

DM Live



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Photo by Anton Corbijn

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< < < Intro > >

Hello Devotees!

Welcome to the first edition of Bong in 1999!

We hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and it was a perfect ending to a year that brought so much to us fans. We would also like to thank you for all your cards and best wishes that you sent to Martin, Fletch, Dave and to us in the office.

As promised, we have tried to dedicate this issue of Bong to the recent tour, and you will see that more than a third of the magazine is devoted to The Singles Tour 86-98, including some photos, and personal observations, from the winners of our meet & greet contest "Dreaming Of Depeche Mode". The photographs in this issue are also mostly from the live performances but there are some which you have sent us during the past few months.

We have finally selected the five best entries in our long running competition in which you were to draw a logo, picture or symbol of

what Depeche Mode means or represents to you. You can see the winning entries a few pages on. "Blasphemous Rumours", one of our regular sections, is also back in Bong 39, taking a closer look at the latest releases and the tour.

There will be more information, details and photos from The Singles Tour 86-98 in the next issue, including a previously unreleased tour diary. You can also look forward to your favourite pages in "Bootlegs & DJ Mixes" and much more.

That's all from us for now. Keep your letters and e-mails coming in, but please don't forget to mark all your contributions with your name and address - it makes our life so much easier!

Until June, keep moding!

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Snippets from the tour as we know it>>>

Depeche Mode were accompanied by 42 plus tour personnel on The Singles Tour. There were five trucks for all the equipment, plus one for the merchandise. There were two sleeper busses for the crew, and the band party travelled in a privately chartered aeroplane.

The tour lasted from September 2, 1998 until December 22, 1998 > Depeche Mode visited 29 cities in 15 different countries around Europe, and 27 cities in the USA/Canada > They played 32 shows across Europe and the same number across the USA/Canada > The total number of fans Depeche Mode played to was almost 800,000 > The average number of fans per show was 12,500 > The biggest attendance was in Berlin where they played to 42,500 fans over two nights - 18th & 19th September.

The Singles Tour 86 - 98 in numbers>>>

THE SINGLES TOUR 86-98

About half way through the Moscow show, the top of the M (from the DM light display) fell off making the stage look very unique.

The Band's long time friend and producer Flood, was at the show in St. Petersburg, and Bon Harris of Nitzer Ebb turned up to see them in Anaheim.

Martin and Fletch represented Depeche Mode in the 'World Table Football Championship' which took place prior to the Frankfurt show in October. Although it is usually hard to beat the guys, Christian Eigner and Flo Guenand - the band's wardrobe lady - got through to the final, which after a strained 10 minutes, was won by Flo.

Depeche Mode were the first international band to play in the brand new Koln Arena and the first band ever to perform in The Valby Multi Hall in Copenhagen.

Dave lost his voice in Zurich, and some songs had to be dropped from the set, including "Condemnation", "Stripped" and "I Feel You". Unfortunately, Dave wasn't able to sing "Condemnation" and "I Feel You" in Bologna or Milan either, as there wasn't enough time between shows to recover - the band decided it was better to go on and leave out a few numbers rather than cancel the shows.

Depeche Mode were supported by Purity in Europe, with Tim Simenon in the role of DJ, and Stabbing Westward supported on the US leg of the Tour. Tim also manned the decks in some local clubs, in Barcelona, Prague and Copenhagen, to do some DJing for a mostly Mode devoted audience.

Janet and Jordan, the backing singers, modelled new silver cat suits at one of the shows in New York.

An after-show party was organised for the Band at LOT 61 club in New York attended by Helmut Lang, Moby, Sasha and other celebrities, and Madonna came to say 'hello' to the Band after their show at The Forum on the 19th December.

Depeche Mode headlined the 9th KROQ's Almost Acoustic Christmas show on the 12th December in Los Angeles. The event took place at The Shrine Auditorium on 11th and

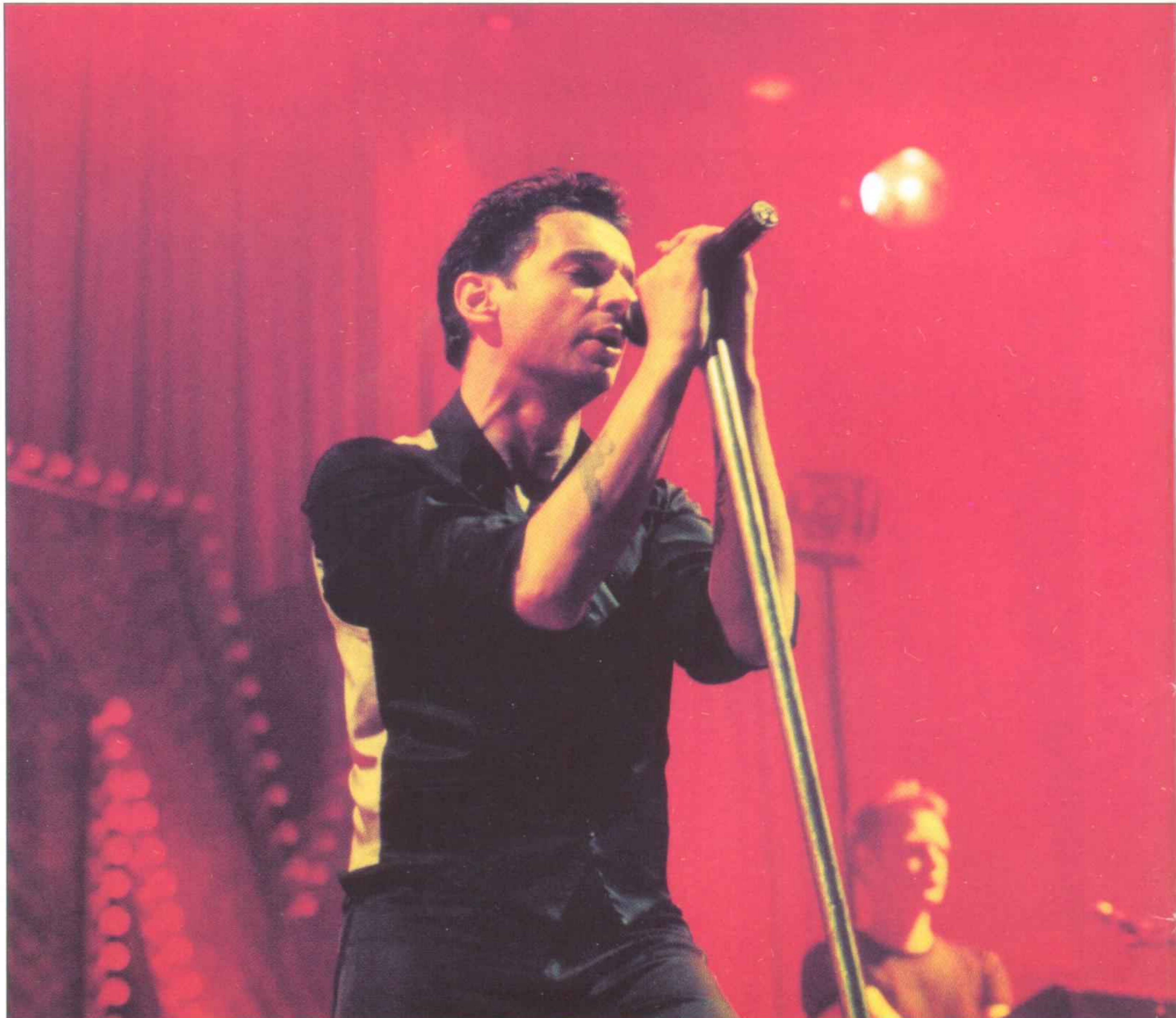


Photo by Michaela Olexova

Briefly with Tim Simenon>>>

What do you do on tour?

Tim: DJ

What's your most favourite thing about the tour?

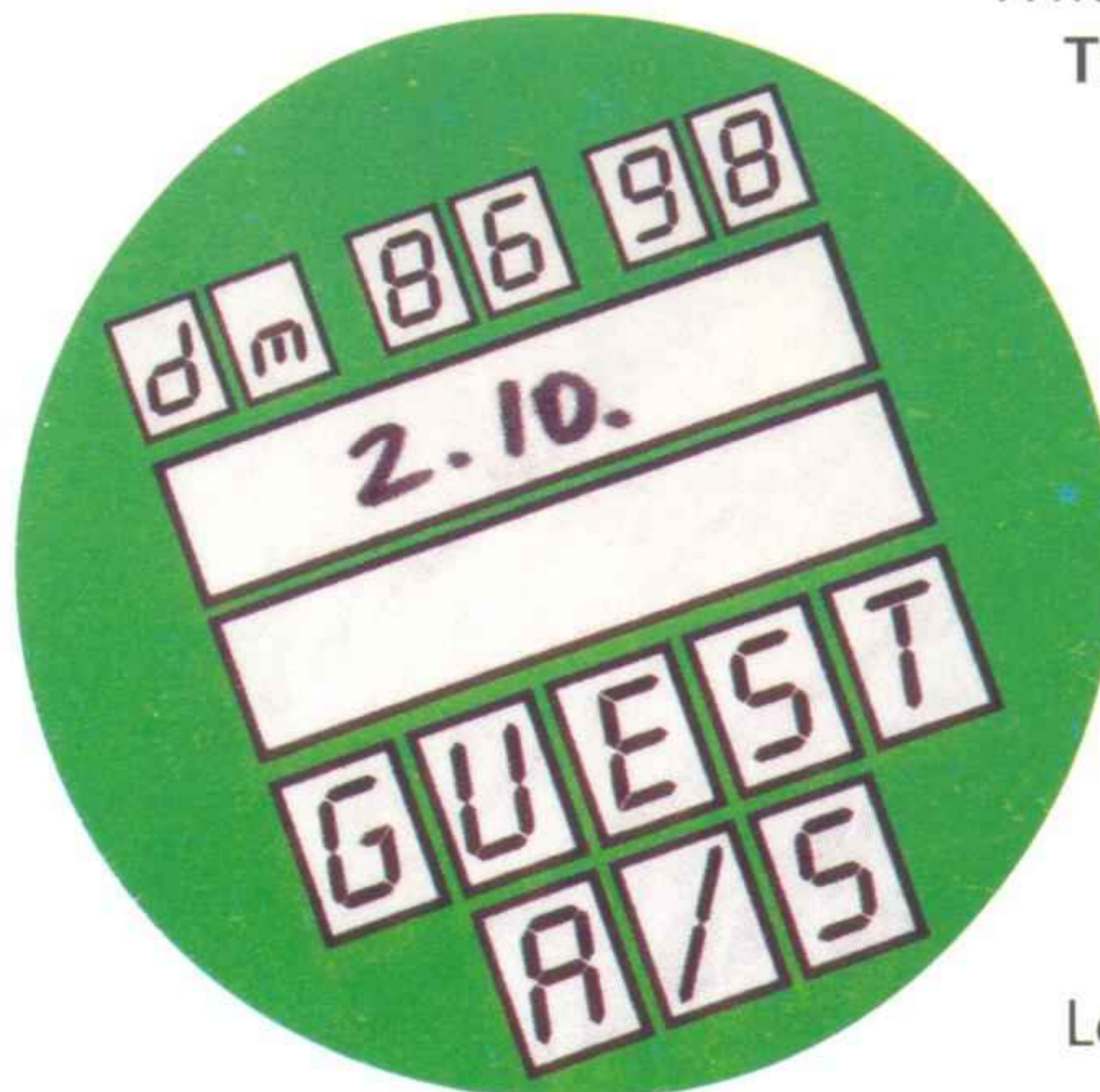
Tim: Travelling and playing music that I love in countries that I've never been to before.

What other bands have you worked for in the past?

Tim: Curve, 12 Rounds...

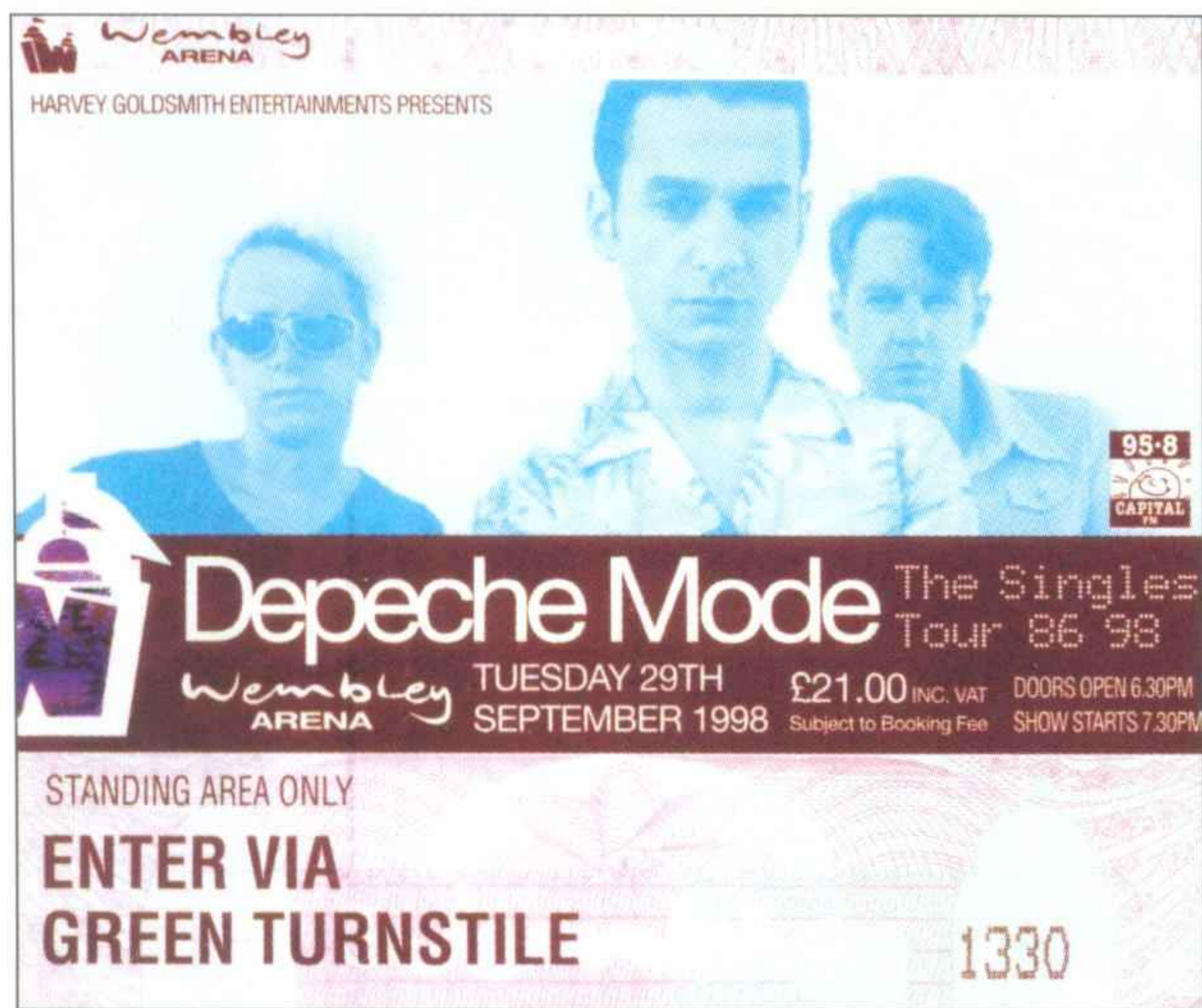
What are your favourite songs on the set-list?

