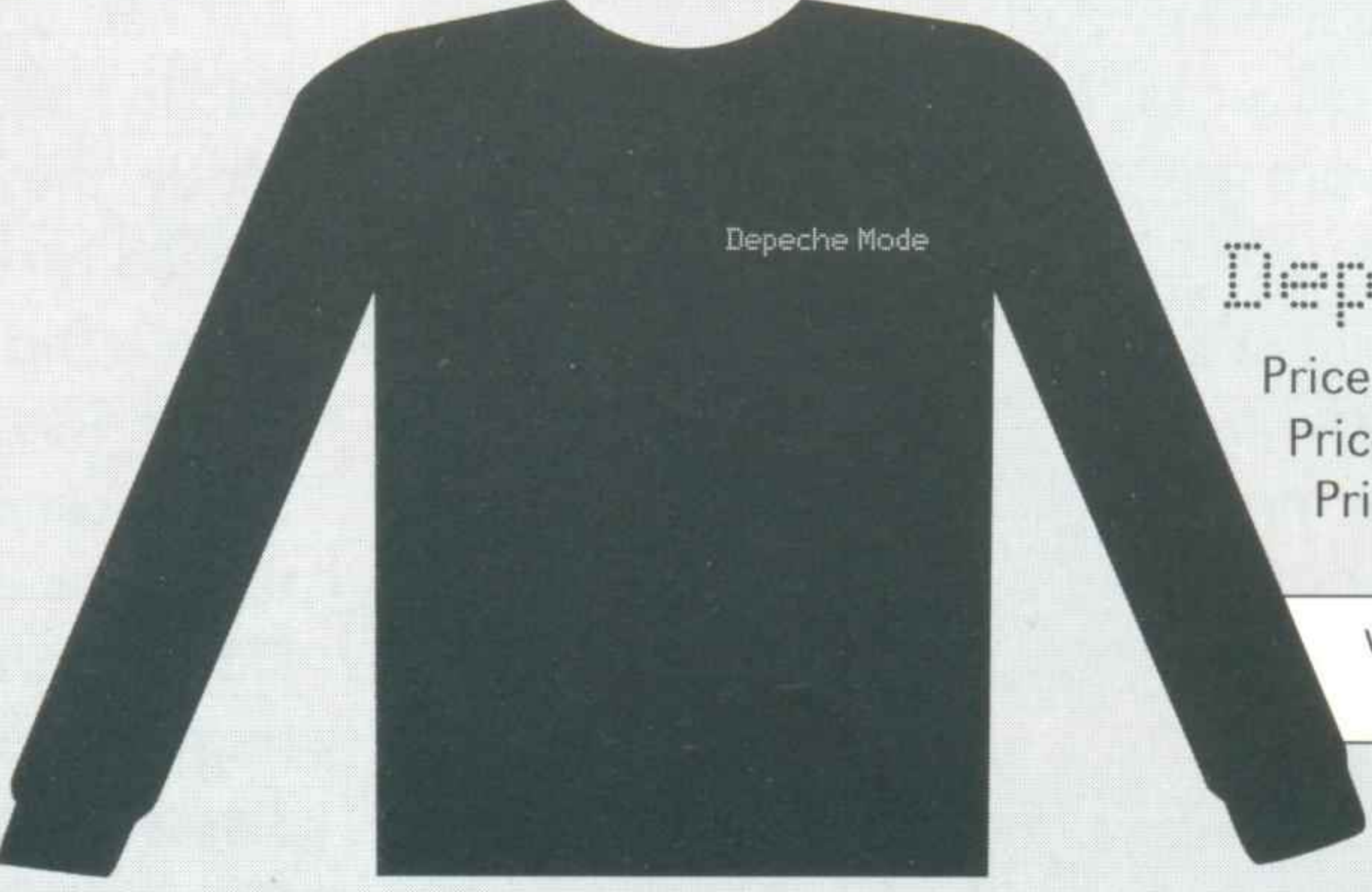
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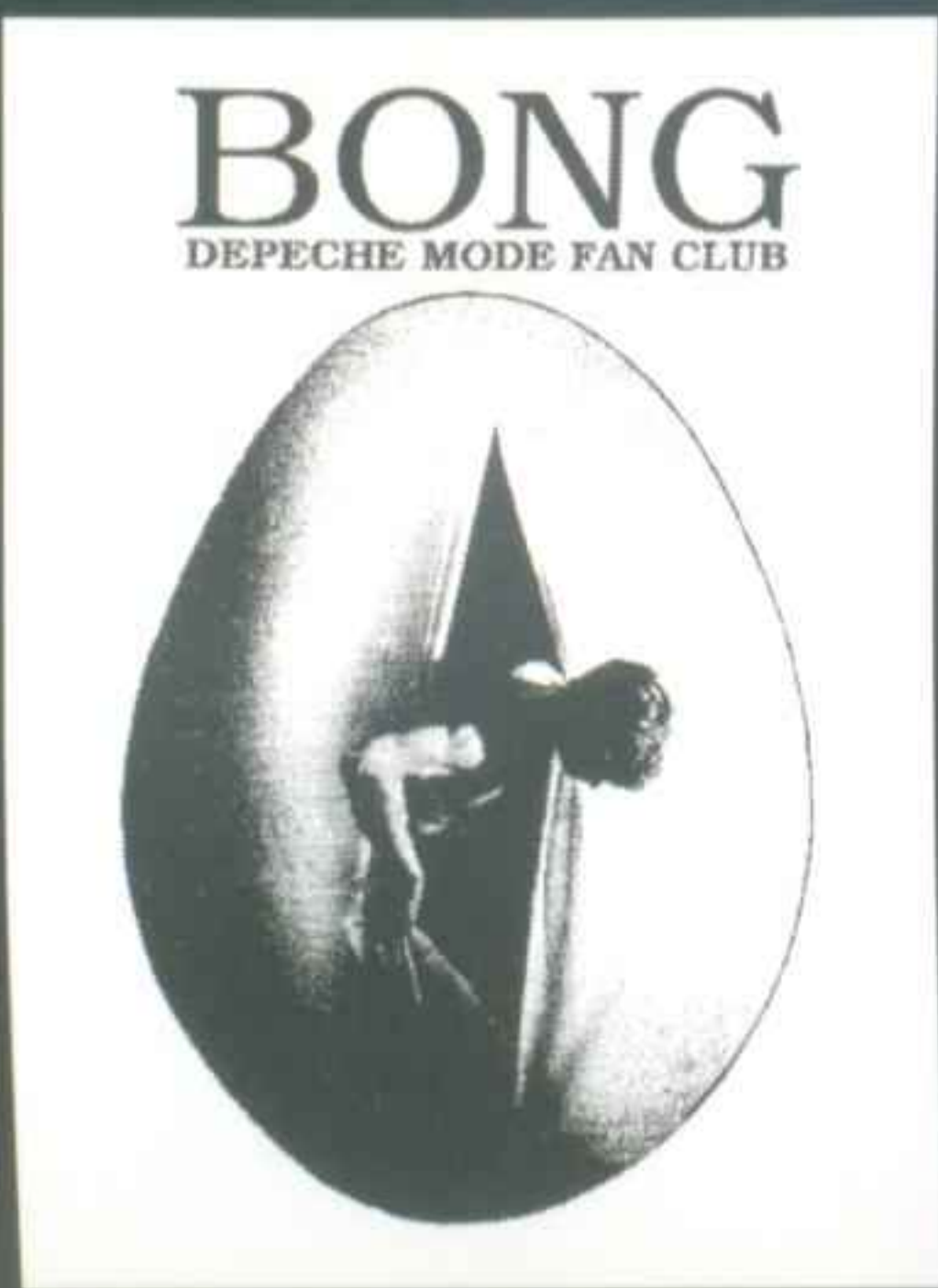
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1998-B



**BONG 14**



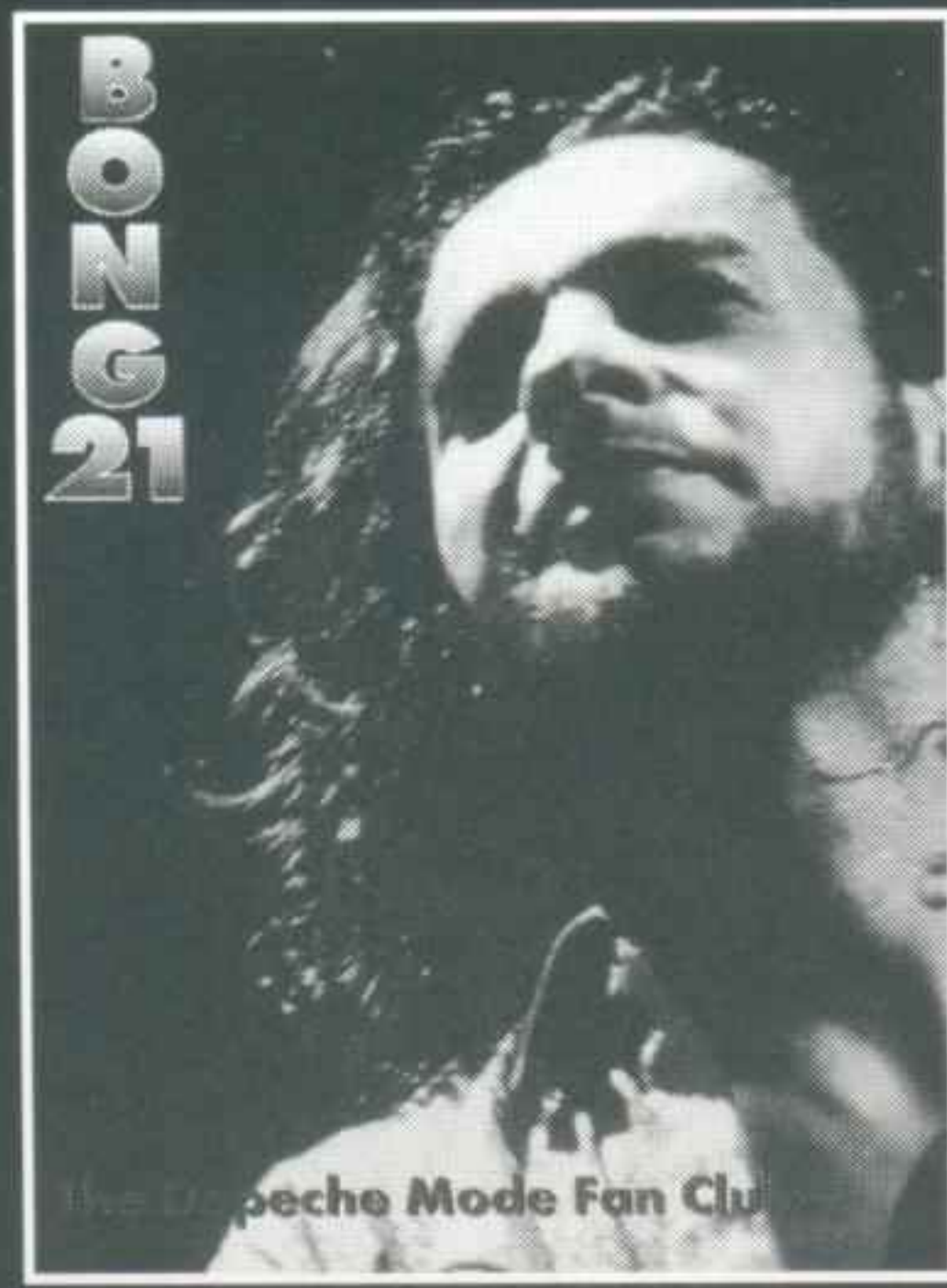