Tim: "Walking In My Shoes", "Home" and "Never Let Me Down Again"



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12th December, and the band played for about an hour on the second night. Their performance included an 'acoustic' version of "Sister Of Night" with Martin on lead vocal, "A Question Of Lust" and "Enjoy The Silence". Billy Corgan of Smashing Pumpkins appeared on stage during "Never Let Me Down Again" as a special guest on guitar and vocals. Other artists on the bill comprised of Garbage, Brian Setzer Orchestra, Goo Goo Dolls, Cake and Soul Coughing. The after-show area backstage was packed with the likes of Anton Corbijn, Ben Stiller, Hole and Billy Corgan to name but a few.

The Band altered their set list in Vancouver and Los Angeles by replacing "Stripped" with "Behind the Wheel". Martin also sang lead vocals on "Sister of Night" instead of Dave.

The Christmas farewell party took place on December 21 in Los Angeles. There were Depeche Mode and their guests, the crew, Santa and a lot of 70's music!

The very last gig of the tour (Anaheim - 22/12/98) was more or less dedicated to the festive season and Dave wished everyone a very Merry Christmas. Fletch gave an unexpected 'thank you' speech and Chris from Stabbing Westward surprised everyone by joining Jordan and Janet on stage to sing backing vocals. A good time was had by all.

- INTRO: PAINKILLER**
- 1 QUESTION OF TIME
 - 2 WORLD IN MY EYES
 - 3 POLICY OF TRUTH
 - 4 ITS NO GOOD
 - 5 NEVER LET ME DOWN
 - 6 WALKING IN MY SHOES
 - 7 LOSE MYSELF
 - 8 QUESTION OF LUST
 - 9 HOME
 - 10 CONDEMNATION
 - 11 IN YOUR ROOM
 - 12 USELESS
 - 13 ENJOY THE SILENCE
 - 14 PERSONAL JESUS
 - 15 BARREL OF A GUN
 - 16 SOMEBODY
 - 17 STRIPPED
 - 18 I FEEL YOU
 - 19 JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH

What's your most hated thing about the tour?

Lee: Sometimes getting up after only a few hours sleep, Jobsworth local officials who seem to want to stop people having a good time....and losing constantly at Martin's table football.

What other bands have you worked for in the past?

Lee: The Cure, Peter Gabriel, Lenny Kravitz, Pet Shop Boys, Erasure, Elton John....I have been doing this since I left school.

What does your show day look like?

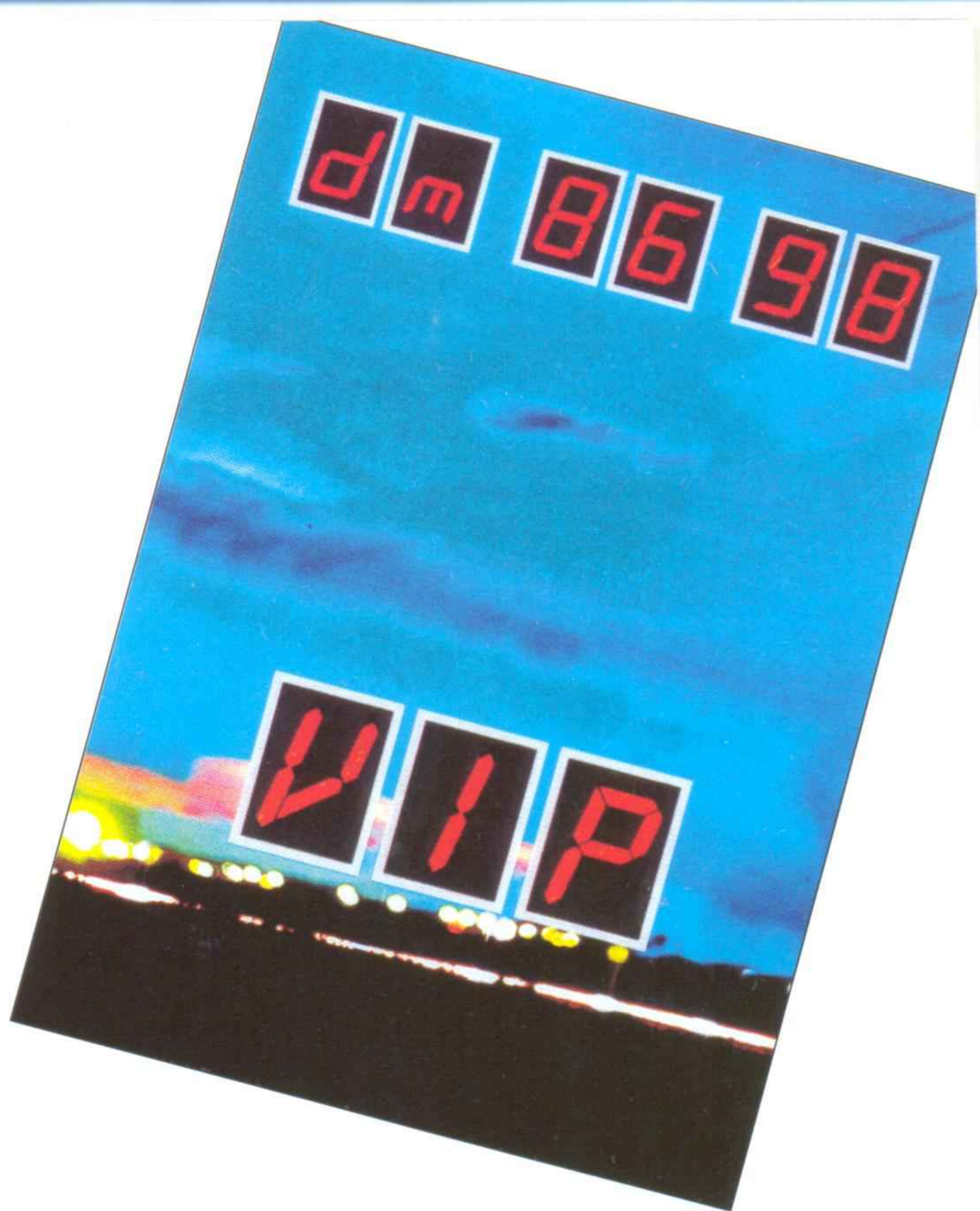
Lee: We start load-in at 7.00 or 8.00 am so I am up before then, and basically I oversee the building of the show, so I am in the venue all day. I set up an office much like anyone else's from my touring road cases - that's where Andy Franks (tour manager), Jonathan Kessler and I all work. It's basically a lot of phone calls mixed in with a bit of table football. It is a long day that usually finishes at 2.00 or 3.00 am on a showday and it's all about patience, diplomacy and sometimes a little counselling when tempers are fraught.

What do you do on your day off?

Lee: Lots of telephone calls to upcoming shows and as much rest and sleep as possible....

What is your favourite song on the set-list?

Lee: "Enjoy The Silence"



Widely with Lee Charteris>>>

What do you do on tour?

Lee: I'm the Production Manager. I look after all the technical aspects of the tour - lights, sound, trucks, busses, crew, etc.

Have you ever been on tour with DM before?

Lee: Yes, in 1994 on the Exotic leg of the Devotional Tour.

What's your most favourite thing about the tour?

Lee: Seeing the fantastic audience reaction to this show, and knowing that I am part of that.... and the odd occasion that I win at table football!



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Everything Counts >>

Promotion

In addition to a 15,000 limited edition triple vinyl of "The Singles 86>98", Mute Records also issued this retrospective album on standard vinyl. They are however, packaged only in a single sleeve and don't contain any booklet.

The first DM singles collection "The Singles 81>85" was made available to US fans for the first time on January 19th via the US label Reprise.

A new tribute album called "Depesha Dlya Depeche Mode" (English translation: "A Dispatch to Depeche Mode") was released in Russia on December 13, 1998. It contains 28 Depeche Mode covers and was published by a record company called Feelee, who officially represent Mute in Russia. The compilation was released as a double CD but there is also a limited double CD featuring 30 songs. The tracklisting includes "Policy of Truth" covered by a Moldavian group called Kuibul and is sung in the Moldavian language and "Home" which is sung by a 12 year old girl called Pelageya. In addition, there is a video clip available for "Personal Jesus" by the band Tarakany which supports this CD compilation.

"The Singles 86>98" by Depeche Mode was recommended by Q Magazine as the best re-release of the month for three consecutive issues.

At the end of last year, readers of Q Magazine voted "Enjoy The Silence" as one of the top 100 greatest singles of all time, reaching no. 85!

The VH-1 special 'Depeche Mode - Behind The Music' featuring interviews with the Band, Jonathan Kessler, Andy Franks and some live shots from US shows was due to be broadcast in the States on February 28.

There is a track on the new Wiseguys album "The Antidote" that utilises the chorus of "Everything Counts". Apparently, the track "The Grabbing Hands" pays homage to Depeche Mode. Strange when you think that this style of music is Hip Hop/Big Beat - further evidence of how many different types of bands cite Depeche Mode as an influence.

Not only did Depeche Mode top the charts on KROQ's annual 'Flashback 500' countdown with "Blasphemous Rumours"; they had more hits than any other 80's artist!

General

On August 25, "Nothing" was used as background music in a report about Bristol during the programme 'Holidays Out' on BB1 (UK).

During September "It's No Good" was used as background music in a review on the latest films (UK) Virgin Radio 1215.

The German radio station RPR1 featured Depeche Mode in a one hour special on November 18. The programme included snippets from recent interviews and several live songs, including "Personal Jesus" live from Cologne.

An article in Placebo's fanzine 'Silverbullet' mentioned Martin as a hero and an occasion when they met in Paris.

The Czech edition of Esquire magazine (6/98) ran a four-page article about Depeche Mode titled 'Dead man walking', concentrating primarily on Dave Gahan.

On August 2, the German TV channel RTL 2 used "Just Can't Get Enough" as background music in an episode of a programme called 'Bitte Lächeln Special'.

"Home" was used as background music during a report about a US youth camp on Czech TV Nova's programme 'Na Vlastni Oci' in January.

On October 12, the German TV channel PRO 7 broadcast a programme called 'Quatsch Comedy Club'. The stand up comedian talked about the 80's and described how he used to dance in disco clubs during the early 80's and sing along to "Everything Counts". He also mentioned Erasure, Human League and Spandau Ballet among his 80's favourites.

The German radio station Eins Live featured Depeche Mode in a five hour special on October 5. They played lots of DM music and quite a few songs from the "For The Masses" tribute album. There were also interviews and some interesting prizes to be won in various contests.

The Polish Radio Wroclaw broadcast a special programme called 'An hour with Depeche Mode' on September 28. The DJ mainly played live tracks and included several reviews from the show in Prague.

On October 10th, CNN Worldbeat used excerpts of an interview with DM and played several songs. Two weeks later "The Singles 86>98" hit No. 1 on the Worldbeat album chart.

"Just Can't Get Enough" recently appeared on the soundtrack 'More Music From The Wedding Singer', along with tracks by Kajagoogoo, Spandau Ballet and Madonna to name but a few.

The Outdoor Living Network (Canada & USA) used "Dangerous", "Painkiller" and "Barrel Of A Gun" in a segment called 'Dangerous Places-Dangerous Things To Do' on September 11.

On November 27, 'T.F.I. Friday' played "New Life" for the 'massive heads' of U2 to dance to.

On ITV (UK) at least 2 minutes of "Only When I Lose Myself" was played on the Juke Box in 'Kathy's Diner' during an episode of the soap 'Emmerdale', shown on 8th December at 7pm.

ESPN2, the US sports channel used "Painkiller", "Everything Counts" (live) and "More Than A Party" on August 10 in a segment on Yugoslavia's gold medal at last summer's World Basketball Championships in Athens, Greece.

My Brilliant Beast, a young band formed in 1996, hoped to be included on the tribute album "For The Masses" after covering "Stripped". Unfortunately, they didn't make it on to the album as they were beaten by Rammstein. Their cover of "Stripped" was released as a limited EP in November along with two other mixes of this track and two new songs from their own repertoire. The EP is currently available only in the USA and Canada.

Many thanks to Nik Thierry, Emma Joice, Patrik Kardoheli, Sebastian Sinterhauf, Holly Poon, Andrew Sears, Paul Biant, Raymond Dowling, Petko Pavlicic, Virginie Durel, Magnus Dunberg, Carin, Szymon Derucki, Tim Plachner, Michael (Legend) Rose, Lee North, Dirk Gerlach and to anyone else who sent in contributions. Please, keep the information coming in and don't forget that Everything Counts!

Depeche Mode Info Line

Bong has its own information line, regularly updated to provide you with any new information as soon as it happens, i.e. latest DM news and forthcoming Bong activities.

To find out more, please dial 0171-486 9044 but please note there is only one line, so if the number is busy keep trying - don't give up! The maximum price for any individual call to this line should not be more than 25p.

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< < **Pressed In Black** >**Dear Bong,**

I last wrote to you saying that thanks to the pen pals section, I had left my hometown of Hastings to live in Cheltenham with Stephen who I'd met through our letters (Bong 34).

Well time has passed and after a marriage proposal on February 14th, we tied the knot on July 9th on the romantic island of Jersey. Who would have thought that when Steve's letter first dropped through the letterbox in August 1994, that this would be the man I'd marry? I know fate had a big hand in it but the one and only reason it happened is all down to the greatest band in the world - Depeche Mode!!

We got our tickets for Wembley and Birmingham and at last we were able to watch our group together. Just one last question - are we rare in what has happened to us or have other Modies found love through pen pals?

Caroline Leggott
Cheltenham, England

Dear Bong,

I felt compelled to drop you a line on the latest single "Only When I Lose Myself" - what a tune! O.K., so I'm going to have a biased opinion but it sounds brilliant. Dave has once again made superb use of his newly discovered vocal range, as premiered on "Ultra", and the Richard Niles conducted string crescendos are pure goose bump material!!

Michael (Legend) Rose
England

Dear Bong,

I just had to write and say 'thank you' for Bong 37. It's terrific and has a great, clean and sophisticated picture of our fab three on the front - I love it! As a fairly new Bong member I was curious why the band gets hardly any airplay here in Chicago. I am a virtual station scanner and only once in a blue moon might I pick up "World In My Eyes". As a new DM activist I hope to change this. "Ultra" is fantastic! I also bought tickets for the

second show and thought you would like to know I got to the ticketron two hours after the open ticket day and they said the first show was already sold out! I was lucky to get tickets for the second show. There must be a zillion fans in Chicago, our radio stations must do them justice! I am so looking forward to seeing my favourite band! The last time I saw DM was in 1985 in Chicago at the Aragon Ballroom. I'll never forget how fantastic DM were way back then. Dave wore a vertically striped suit of red and gold and he danced all over the stage. My brother couldn't believe how good they were and he was just tagging along. And look - they're still here - better than ever! I love the red suit Dave! It 'suits' you!

Paula Gabbert
Chicago, USA

Dear Bong,

It's quite fortunate for me that the singles compilation kicks off with "Stripped" because it was the first song that introduced me to Depeche Mode and the one song that is responsible for me becoming a hard-core DM fan. "The Singles 86>98" as well as The Singles Tour will always remind me of my own devotional journey through that particular period of how I grew up, matured and became a man while Depeche Mode proved over these years to be a perfect soundtrack to one's life.

Petko Pavlicic
St. Catharines, Canada

Dear Bong,

I just wanted to share my joy with you. I've just bought the new DM video "The Videos 86>98", and I was so thrilled when I saw there was a 25 minute long interview on it at the end of the video. I hadn't been expecting it at all, so you can just imagine how excited I got when I saw this!! I really liked the interviews with all the people involved from 1986 and forward, and I must say I was very pleased to see Alan again. Of course he should be in there too, because he was a very important part

of DM for many years. The videos were brilliant, of course I've seen all of them before, but now I have them all together. The only video I was a bit disappointed with however, was "Condemnation". I know there are two different versions, but why did they choose the live version instead of the video they made in Hungary (a great video, by the way)? I have recorded that video from TV, so for me it didn't really matter that much, but I am sure not everyone has done that. The live version can also be seen on the "Devotional" video, which I am sure all DM fans already have in their collections.

I would also like to tell you that I went to see Depeche Mode live for the very first time in my life in Gothenburg on September 12 and it was an experience I will never forget!! It was the best two hours in my whole life so far. I wish it could have lasted forever... Dave was just as brilliant and handsome as I had imagined; Martin and Fletch were also at their best that evening. Even though the whole concert was so perfect, there are certain songs I remember better than others, like "Never Let Me Down Again", "Personal Jesus", "Enjoy The Silence" and "It's No Good". Those songs were the highlights for me, and I will always keep them in my memory. Another song that always will be very close to me is "Only When I Lose Myself" because I heard it at the concert for the very first time. I had decided that I wanted to hear it for the first time live from Dave, to make it more personal for me, and it really did. Every time I hear that song now, I automatically think of the concert and feel like I am back in Scandinavium again for a few minutes. I love that song so much. I would like to thank Dave, Martin and Fletch for making my day the best day of my life.

Torhild S. Kjeldsen
Drammen, Norway

Dear Bong,

I wonder why there are not so many letters and comments from German fans in Bong?!? I would like to assure you that there are a huge number of fans in our country and DM parties are going on all the time.

Every second month, there is a DM party in Kassel and it's a night full of fun and DM music. The party usually goes till 5am and it seems that everyone just can't get enough of Depeche Mode. Another party takes place in Würzburg, and in addition, they also play DM videos on a big screen.

I also went to see Depeche Mode at two shows in Germany this year and those two days were the greatest days in my life so far.

Katja Han
Neuhof, Germany

Dear Bong,

I have written before about the format of Depeche Mode's releases, most notably the possibility of a special limited edition album/cassette/CD for fans. At the time, I mentioned Ultravox's "The Collection" album, which for some fortunate fans, came with a six-track remix 12".

Judging by the number of Depeche Mode remixes available, surely this sort of thing could be possible for "The Singles 86>98". Obviously, this might not be suitable for use with CD releases. In which case why not follow on from the "Home" CD and include previously unreleased tracks or out-takes as CD+g video graphics. What cassette purchasers get as an extra, I'm not sure?

Tom Evison,
Oakham, England

Dear Bong,

I cannot believe I have actually won a competition! First time in my life, and I manage to win one of the DM tribute albums! Great!

I've just got to say I'm absolutely amazed by how excellent the album is. With the exception of Deftones' "To Have And To Hold" (a personal all-time favourite) on which I'm still reserving judgement, I love everything. Incredible that, songs I know so well, by a band I love, can sound so good when re-worked. And it's great that it can give such a deeper view of DM's music, hearing others' interpretations, and remind you of just how fantastic a songwriter Martin is.

Caught DM at Wembley, and can honestly say I have never had a similar experience - take that as you will!! Excellent night, loved the videos (nice Bolan tribute, Dave! And what was that guy from Sparks

called, anyway?), and just soaked up the atmosphere. I hadn't seen the band live before, so it was truly a great night. Thanks very much, guys!

Finally, I'd not seen many of the videos on "The Videos 86>98" at the time they were released, so this collection was a very welcome crash course. Absolutely stunning work, although personally I'd stick with Anton! My favourites are "I Feel You", "Barrel Of A Gun" and "Walking In My Shoes" - what do other fans think? Can we take a vote?

Many, many thanks to DM, and everyone who works with the band to produce such excellent results - long may it continue!!

Judi James
Bournemouth, England

Dear Bong,

It was the 14th of September and four days till the Depeche Mode concert in Berlin, but I still did not have my ticket for the show at that time as it was sold out already.

I therefore decided to call Bong and ask if they had some tickets or could help me in any way. The next day I got a reply from Lynn saying that Bong was organising a trip to the show in Berlin for the UK fans and that she still had some remaining tickets. On the day of the concert I personally collected the tickets from Lynn and felt very happy and fortunate. My dream came true and I had a chance to see Depeche Mode's first concert in Germany and my first concert since The Devotional Tour in 1993. We had such a good time in Berlin - so thanks again Lynn, Bong and of course, Depeche Mode!

Mario Schumann
Leipzig, Germany

Dear Bong,

I would like to start by saying a huge 'thank you' to all your team for bringing me the fantastic magazine over the last 11 years. It is great to know that we have something to look forward to in the bleak months when the Band are not performing or writing.

It was great to see the boys back on stage looking fit, healthy and thoroughly enjoying themselves, especially Dave. It was on the 2nd October when I saw them rock Manchester. The whole of Manchester town centre was taken over by devotees. A great time was had by all especially in

the pubs on route. Even some of my friends who had misconceptions of them were impressed. No longer do they think they are old 'as beens, who churn out dark depressive songs. What other band can say after 18 years they still produce intense meaningful melodies that take you away from everyday life, that even when continuing to experiment never fail to impress. They will always be a huge part of my life and hope they find this tour very satisfying and I look forward to the next....

Nick Davies
Manchester, England

Dear Bong,

First of all, I would like you to pass on my thanks to the band for putting on such an awesome show at the Nynex Arena in Manchester. This was my first DM concert and they were a million times better than I expected. Thank you.

Secondly, if the band tour next year would they consider playing at Wembley Stadium as I think it would sell 10 times over? I think it would be better than the Rose Bowl concert.

Thirdly, are the band planning to release any CDs or videos from The Singles Tour?

David Thompson
Liverpool, England

Editor's note: There are no plans to release either a live CD or video from the recent tour and nothing has been planned for this year. We will keep you informed if anything changes!

Dear Bong,

With reference in Bong 38 (Everything Counts) to "Enjoy The Silence" used during Judge Jules' mix on Radio 1, this could have been (and most likely!) "The Silence" by Mike Koglin.

This is a dance track, which was released around November on Multiply Records. It uses the riff from "Enjoy The Silence" and throughout the track a lady whispers 'enjoy the silence'. Remixes of the track include Radio Edit, John B. Norman Mix and The Matt Darey Takeramix. Martin Gore is also credited on the sleeve notes.

The track was also included in the November issue of Mixmag in the Kiss 100 big tunes review. Well worth a listen!!

Steve Hickson
London, England

Dear Bong,

Just writing to thank the Band for another two excellent releases, being of course, the two singles compilation CDs.

I have noticed, however, that the latest version of "The Singles 81>85" is digitally remastered which is confusing to me, as the original 1985 version of the CD, also says that it is digitally mastered. Are they fiddling us? How can you digitally remaster what has already been digitally remastered? Is it just a case of reissuing the same thing but with different artwork?

Anyway, I do not mind. I have been a fan of Depeche Mode since 1981, when I was at the tender age of sixteen. After all, this compilation has a version of "Photographic", which incidentally appears on the "Some Bizarre" LP, the original of which, is still a part of my collection.

What I would dearly love to be able to see come out on CD, would be something like The Beatles Anthology. Surely there must be some out takes, gaffs & bloomers, hysterics, etc. I also remember way back in 1981 around July, Depeche did a session for Richard Skinner on Radio One for his show that used to go out at 7pm. The track listing included two really good versions of "Then", "Photographic" and "Big Muff", which I taped at the time, but because they were so good I played the tape so often that the tape broke and mangled in the pinch wheel before I could make a copy of it.

Another thing I would like to talk about is promos. Being such a dedicated fan, it is really frustrating not being able to get certain remixes that only appear on these promos. The other irritating thing is that these promos seem to be only available to DJs, who promptly sell them on at inflated prices. Do the band profit from this?

I would much rather pay the Band. How much better it would be for all concerned to put these extra promo tracks on a commercially available CD, even if it were an XLCD, or make these promos accessible to the fans with some sort of give away when they release them.

**Terry Freeman
Newport, UK**



Photo by Anton Corbijn

Editor's note: When "The Singles 81>85" was first released CD technology was quite new. What Roland Brown did for the re-release was to go back to the original analogue masters, and re-master them with the benefit of the latest digital technology. When Mute produce promo only discs, no royalty is collected for either the band or Mute, and it would be illegal to sell them. Some, of course, do find their way onto the second-hand market, but neither Mute nor the band have any control over this, nor do they profit from it.

Moscow

Our plane left Heathrow at 7:25am on Friday 4th September on a flight bound to Moscow ironically via Helsinki. When we changed planes in Helsinki we were asked whether we wanted window, middle or aisle seats - once on board they could have asked us which side of the plane we wanted because the flight had only a few passengers - mainly businessmen. On entering Russian air space we half expected to see a couple of fighter planes appear to escort us in. Stepping off the plane at Moscow's 'Sheremetyevo' airport I was still telling myself that this was a good idea, having seen all the news reports back home about the economic crisis in Russia, but we later found out that the media had over hyped the situation, as usual!

The airport was very grey, full of soldiers and resembled a prison. After passing through customs with our visas, Lee and myself were met at the airport by our host Alex Lunkov. We then got a taxi (a souped up Lada) into Moscow which was a hair raising experience because no one seems to have heard of the highway code and the cars just nudged each other all the time. Alex showed us to

RUSSIA

by Andrew Winter and Lee North, England

to see the band and we chatted to him for about 10 minutes. Tim is really down to earth and he even took the time to have his photograph taken with Alex and Nick.

I spoke to Martin about playing Russia for the first time, and asked if he was looking forward to it, he said he was - although playing in Estonia and Latvia was very strange. Lee asked Martin what he was going to do on the second night at Wembley, when his beloved Arsenal were playing at Wembley Stadium - he said that he may have time to catch the first half but would have to miss his make-up and joked that this takes an hour to do nowadays. Later Andy Franks and Jonathan Kessler appeared, I got talking to Andy Franks and asked if DM were going to release a live CD or video from this tour, he told me that MTV were filming one of the German shows, to be shown at a later date. We left the hotel bar at around 3:30am and headed back to our hotel - it had been a long and eventful day.