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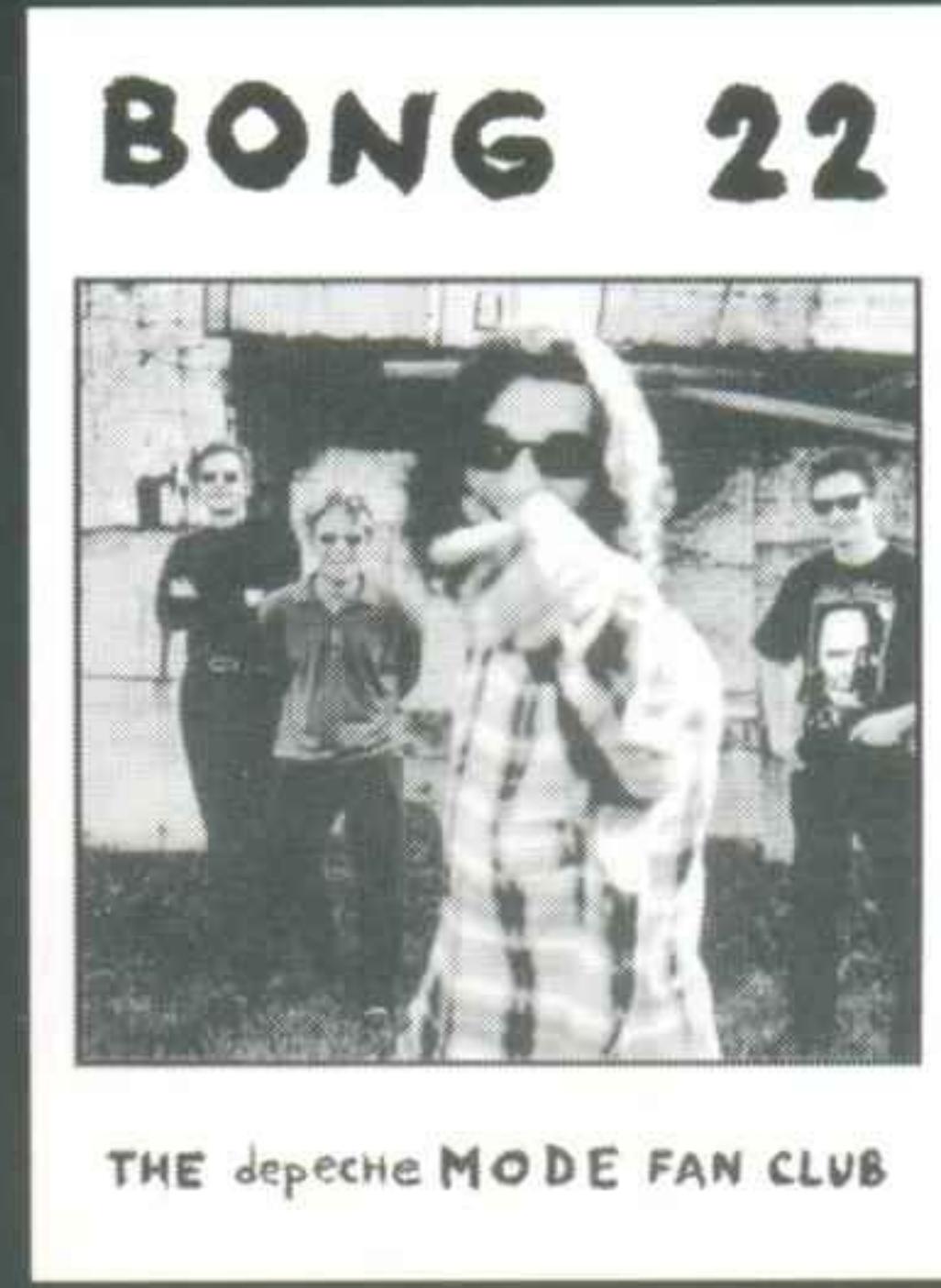