Saturday morning we were met at our hotel by some new Russian friends, Oleg, Alex Agulin and Ilja from Estonia - Lee and Ilja had met through e-mail, as did Oleg and Alex. Ilja had already seen DM play in Estonia and Latvia - I asked him not to tell us anything about the shows. We then went on the Metro, where Alex Agulin met his girlfriend Kathyrine, and



Banner for DM's concert in Moscow

our hotel, which conveniently overlooked Red Square - we arranged to meet later and he left us to do some sight seeing. We were surprised to see a stage set up outside St Basil's Cathedral, we later found out that the city was celebrating its 251st anniversary since being founded by Yuri Dolgorouki back in 1747, there were going to be concerts and shows all weekend.

That night Alex met us with his friend Nick at our hotel and we decided to go to Depeche Mode's hotel. The band were staying at the plush 'Marriot Moscow Grand'. We arrived there shortly before midnight and our English accents got us through the door. Sitting around the bar amongst others was Martin, Andy, Tim Simenon, Christian Eigner and Peter Gorden. Having met Andy, Martin and Tim two weeks earlier at 'Gascogne's', Lee and myself were very pleased that Andy remembered us, he then introduced us to the people around him as his 'friends from London'. Tim couldn't believe we had made the journey to Russia



Lee, Ilja, Alex, Russian friend, Andrew and Oleg

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à la MODE II.

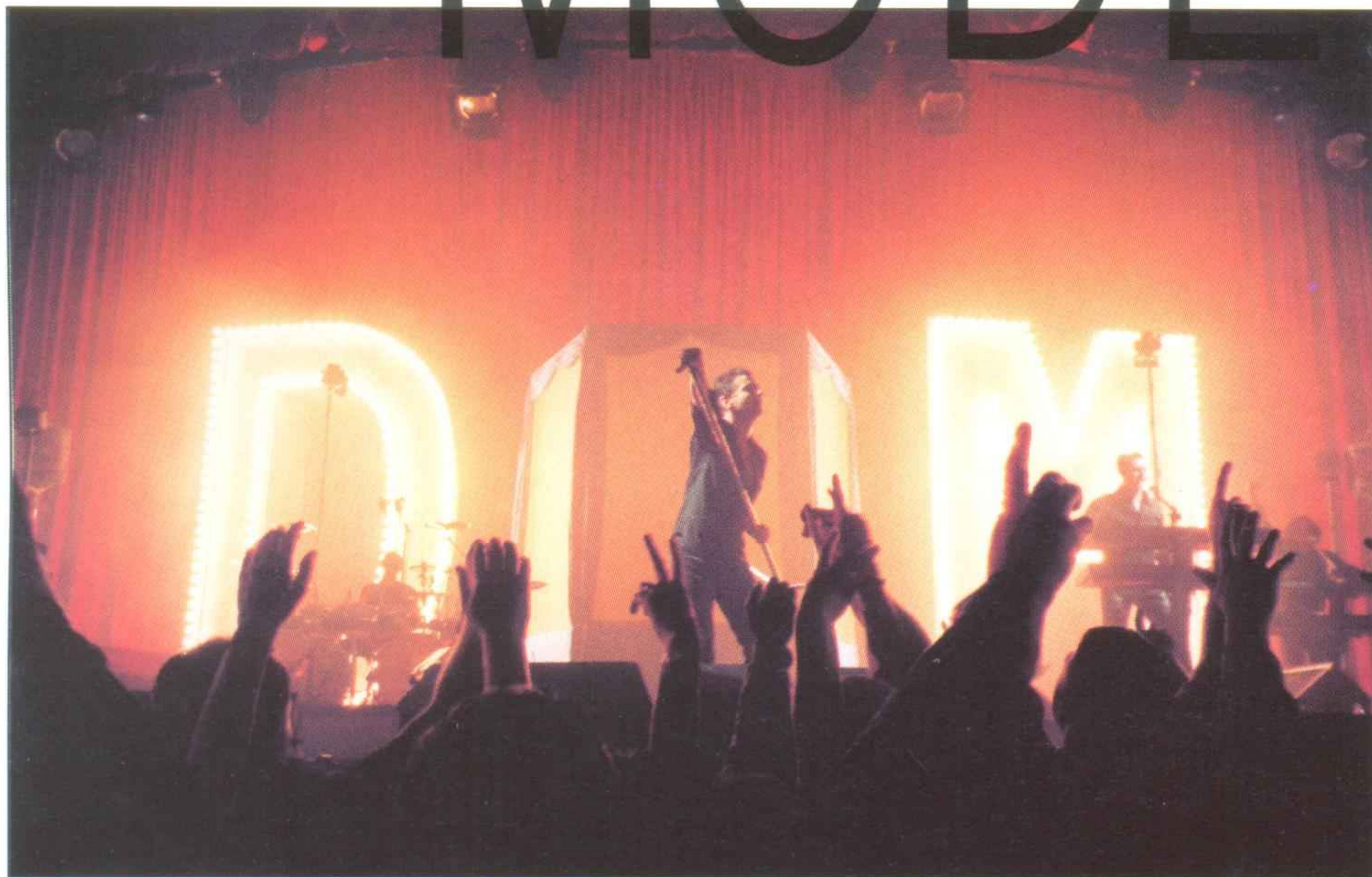


Photo by Michael Rose

we all had McDonald's. The meat in the burgers was not quite the same as back home, I dread to think what it was! And judging Lee's facial expression when he drunk his milkshake I don't think he enjoyed that either.

They took us around Moscow and we passed by the band's hotel where a large but orderly crowd had gathered. We were shown a park called 'Mayakovsky Square' where since "Violator", Russian DM fans gather every Saturday and on historic DM dates, to sit around discussing Depeche Mode and playing DM songs. I was

asked if we had such places like this in the UK and I had to explain that unfortunately DM aren't appreciated as much back home and fans only meet once a year at the fan club convention.

The time was getting closer to the show, but first we had to meet Shaun Salter and Harvey Edgcombe, two English lads from Abingdon, Oxfordshire, who were going to every European show - Harvey had also met Ilja via the Internet. We all then caught the Metro to the venue.

DM were playing at the Moscow 'Olympiiski' to a crowd of 16,000. We were late getting in because mine and Lee's tickets had failed to arrive from Russia but we got some guest passes from Andy Franks because we explained the situation to him the night before. We were disappointed to see no merchandise on sale although there were Russian pressed Depeche Mode album cassettes on sale. We missed the support act Purity but caught Tim's second DJ set.

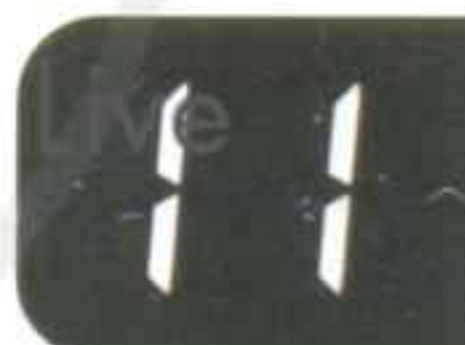
Then the lights dimmed and "Painkiller" started - Harvey later told me that the band had extended the intro after the first show in Estonia. Then the big DM lit up to the sound of "A Question Of Time" as we caught our first glimpse of David. After "Policy Of Truth" we saw Martin step from behind his keyboards and strap on his guitar for "It's No Good" - which I am glad to say had been extended from last years TV promotional version. It was also the first song to show the video screens which flicked through all Anton Corbijn's videos starting with "A Question Of Time" and ending up on "Useless" (it was good to see Alan on the stage - even though it was only on the video screen!). "Never Let Me Down Again" was the next song and the crowd went crazy, especially at the end, with the now compulsive arm waving with every member of the audience joining in with David. The seventh song of the set was the new single "Only When I Lose Myself" and David's voice was superb. It took the crowd about a minute to get into the song because it hadn't been released yet. "A Question Of Lust" started and I don't think I have ever



Tim with two Russian fans

dm/live

Freely provided by DM
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witnessed a better display of lighters in my life before and this was the first appearance on stage of the two backing singers Jordan and Janet. I thought it was good to hear David back on vocals for "Condemnation" having given Martin the lead vocals during the USA 94 Tour. The set closed with "Just Can't Get Enough" which I was surprised the band chose to play having left out such gems as "Strangelove", "Behind The Wheel" and "Everything Counts". It was still a great show and the band were on top form. Leaving the venue, many Russian fans still couldn't believe that Depeche Mode had actually played in their country. They believed the reason it had taken so long for Depeche to play there is because the Russian authorities took offence to the clip of Russian soldiers used in the "People Are People" video. We all met outside the venue and we then went to a pub to eat, drink, play pool and discuss the show. We had to bribe the DJ to play "It's No Good" but the dance floor filled up when he played it - it had been a great night!

St. Petersburg

The next night we took an eight and a half-hour overnight train to St. Petersburg. As luck would have it Lee and myself were on the same train as our new friends and Shaun & Harvey. We were given our breakfast as soon as we got on board but there was no milk with the tea. The Russian carriage attendant only spoke Russian and Lee had to do an impression of a cow to obtain some milk. We all met in Ilja, Alex and Oleg's cabin and chatted for a couple of hours, consumed quite a few cans of beer and eventually went to bed at 3:30am.

Stepping wearily off the train at 8:30am myself, Lee, Shaun and Harvey shared a taxi - coincidence had put us in the same hotel. We caught up on some sleep and arranged to meet in the hotel bar at 1pm. We did some sightseeing in the afternoon and had McDonald's - but avoided most of the menu.

The band were playing at the CKK Arena. The venue was slightly smaller than the Moscow arena but not by much. There was a bit of a problem getting in - with the Russian Special Police Force needing a lesson in crowd control, as they were pushing us with batons to control the large but peaceful crowd.

The show had the same set list as before and I don't think the band are going to change the set even on second nights. The crowd were just as responsive as the Moscow fans and it was another great show. We were disappointed to find no merchandise on sale again. After the concert, fans had set up speakers outside and they were playing DM songs with everybody joining in singing and dancing. Myself, Lee, Alex, Oleg, Harvey and Shaun all went to a pub behind the band's hotel. After a good meal together Alex and myself started to play Depeche Mode tunes

on the bar's piano. Alex and myself took it in turn to knock out classics like "One Caress", "Walking In My Shoes" and "Somebody" - Alex even played the new track "Only When I Lose Myself". We would have gone on for longer but the pub's resident pianist slammed the piano lid down on Alex. I don't think he liked the fact that everyone was gathering around and listening - when he played earlier no one had taken any notice! When we left the bar, Lee was asked if we were with the band - he had to explain that we weren't part of the road crew but just fans travelling to see them. We then said goodbye to our Russian friends - Harvey and Shaun arranged to meet up with Lee and myself in Helsinki, we were also meeting Ilja in Helsinki.



CKK, Arena St. Petersburg



DM fans outside Marriot Hotel in Moscow

The next morning Lee and myself still had some Russian roubles to exchange. After queuing for 20 minutes at the hotel exchange, we were refused English pounds and Finnish Markka. We decided to try and exchange at the airport and went to get a taxi, which we were told earlier, would cost us 100 roubles. Once the taxi driver knew we were English, he demanded dollars but Lee told him we had only roubles and then the taxi driver said the price was 450 roubles. After a heated argument we agreed to pay in dollars and took the 20-

minute journey to the airport. Upon entering the airport I spotted David and spoke to him briefly, then boarded our plane to Helsinki - we both cheered as we left Russian air space!

It had been a brilliant trip, in 7 days I have been to three cities in two countries, and have experienced some of what it's like to be on the

road. I don't think I could do this all the time, let alone a world tour - but I am grateful that the band have chosen to put themselves in this situation again.

We would like to thank Martin, Andy, David, Tim, Andy Franks, Ilja, Alex Lunkov, Nick, Yana, Oleg, Alex Agulin, Kathyrine, Roman, Yaroslav and Oksana because without these people the trip would have been a nightmare!! Also cheers to Shaun and Harvey!!