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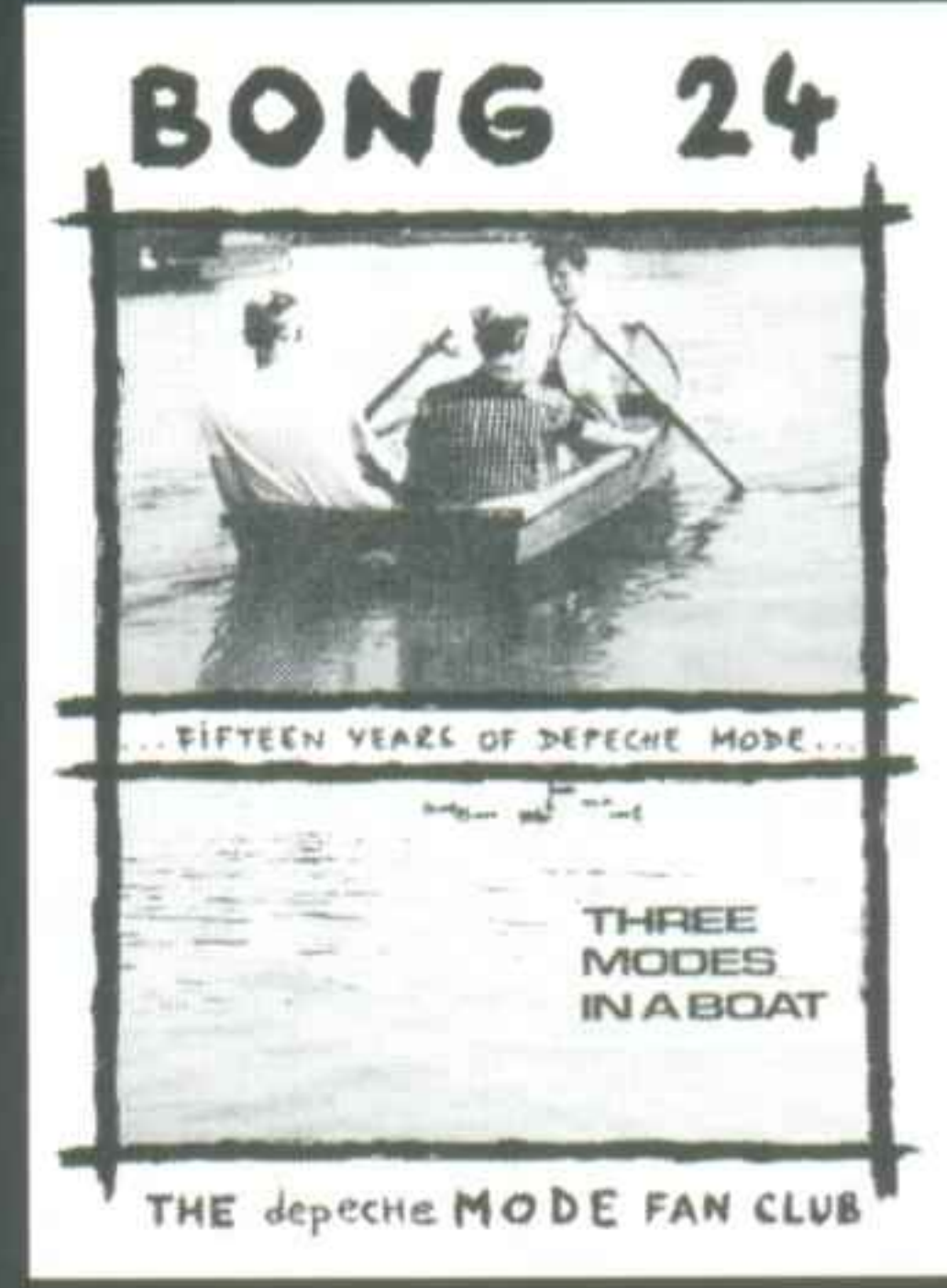
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**BONG 22**



A4, colour

**BONG 24**



A4, colour

**BONG 32**



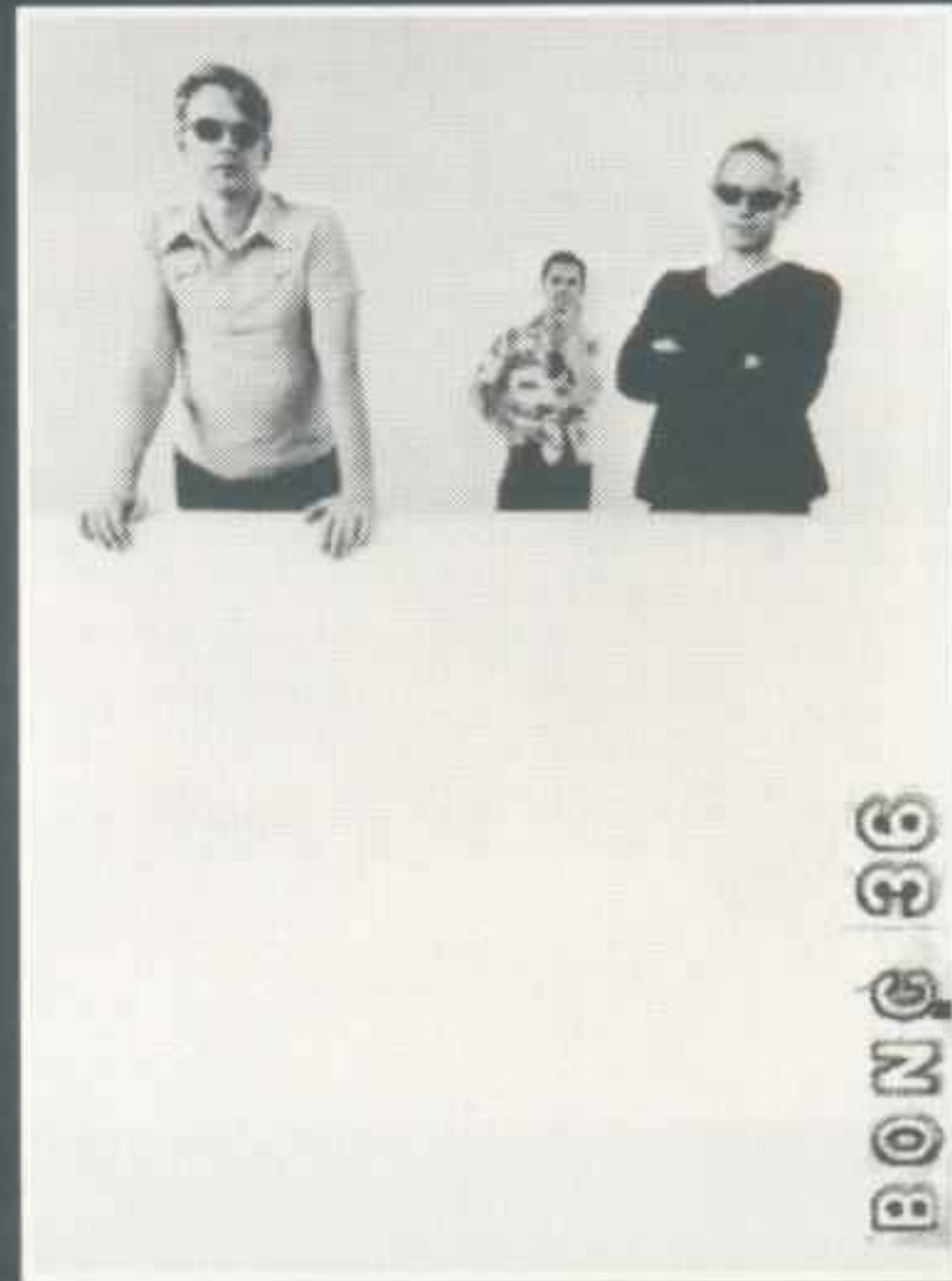