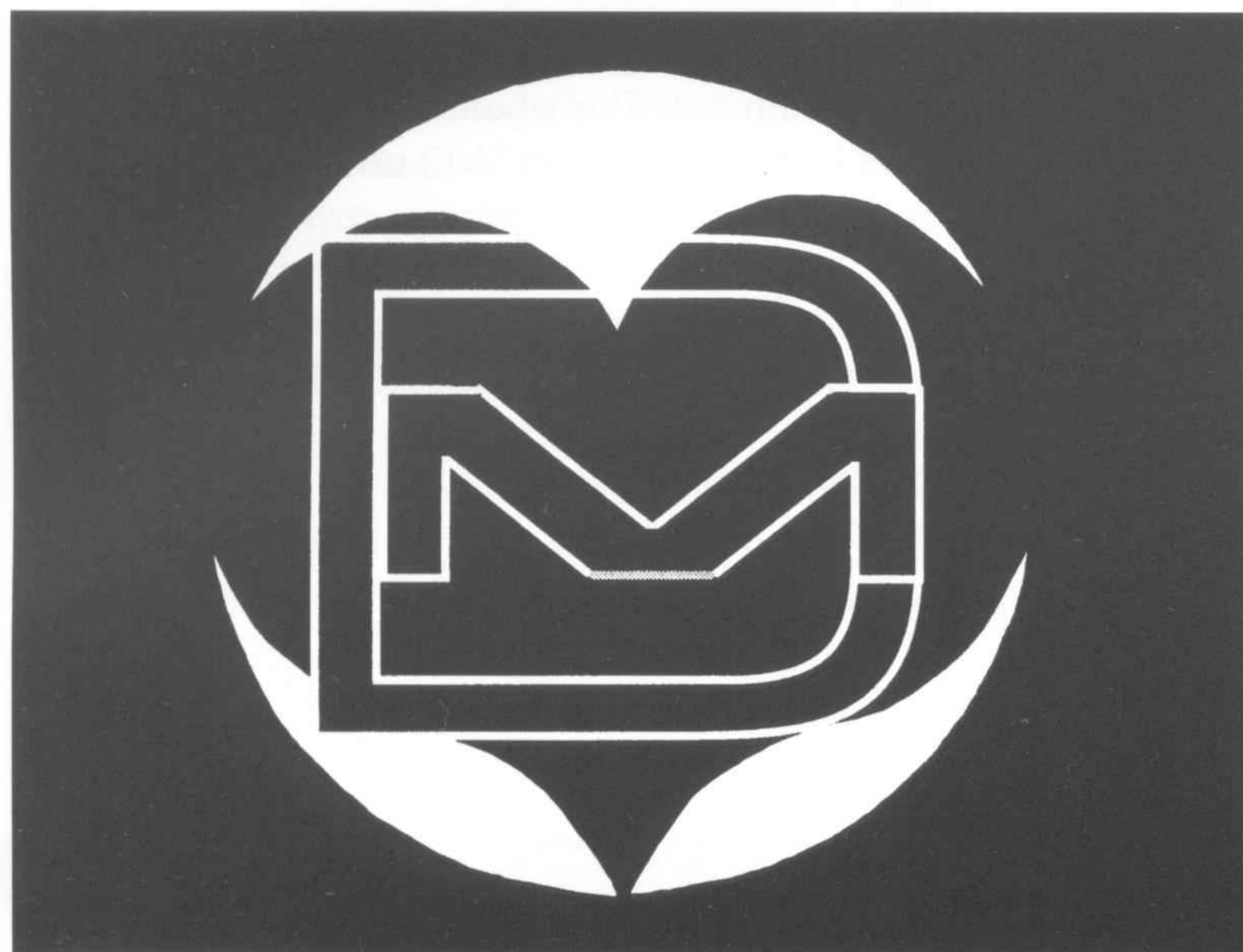
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Editor's Note: We apologise to all the fans from Estonia and Latvia who were offended by the title "Russia à la Mode" featured in Bong 38. We originally received two contributions, which covered the shows in Estonia, Latvia and Russia, and decided to split them into two parts. The title seemed the most appropriate at the time, as we wanted to show the connection between both reviews.

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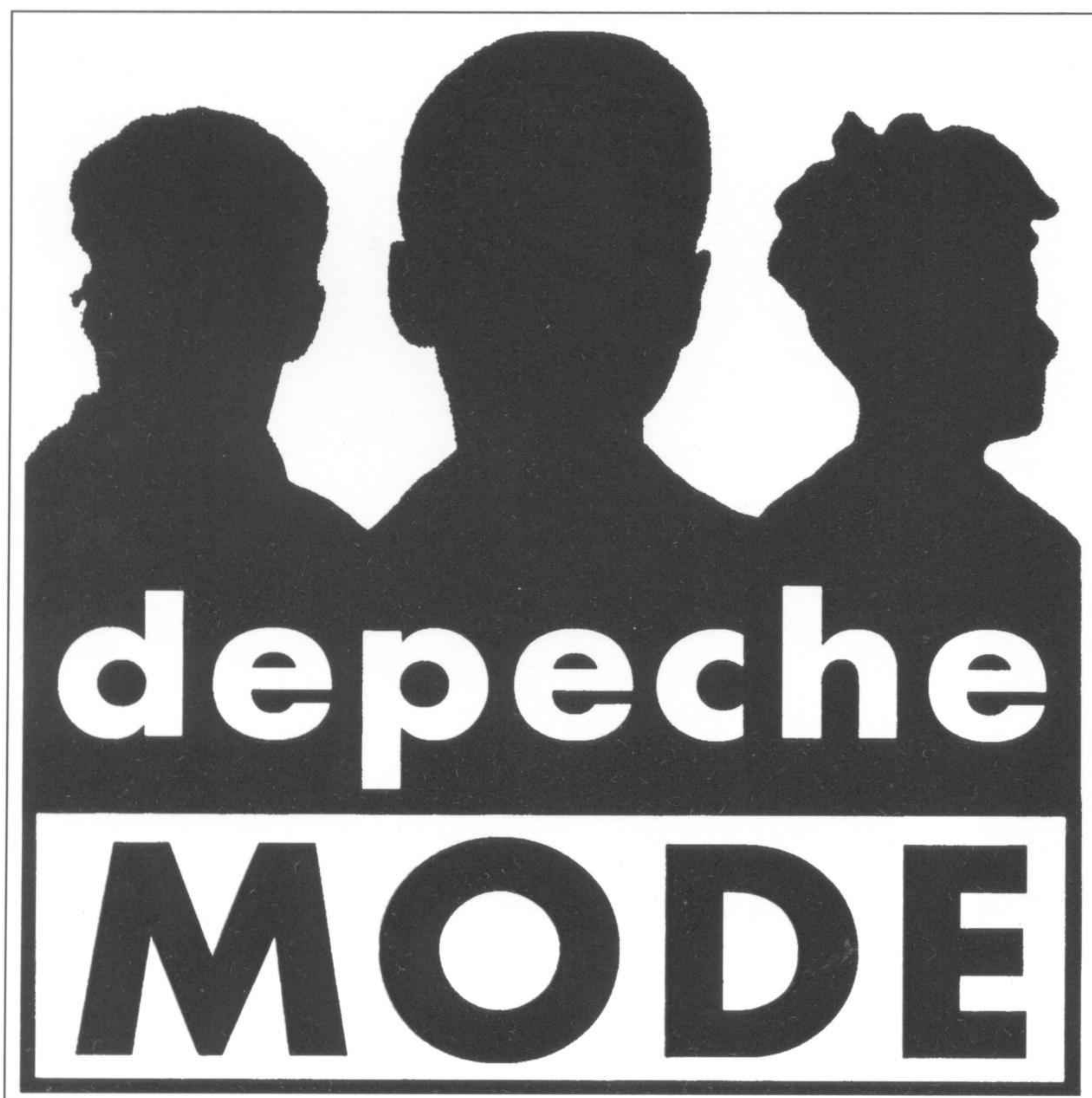
EXSPRESS YOURSELF



In Bong 36 we asked you to design an emblem, symbol or logo reflecting what Depeche Mode mean to you. We have been snowed under with your entries, and pictures were still arriving at our office well after the deadline. Therefore we postponed the closing date, giving you more time to come up with something interesting. Finally, at the end of last year, we selected one overall winner and four runners-up who will all receive some Depeche goodies from our office. Apologies to Barbara Killain, Austria and Ian Heald, UK who came fourth and fifth as we were only able to print the first three entries due to lack of space. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone who entered for their effort!!

1st – Natalia, South Africa

2nd - Tarkan Tireli, Germany



3rd - Sean Phillips, England

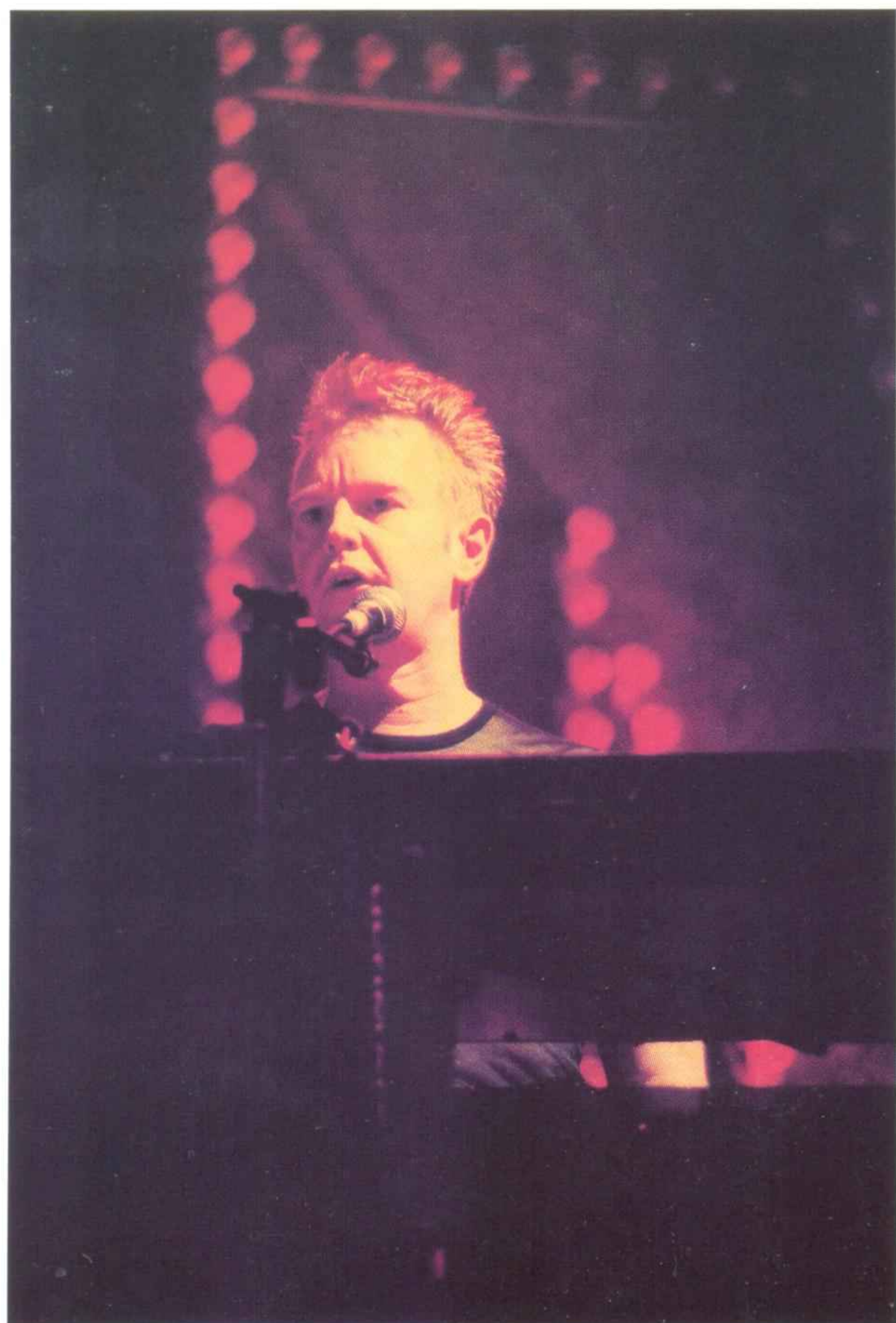


Moscow – 05/09/98

This was the first time that Depeche Mode came to my country, and I was expecting this moment for eleven years. I almost gave up hope of seeing them playing live here, but the 5th September changed history completely! It is very hard to describe the atmosphere in words but it is a day I will surely never forget...On the day of the show, there were thousands of people around the venue chanting "De-pe-che Mo-de" and singing or listening to their songs. I think we all still couldn't believe that in a while we will be able to see our favourite band live on stage and our dream would come true. Everyone anticipated the arrival of Depeche Mode with excitement and no one seemed to be able to concentrate on the performance by Purity or Tim Simenon's DJing at that time. So, we all started to chant "Depeche Mode" until the lights went out. When "Painkiller" started we all jumped from our seats, started screaming and shouting over each other. Depeche Mode were there and we were asking ourselves: are we all dreaming or is it a reality? After the first keys of "A Question Of Time", I think that most of us had tears in our eyes....We had been waiting for this moment for such a long time and now the Band were on stage singing just for us. Almost all of us were

singing each and every word of each and every song, maybe with the exception of "Only When I Lose Myself" which hadn't been released at that time. Although I did know the lyrics, so I could proudly sing along with Dave. During "Never Let Me Down Again" I thanked Depeche Mode for giving us the chance to be part of the waving sea of hands - it was such an emotional moment. The whole venue was covered with lights and lighters when "A Question Of Lust" started and it looked like a night sky, covered with shining stars. Although the concert was almost half way through it still all felt so unreal. Then came "Personal Jesus", "Enjoy The Silence" and "Just Can't Get Enough" - thank you Dave for letting us sing it for you....We love you and hope you return to Russia one day. Just don't let it be that long again!! **Anna Avekova, Moscow, Russia**