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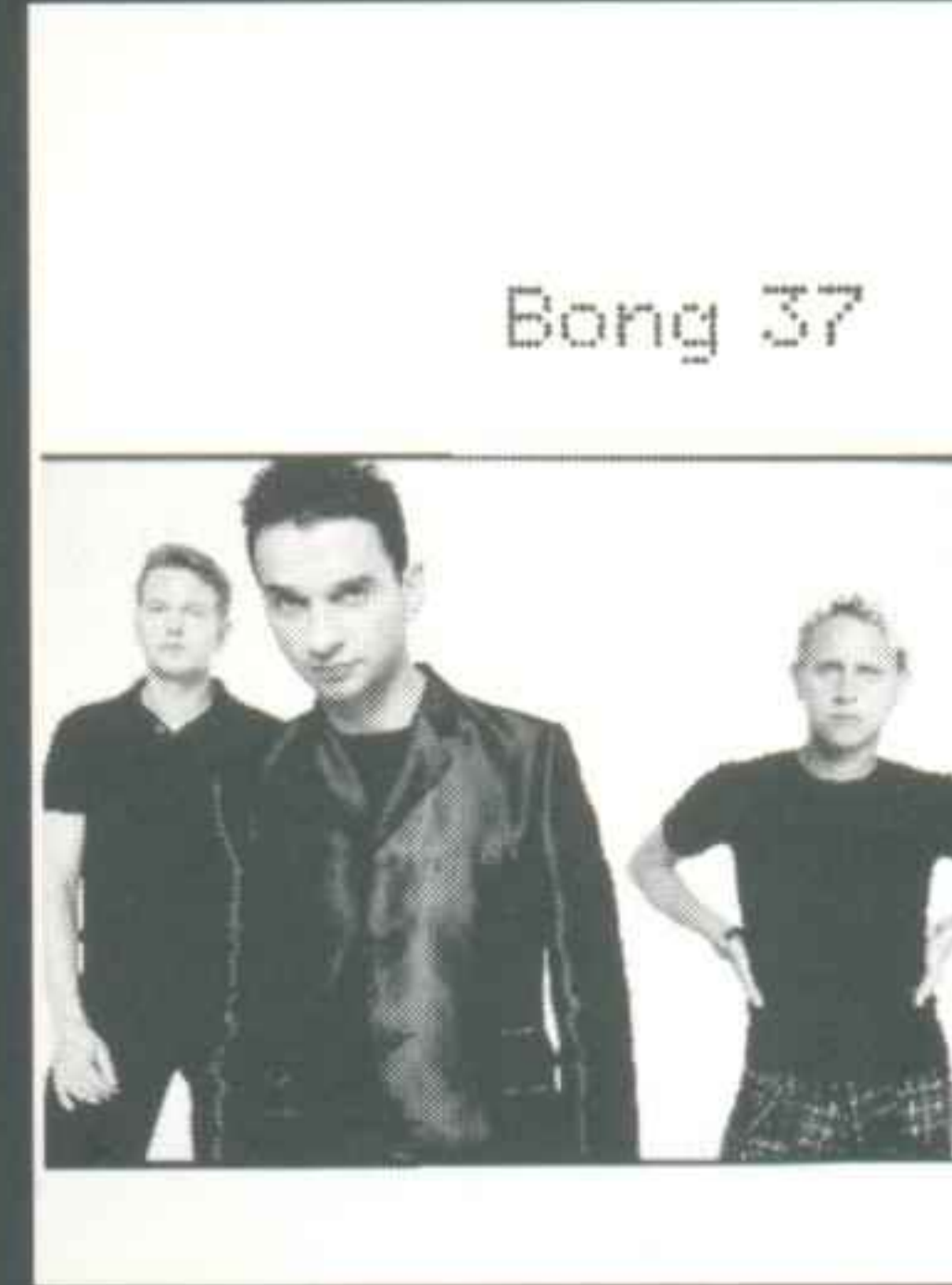
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