SHOWS IN THE



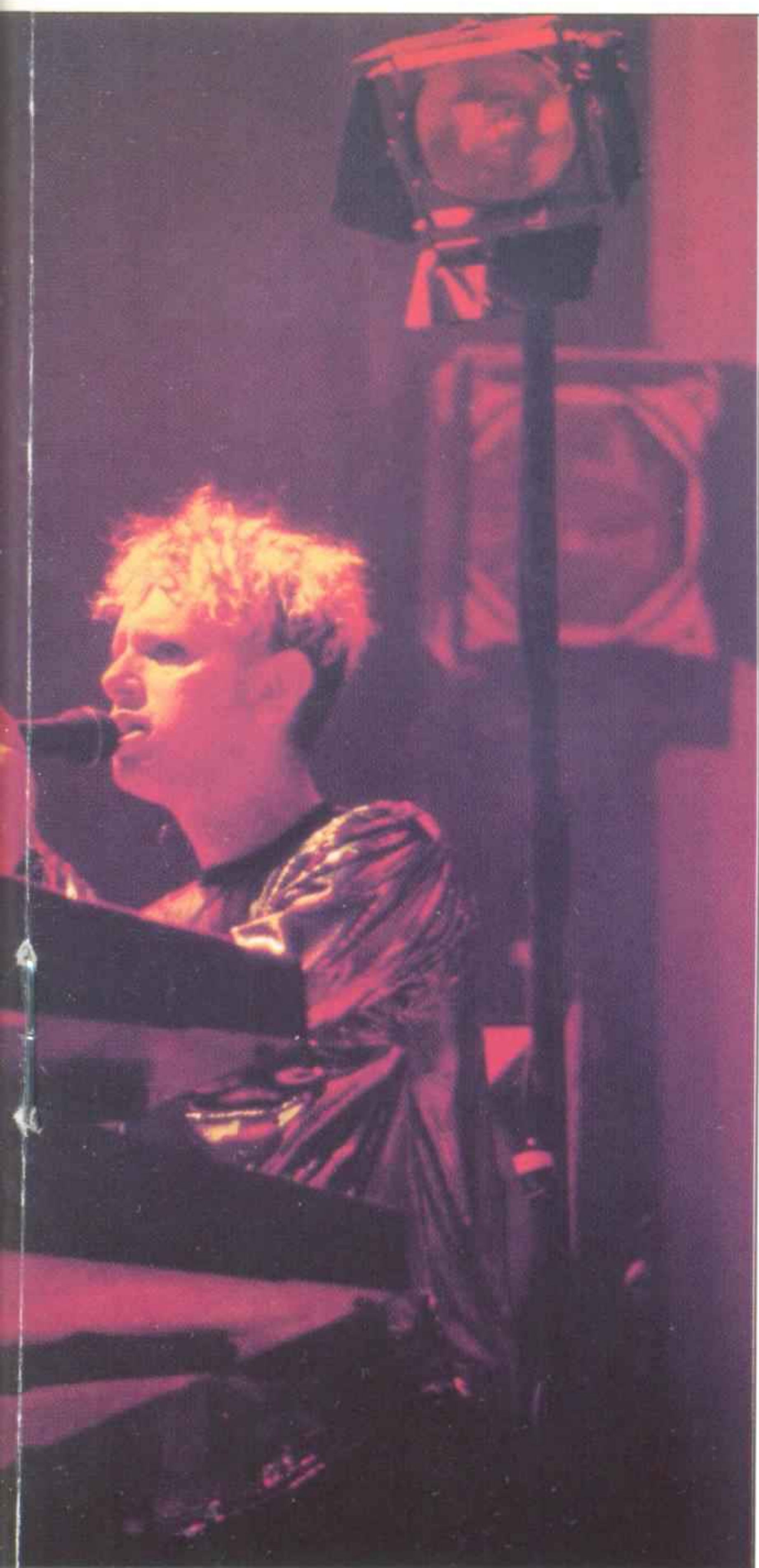
Prague – 15/09/98

I can describe the concert in three words - electric, rocking and hypnotic. Electric because it was full of energy, Rocking because the real drums were so deep, Hypnotic because it was the hits, and as there was only one image on all the screens this time, we spent more time watching the band, performing classics and they were so bloody good! **Paul Biant, England**

Berlin – 18+19/09/98

Well, what shall I say? The shows were incredible.... absolutely great!! It's hard to describe, but it was truly fantastic to see Depeche Mode live again in Germany

THEIR EYES



Photographs by Michaela Olexova

after almost five years. I consider myself lucky - will I ever be able to see another five German shows? Dave and Martin's voices were absolutely fantastic (well more than that), not to mention the brilliant music....and what excellent arrangements in some of the songs!?! **Manfred Greisert, Erkrath, Germany**

Brussels – 22/9/98

Wasn't it just fantastic to see Modes play again after five years on this marvellous tour?? I think it was superb!! The concerts were like a dream to me, I am not sure if I've woken up yet!! I have seen two shows - one in Brussels and one in London - and they both gave me a very precious experience. I was overwhelmed by the energy of the shows from the beginning of "Painkiller" right until the end of "Just Can't Get Enough". I think that everybody gave a fantastic performance, especially Dave who looked better than ever. He performed with heart and soul, self-assurance and a great and powerful voice while demonstrating nice, sexy dancing. Way to go, David!! The songs that touched me the most were "Only When I Lose Myself", "Home" and "It's No Good". **Karin Voogd, The Netherlands**

London – 29/09/98

It's been almost five years since I was here at Wembley, at the last UK show on the Devotional Tour. Now Depeche Mode have come home again, with four dates on The Singles Tour 86-98. Tonight the arena is charged with an electric anticipation. The minutes drag like hours until finally the house lights go down and Depeche Mode hit the stage. The wait is over! The boys are back and on top form too. How did I manage to get so close to the stage? I don't know, but I'm not moving now. From the opening of "A Question Of Time" each song is delivered with passion and strength. As well as the old favourites, it's great to hear the new material, which sounds so good, pumped through the massive sound system. The crowd is dancing and singing - so much so that it sounds like Martin has a huge choir singing along to "Somebody". Dave is looking fit and healthy, and 10 years younger than he should. Martin and Fletch haven't changed a bit. The stage set has a nightclub feel, with glitter and glamour provided by two new backing singers, whose powerful voices compliment the songs perfectly. Dave still dances like crazy to all the energetic tracks. It looks like he's picked up some new dance moves since the last tour, including a kind of boxing step. Time flies as hit after hit is performed and all too soon the show is over - at least I still have three more to go to. It's great to see you again lads, thanks for a great show. **Sarah Schaschke, Middlesbrough, England**

Manchester – 02/10/98

After a 3 1/2-hour journey we reach the Nynex, the largest indoor venue in England, and it is full to bursting point.

My boyfriend is with me tonight for his first ever Depeche Mode concert (I'm an old hand really, as I first saw DM in 1982 at Hammersmith Odeon, as it was then). Is he about to be impressed or what?! We meet friends in the bar and get into good spirits for the show. I am just as excited as I was at the first show in London. Again the crowd goes crazy when the band arrive on stage. "Never Let Me Down Again" had to be a highlight, it was quite a sight to behold in the vast arena, seeing everybody waving and singing. Everyone gets to take part and take a little piece of the show home with them. I have yet to spot anyone who is not enjoying themselves. By the time Depeche Mode launch into "Personal Jesus", my ears are ringing with 'Reach out and touch faith' - is there anyone who's not singing? Yet another totally amazing show, but it's still not over yet.... **Sarah Schaschke, Middlesbrough, England**

Birmingham – 03/10/98

A crowd gathers outside the doors of the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre. A crowd with a definite taste for black clothing and leather. The air is tinged with excitement and tension, with fans huddled in groups. The talk is lively and in the background sounds of "In Your Room" drift through the cold autumn evening. Inside the arena, T-shirts, dog tags and badges are purchased, as the noise mounts, the arena hums to the tune of voices tainted with anticipation. Once seated, the minimalist stage catches the eye - an obvious change from the spectacular staging of the Devotional Tour. Then Purity - a noise that can't be ignored with music which receives a positive, if somewhat muted response from the audience. Purity leave and now the atmosphere becomes charged, it is time to celebrate. A Mexican wave flows successfully around the arena, these fans are here to party! Lights out - on mass everyone stands. The cheers and applause echo like thunder as "A Question Of Time" thumps through the speakers. Dave sings, the audience erupts, and the night is in full swing. The energy and enthusiasm is, from here on, endless. None of the songs can fail, and the audience are treated to a Depeche Mode feast which they eagerly devour. Any worries that three won't be as strong as four vanish, and as Dave croons to "Only When I Lose Myself" it is clear that the music is as strong and as passionate as ever. The fans begin to lose themselves in the band, and the haunting chorus - as they do so the words take on a new significance. "I feel hypnotized, I feel paralysed I have found heaven". A change of pace, Martin walks on the stage to screams and applause. As he sings the arena becomes still, some sing but many simply listen. Such is the power of these songs and Martin's delivery that, in the middle of this noisy celebration, there is a time of reflection. A mood repeated again when "Somebody" is sung as part of the encore. Dave sits at the side of the stage and nods his head to the beat, seemingly as captivated as the audience. "And I thank

you for bringing me here, for showing me home, for singing these tears". The words swim around my head and I know that at that moment, there is nowhere I would rather be. My wife pulls me close, it feels like 'home' and I sing along, 'thank you' I sing and I mean it. Then Dave returns to the stage and without effort the tempo increases and the arena is one mass of writhing, dancing bodies. No one wants it to end. The band look happy, and the audience are ecstatic. Dave pauses between songs to share a joke with Martin - Andy is smiling so much you think it might begin to hurt. The singles continue to flow, each one receiving greater adulation than the last. Finally Dave announces: "This one's for you!" and "Just Can't Get Enough" pounds through the air. The atmosphere becomes even more frantic, arms thump the air, and thousands sing "I just can't get enough" and I think they meant it too. Suddenly the celebration ends but the buzz remains. "Excellent!", says my fourteen-year-old stepson as we leave. "Next time we see them I hope they play 'Everything Counts'". I smile to myself and feel sure that the three of us will be there at The Singles Tour 98>08!! **Andrew Sears, Wellingborough, England**

Paris – 07/10/98

I have now seen Depeche Mode live three times and still just can't get enough!! The last time I had a chance to see their excellent show was in Bercy, Paris. It was such a great experience that I won't ever be able to forget it. It's now a couple of weeks after the show and I still feel like being in clouds, having a difficulty to returning back to Earth. I am constantly trying to re-live the show in my head and I see myself back in Bercy! **Patricia Sellin, Concarneau, France**

New York – 28/10/98

I saw Depeche Mode for the first time after many years of being a loyal devotee, and I must thank both the band and the fans for an unbelievable experience. The atmosphere was that of pure joy. It was like 20,000 friends getting together after not having seen each other for years! I made many friends and was overjoyed to see Dave, Martin and Andy looking so strong again, and doing what they do best. It was great to be part of the "NLMDA" wave for the first time, after seeing it only in recorded performances and wishing I were there. I left Madison Square Garden a changed person, and now, even days after the show, I can still feel the static in my blood and hear everyone screaming. It was a night I'll never forget. I feel nothing but absolute love for the guys and for all the other fans out there. **Celeste Ramos, New York, USA**

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Photo by Michaela Olexova

Two get over excited In Manchester

As a DM couple we couldn't believe our luck when we won the chance to meet the boys backstage in Manchester... At 6.30pm we arrive at Manchester Nynex and are shown to a hospitality suite backstage. Once inside we are invited to help ourselves to shed loads of food and booze... It's a hard life!!! By 8pm we are well lubricated and ready for the big moment.

Steve says he's not scared but he's shaking like a leaf... while Jacqui checks her lipstick one last time. Excitement spills over as the boys finally emerge from their dressing room. The next five minutes are a flurry of flashing cameras, autographs and big smiles. Soon it's time for the gig and just when we think the night cannot get any better we find ourselves three rows from the front of the stage!!! Depeche Mode rock the house, we dance all night and sing our hearts out. It doesn't get better than this!!! Thank you Bong!!!

**Jacqui & Steve
Northwood, UK**

Billericay to Berlin!!

So it was all sorted, we were going to Berlin to see The Band, British Airways flights, 3 nights in a 4 star hotel, two concerts, and great company, what more could we want? And then we spotted it.... "meet the band at the concert of your choice" the fantastic competition in Bong magazine. A few questions, how difficult could it be? Get all the old Bongs together, surf the net for a while, ring a few (knowledgeable) friends. Five hours later we finally had all the answers and sent them off. We were gob-smacked when we got the call from Bong telling us we'd won. My first thought was *****, the second was Berlin, it has to happen in Berlin (the third was what am I going to wear?). We saw the first concert in the Waldbuhne, Berlin on the Friday night. What a fantastic venue - a dug out amphitheatre in the middle of a forest. We were totally spoilt, none of the usual Wembley style barely edible hot dogs and piss poor beer at criminally over inflated prices. We had the choice

Dreaming of Depeche Mode



Jacqui, Steve and Dave

of steak rolls, frankfurters, pizzas, strawberries with champagne and margaritas - wonderful! The concert was of course absolutely brilliant, the atmosphere in the crowd unrivalled. We couldn't imagine how it could be beaten. Then the Saturday night was THE NIGHT, we've been fans for over 15 years and it was hard to believe we were actually going to meet Dave, Martin and Fletch that night. What would they be like, what would we say, what would they say, would I lose the ability to speak normally, break into a sweat, pass out, dribble, babble like an idiot and tell Dave I was from Billericay? (That would be sad!)

We met up with Mute's label manager at Intercord, who took us all for a drink, as the Guys were still eating and weren't ready for us. There were about 20 of us, 10 winners of various competitions and their partners/guests. We were led all the way down from the top of the venue, then through a restricted entrance. It felt bizarre, like a dream, was this really happening, were we only moments away from the situation always thought of as unobtainable? My face was starting to ache, I'd been grinning inanely since we'd got there! We were taken to an area outside some temporary buildings and we were each given a black and white postcard size band photo and asked to form a semi-circle. The guys would be out shortly with their pens and we could all get our photos signed. The

next 5 minutes or so passed in a blur - we were standing there and the guys walked towards us, I remember wanting to clap and cheer but fought the urge, as everyone else seemed stunned. I honestly can't remember the order or details of what happened next but Michaela was doing a video-shoot of the meet and greet for the convention, so hopefully that will shed some light on it. We both got our



Tracy, John, Fletch and Martin

photos signed, posed for photos with each of the guys separately and spoke to all of them. I just remember thinking... "oh my God, this isn't real, Dave's hand is round my waist (whilst posing for photos of course!)." Fletch is so tall, I'll have to stand on tiptoes, Martin's smiling and talking to me, my hands are shaking and I'm talking rubbish. Dave's asking where we were from, then I find myself saying it.... "Billericay actually"! What a night - thank you so much Bong and Depeche Mode. You made 20 people in Berlin that night walk on air. It means so much to know you care about meeting the fans, and took time out to do so. You also gave 20,000 others the best concert experience in, oh about 5 years (since Devotional).