**BONG 36**



A4, colour

**BONG 37**



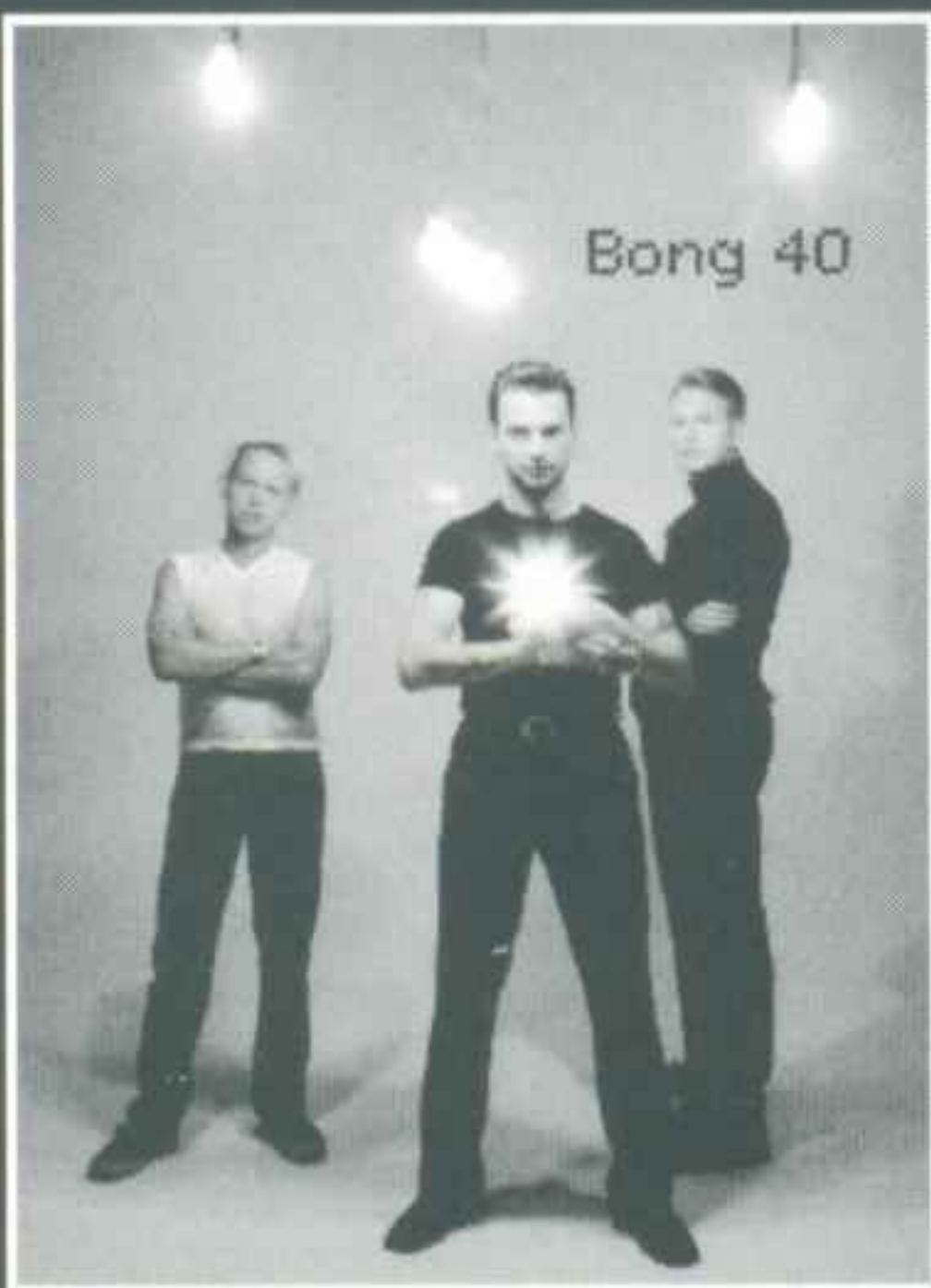
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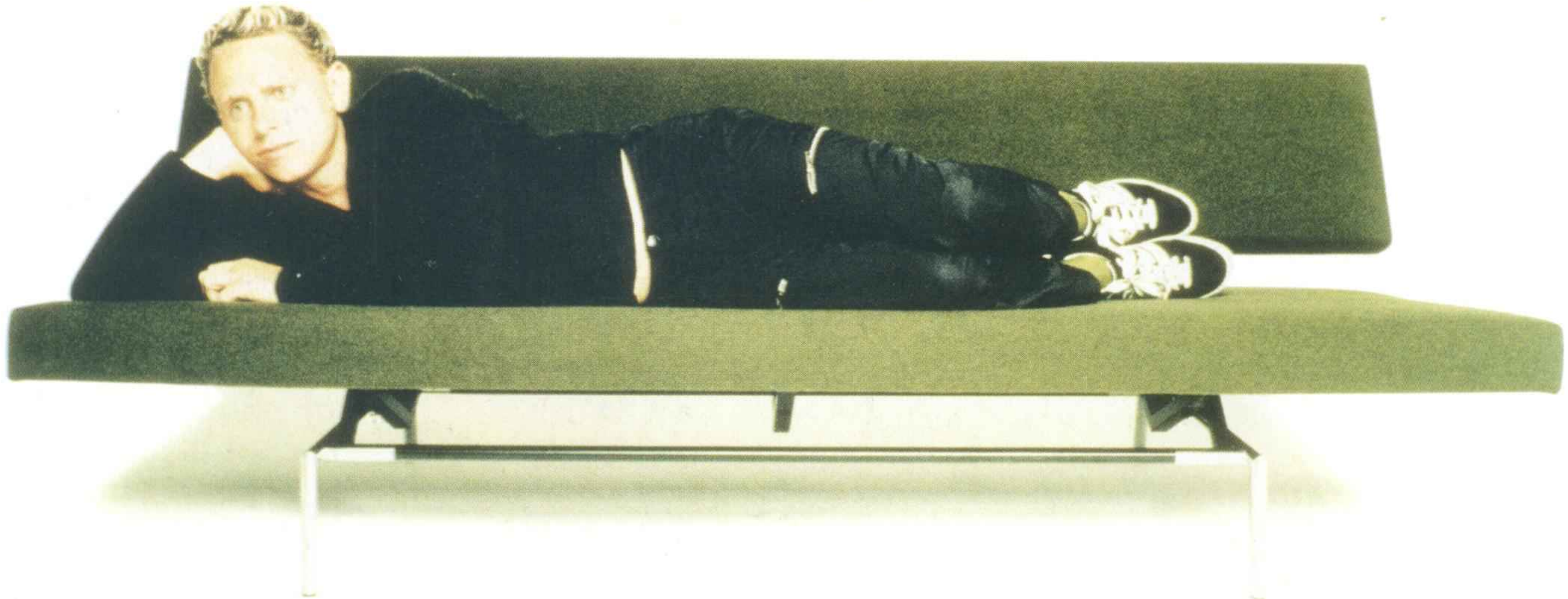
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