**Tracy McLoughlin
Billericay, England**

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>> Pen Pals >>

Karina Crapanzano
Pdernera 340 Dpto. 1
El Palomar (1684)
Buenos Aires
Argentina

Hello! I'm Karina and want to share my innermost thoughts with people from anywhere. I love Depeche Mode and collect and trade almost everything on the band. I swear to answer all the letters. I am also into techno, industrial and 80's music, so if you want, write to me in English or Spanish. I am waiting!

Juantra Expósito
Anselm Clave, 21
Sant Hilari
Girona 17403
Spain

Hi! I am 30 years old. I want to exchange DM memorabilia like records, T-shirts, live recordings, photos and more.... If you are one of the older fans then write to me with your comments on the past 18 years of DM music. Please write in English or Spanish.

Gemma Gannon
74 Red Shank Lane
Birchwood
Warrington
WA3 6RD
England

Hi, I'm a 14 year old girl living in a place where the only people who know who Depeche Mode are, are my mum and my teachers. I spotted them on TOTP doing "Barrel Of A Gun", but I know everything they've done from "Just Can't Get Enough" to "Only When I Lose Myself". I love Dave Gahan so much and Martin. I also love The Beatles, INXS, Marilyn Manson, etc. Please anyone anywhere male or female, write to me. And for Depeche Mode to keep coming out with more wonderful songs!!

Monika Szkopek & Kai Muench
Stephanustr. 13
30449 Hannover
Germany
e-mail: kai.muench@stud.uni-hannover.de
Hello DM Fans from Polska! I'd like to surprise my girl friend Monika who lives with me here in Hannover but originally comes from Poland. So please write some lines in Polish to her. I'm sure she'd be delighted and will reply to every letter. Please note that she just likes the music (which is the most important thing about DM anyway) and is no collector of bootlegs,

merchandise and other stuff. So just drop us a few lines, and we'll be happy!

Manlyn Riveraharacuent
Street 351, Box 3283
Mayaguez
Puerto Rico 00680

Hello! I'm a 19-year-old DM fan that is looking for other devotees like me. Please make me the happiest girl. Write to me from any place. You could write in English or Spanish. I will answer all letters.

Christa K. Rasmussen
Rossinisvej 6. 3.MF.
2450 KBH S.V.
Denmark

Are you a real devoted fanatic? Can you listen to Depeche Mode hour after hour? Do you feel the magic of Depeche Mode? Does the music touch your soul? If you can say 'yes' to these questions then you are feeling just like me. I would like to get in touch with more fanatics than I already know...I would love to speak,

write, see and meet all you lovely DM fanatics out there! My absolute favourite is Martin L. Gore. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Reach out and touch faith.

Carin Cullen
127 Strathmore Avenue
Luton
Bedfordshire LU1 3QW
England

Hi! I'm a 26 year old lifelong DM fan looking for pen pals from all over the world to share my passion. Age or sex unimportant. Other interests include 80's synth music, going to concerts, writing, travelling, socialising. Hope to hear from you soon!

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".

Contacts <<<

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".

a T-shirt with the three faces of DM with DM on top. I had glasses on and hair down to my shoulders. You had blonde hair and wore black pants and black leather waistcoat. You said something to me but I didn't understand you and you also won a prize. Please I really want to talk to you. My name is Gemma Gannon and my address is 74 Red Shank Lane, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6RD, England.

I would like to wish all the best to these people I have met through Bong - Moto, Laura I., Laura M., Szymon, Natalie R., Cristina V. and....Alan Wilder. Jari (Poland).

Have you seen the DM concert from Cologne that was broadcast on MTV? During the track "Enjoy The Silence" at exactly 3:43 into the song, a beautiful young blonde lady dressed in red, appears on the screen - you can't miss her! If you read this or anyone else who know her, please write to: Christian Weiser, Vatterstr. 5, 60386 Frankfurt, Germany.

To Maria Van Der Sluys - Surprise strangelove, strange nights and strange lows - strangelove, that's how my love goes. Strangelove, will you give it to me? Lots of hugs from Paul Young.

Nice greetings to Martijn, Peter, Marc and to all the other devotees who know me and read this issue of Bong. I'd like to thank you all for being my friends and for the unforgettable time I had at my first DM concert. Devotional greetings, your Petra from Germany.

Dear mystery man - I met you at this year's convention on Oct 25th! I was wearing black pants, black shoes and

>> 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.

The Singles 86>98

"Not until 1989 and sublime techno pop like 'Enjoy The Silence' did Depeche Mode become great. In fact, American youth took to songwriter Martin Gore's rueful tunes so keenly, that we have him to thank for the likes of NIN's Trent Reznor and Marilyn Manson."

**Gareth Grundy, Deluxe, UK
(October 1998)**

Only When I Lose Myself

"Less pompous and more vulnerable than much recent Mode fare, it's a low-voltage charmer which grows on repeat hearings."

**NME, UK
(September 1998)**

The Videos 86>98

"This second compilation of Depeche Mode videos could also be subtitled the Anton Corbijn years, so big is his stylistic influence over the videos. As the songs get darker, so the videos get better, with the highlights being the preposterous 'Enjoy The Silence' and 'Barrel Of A Gun'."

**Sarah Harron,
Q Magazine, UK
(November 1998)**



The Singles 86>98

"We feel like this is our best body of work, in terms of singles. It's what we're most proud of. It's been interesting listening to it; it kicks up a lot of stuff. I'll suddenly remember exactly what a particular song felt like then. They bring all these different extremes, and some can really take me to a place."

**Dave Gahan, Billboard
(August 1998)**

Only When I Lose Myself

"With this song, I started with the opening motif and the words were suggested to me by what was happening in the music. I find that a very natural way to write."

**Martin Gore,
Billboard
(August 1998)**

Depeche Mode

"A trawl through the wonder years with Depeche Mode involves sado-masochism (Master And Servant), teutonic driving music (Never Let Me Down Again), abstract paeans to the intangibility of desire (Enjoy The Silence) and saying sorry to God (Condemnation)."

**Time Out, UK
(September 1998)**



The Singles Tour 86-98

“Sporting newly cropped hair and clean-cut clothes, Dave worked the crowd with the pluck and punch of an old-fashioned cheerleader. Alternating the showmanship of Freddie Mercury with the sombre intensity of Kurt Cobain, Gahan is a graceful frontman and athletic dancer.”

**Adrian Thrills, Daily Mail, UK
(September 1998)**

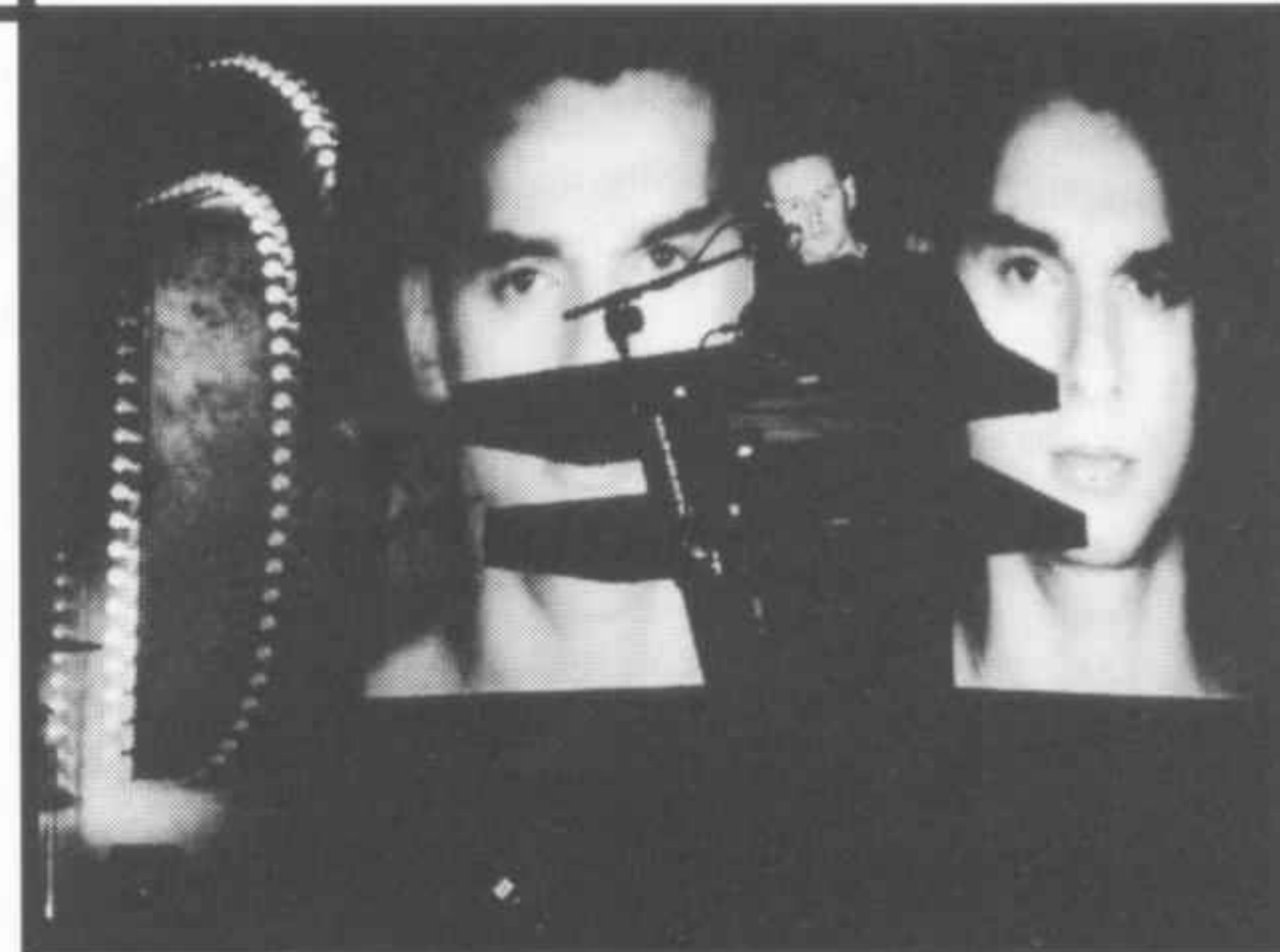


Photo by Anton Corbijn

Depeche Mode

“Depeche Mode has persevered, its musical daring and ultimate album calibre remaining intact, all the while holding onto its status as a modern rock radio anchor.”

**Chuck Taylor, Billboard
(August 1998)**

Depeche Mode

“Depeche Mode are possibly the perfect Generation X band, their sense of dislocation and occasional desolation rendered often achingly poetic and, seemingly, accessible to large sections of the planet.”

**Nick Duerden, What's On, UK
(September 1998)**

The Singles

Tour 86-98

“Essex electronica veterans don't get out of bed for less than an arena tour. Here they're promoting a hits package, a singular pop affair that traces dark-lines between Basildon and Berlin.”

Evening Standard

Hot Tickets

Magazine, UK

(September 1998)

Only When I Lose Myself

“Dave Gahan performs with sombre intensity, while the band cloaks him in sullen keyboards and a dirge-like beat. This purely cathartic single is the one that Depeche fans have been hankering for - and it's potent enough to give electronica-conscious radio programmers something to chew on.”

**Billboard
(August 1998)**



Depeche Mode

“Depeche Mode, they're the balls. There is no hesitation to put them on the air. Everybody's always waiting to hear the new Depeche Mode. Unless they come out with the 'Gettin' Jiggy Wit' It' Depeche Mode remix, I don't see that ever changing.”

**Bruce Wayne of KFRR (New Rock 104, USA)
Billboard (August 1998)**

Only When I Lose Myself

“Wow. The Mode have washed and shaved, and suddenly appear 20 years younger! For this new material, they've wisely abandoned hard-core rock schemes. Dave Gahan sings with melting mournfulness, evoking glimmers of early brilliance.”

**Time Out, UK
(September 1998)**

dm/live



> Satellite <<

DM Devotees
A.D. 1154
Vilnius 1
2001
Lithuania

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

Danish DM FC
Boys Say Go!
Brian Valentin
Ryttervaenget 16 l.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

Empty World 2
Paltholmterrasserne 78 F
3520 Farum
Denmark

Devotion
Apartado 5265
47080 Valladolid
Spain

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

DMF
Apartado de Correos 42064
Madrid 28080
Spain

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

Dressed in Black
Merhautova 73
613 00 Brno
Czech Republic

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
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

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.

Shake The Disease
Stefan Bülter
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, 1°
08720 Vilafranca Del Penedes
(Barcelona)
Spain

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

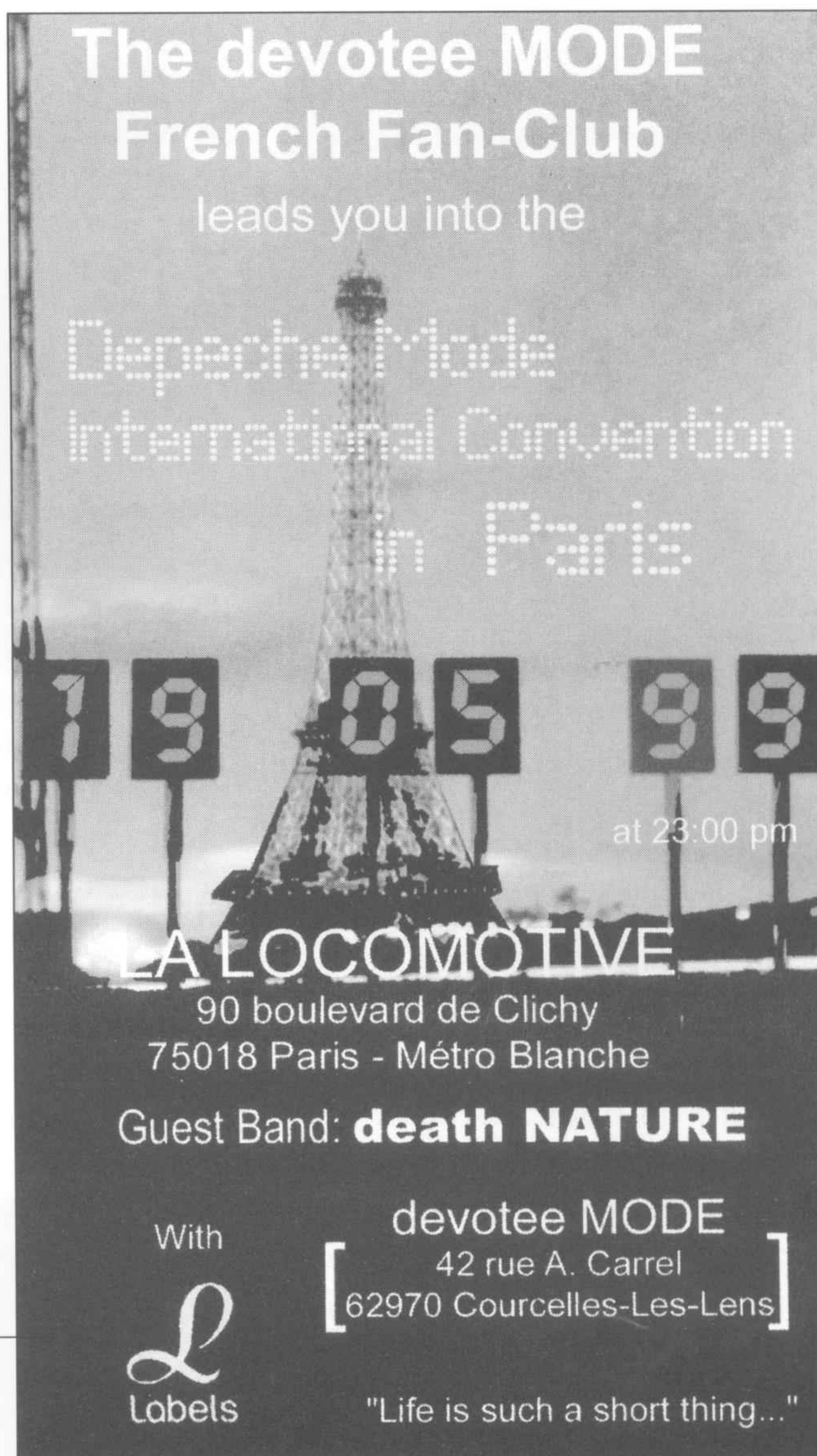
De.Mo.
Poltavskaya st. 2-45
603024 Nizhny Novgorod
Russia

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>

If You Want
Depeche Mode
P.O.Box 23
678 01 Blansko
Czech Republic
e-mail: KYSA@BK.CZ

please contact Christian or Bérangère at
<devoteemode@depechemode.com>
for more information or accommodation details




The devotee **MODE**
French Fan-Club
leads you into the
Depeche Mode
International Convention
in Paris

at 23:00 pm

LA LOCOMOTIVE
90 boulevard de Clichy
75018 Paris - Métro Blanche

Guest Band: **death NATURE**

With

Labels

devotee **MODE**
42 rue A. Carrel
62970 Courcelles-Les-Lens

"Life is such a short thing..."

'MUSINGS FOR THE MASSES' DM PARTY

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) and good it will be!!

at
THE FOUNDRY - BIRMINGHAM

7pm 'til late. Admission £2.50 (on the door)

Live music by

MONOCHROME

(who played at the official DM convention in October)

plus 'masses' of DM music.

For more info call

Billy Bob on 0121 783 8089

or Red on 0161 343 5468

Come on and hang out with Depeche Mode Friends on 22nd May 1999 in Brno, Czech Republic!! The venue is called Fan Favorit and the party starts at 8pm and lasts till 5am - plenty of time to mode and dance!! The programme includes video, music, raffle and various competitions, also watch out for DM store!! Please write for more information to: DMFriends, P. O. Box 23, 678 01 Brno, Czech Republic or call at: +420-603-837192.

Freely provided by DM Live
dmlive.wiki

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.

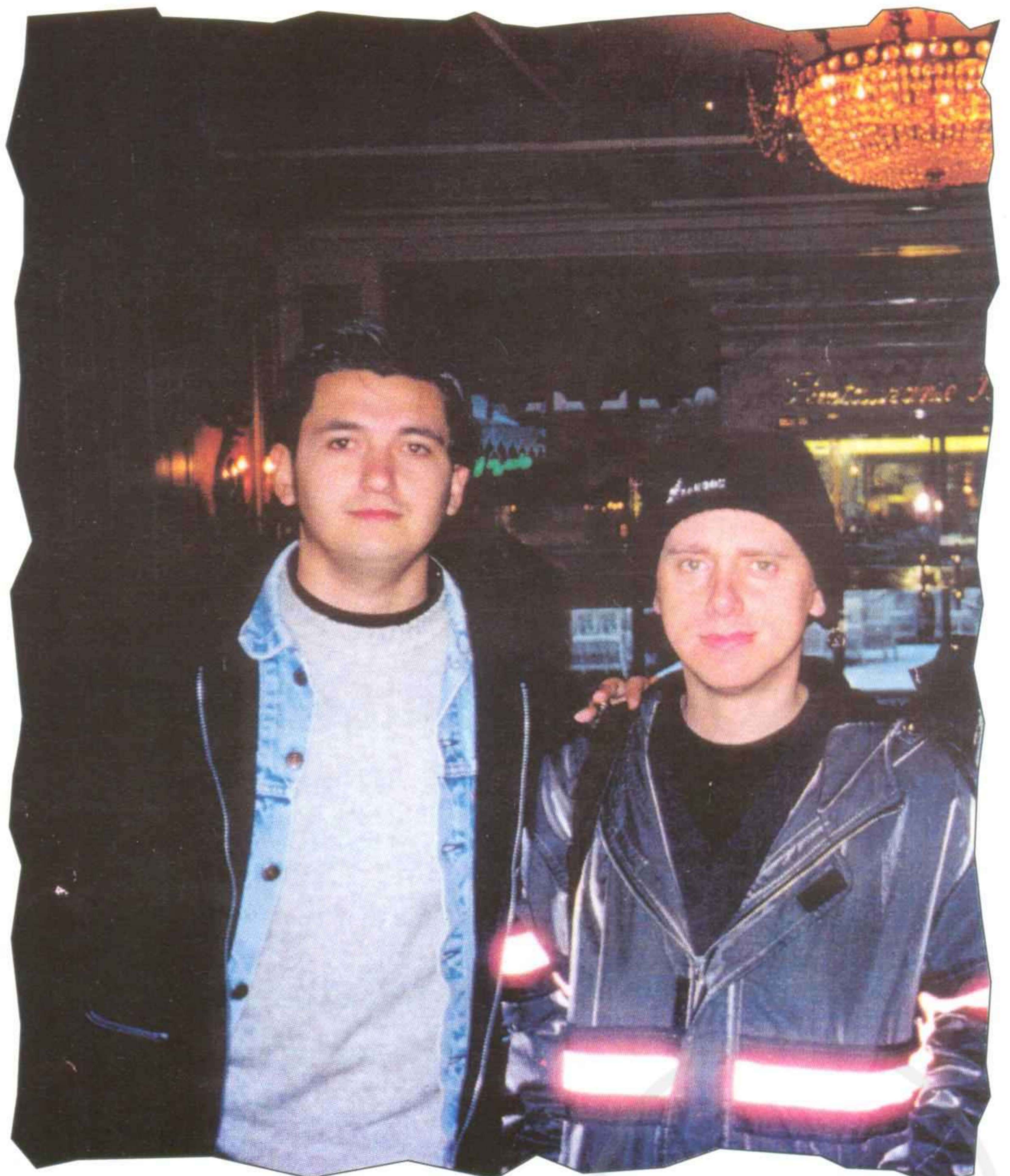
Unfortunately, it wasn't me but my brother Mike and his friend together with their girlfriends who met Depeche Mode outside of the German TV channel RTL studios, where the Band were making an appearance on the 'RTL Samstag Nacht' in April 97. There were some fans waiting outside the studios and a few happy ones had an opportunity to go and have dinner with the guys! As the time passed, the friend of my brother Olli, went inside the building to use the toilet. As he entered he couldn't believe his eyes as he saw Martin standing in front of him, washing his hands. They shook hands just before Martin left for the studio....

Tim Plachner
Wilnsdorf, Germany



Martin in Germany

Depeche Mode were on an official visit to Spain for the first time since the Devotional Tour four years ago. However, it was only a promotional trip, supporting the release of "Ultra". We found out that the Band were arriving in Madrid on 16th February 1997 and staying for three days. It was a chance for me and some other fans from the Spanish Fan Club 'Work Hard' to meet up with Martin and Fletch after 13 years of being a fan! We were able to get a glimpse of the guys at Madrid airport where we all gathered to give them a warm welcome. I was so nervous....but when they finally arrived and we got nearer to them, everything felt so normal again. We said hello to them and although Martin seemed quite shy and Fletch a bit preoccupied, they signed some stuff we had brought over with us. We met with Mart and Fletch again the next day and followed them to some Spanish radio stations. Later on in the afternoon, we had a chance to introduce our Fan Club and talk about "Ultra" and the second single "It's No Good". We gave them both some presents from the Disney shop for Martin's and Fletch's children, to which Martin reacted: "And there's nothing for me?!?" He was, of course, joking....The following day, we were again walking near the Band's hotel and bumped in to Fletch. He recognised us and so we sat down for a while, talking about "Ultra" and other stuff. Fletch left Madrid



Jose with Martin

dm/live

Freely provided by DM Live
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Martin with fans

that afternoon. Martin was staying till the next day as he was going to New York and spent the rest of the day shopping. We took some more pictures and said 'good-bye' and 'thank you' for everything. I now treasure the memory of those days and looking at my pictures and signatures I am proud of being able to meet two members of the best band in the world. Thank you very much, Martin and Fletch.

Jose Luis Herrera Molina
Valencia, Spain

In December 1997, my boyfriend and myself went to London to celebrate New Years Eve and my 25th Birthday. This was my first trip to London ever, so I was really looking forward to it. I have been a Depeche Mode devotee since 1984 and to meet with one of the Band members would be a dream come true experience. That day came just before New Years Eve when I met Andy at his restaurant Gascogne's. He was really friendly, after I nervously approached him and said 'hi'. We talked for a while and he asked me what I was in London for, where I come from, etc. When I told him that I live in Sweden he recalled Depeche Mode playing there in 1985. Then I took some photos with him, got his autograph, and left feeling very happy! That was absolutely the best birthday present I could get! Thanks a lot Andy for being such a nice person - you really



Sophie with Fletch



Nicolas with Dave

made my year! I would also like to thank your wife for being so understanding when I interrupted your dinner....

Sophie Pettersson
Lund, Sweden

I have to admit that it is much better to meet Depeche when they are not touring, because there is less pressure for them, and there are less fans!! When I met Dave during the Brussels press conference in February 1997 he was really nice and when I told him that I had to pass an exam the next morning, Dave said: "Really? Good luck for your exam then, guy!" It was very nice of him indeed, I think. The second time I had a chance to meet the Band was at their hotel in Brussels during the Devotional Tour.

Although it was very brief I managed to exchange a few words with Martin and Alan.

Nicolas Lannoy
Dunkerque, France

< Classified >>



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rarities and tour merchandise send your address to: Rage Mail Order, PO Box 209, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0QQ, England or e-mail to: rage@zetnet.co.uk, www.users.zetnet.co.uk/rage/

Wagener, 40 Broughton Road, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 4DU, England. Thanks.

Wanted: Bong magazines No. 1-13, 15, 17, 19, 25 and 30. Please make an offer to Helen Scougell, 8 Ochfield Road, Lobley Hill, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, England.

Want to swap rare items, videos, interviews, etc? I am looking for DM TV appearances and anything that's interesting. Write or e-mail me for my list: Sebastian Sinterhauf, Magdeburger Platz 2, 107 85 Berlin, Germany, e-mail: sinterhauf@t-online.de

Swap: live videos, TV shows, interviews, especially on Depeche Mode, but also Nine Inch Nails, Garbage, Smashing Pumpkins, The Cure, Prodigy, Orbital, Placebo, Front 242....I can only copy on Pal and Secam systems (no NTSC - sorry!). I also swap photos and press articles about Depeche Mode. Send your name, address and list to: Nicolas Lannoy, 4 Rue de l'Adroit, 59140 Dunkerque, France.

I am looking for self-taken photos of Depeche Mode (particularly from 1997 and 1998). Have you taken any and would you sell them? I am also interested in any video recordings from 1998, but only a good quality. Please write to: Tobias Schulze, Am Stadtpark 48, 08261 Schöneck, Germany.

I am looking for the following videotapes: "Some Great Videos", "Live In Hamburg", "Strange", and especially "Strange Too - Another Violation" and "Devotional". I am also seeking for these video clips: "Little 15", "BOAG", "Useless" and "Behind The Wheel". Please make your offers in USD to: Aleksey Yukhnenko, Lenina 25/25, Omsukchan, Magadan Region, Russia, 686410.

Desperately looking for Bong issue No. 5. I will pay a really good price or trade. Please contact: Martin Finkler, Puschkinstr. 2, 38820 Halberstadt, East Germany or e-mail: finkler@sunpool.cs.uni-magdeburg.de

I am selling my DM collection of CDs, videos, photos, etc. If you want some information, write to this address (please enclose IRC or stamp). Mar, c/o Mitjana 1, 3-A, 290 13 Malaga, Spain.

Wanted: Any video footage from MTV or VH1's recent Depeche Mode features. Particularly with live footage from The Singles Tour. If anyone has recorded these, please contact Matt

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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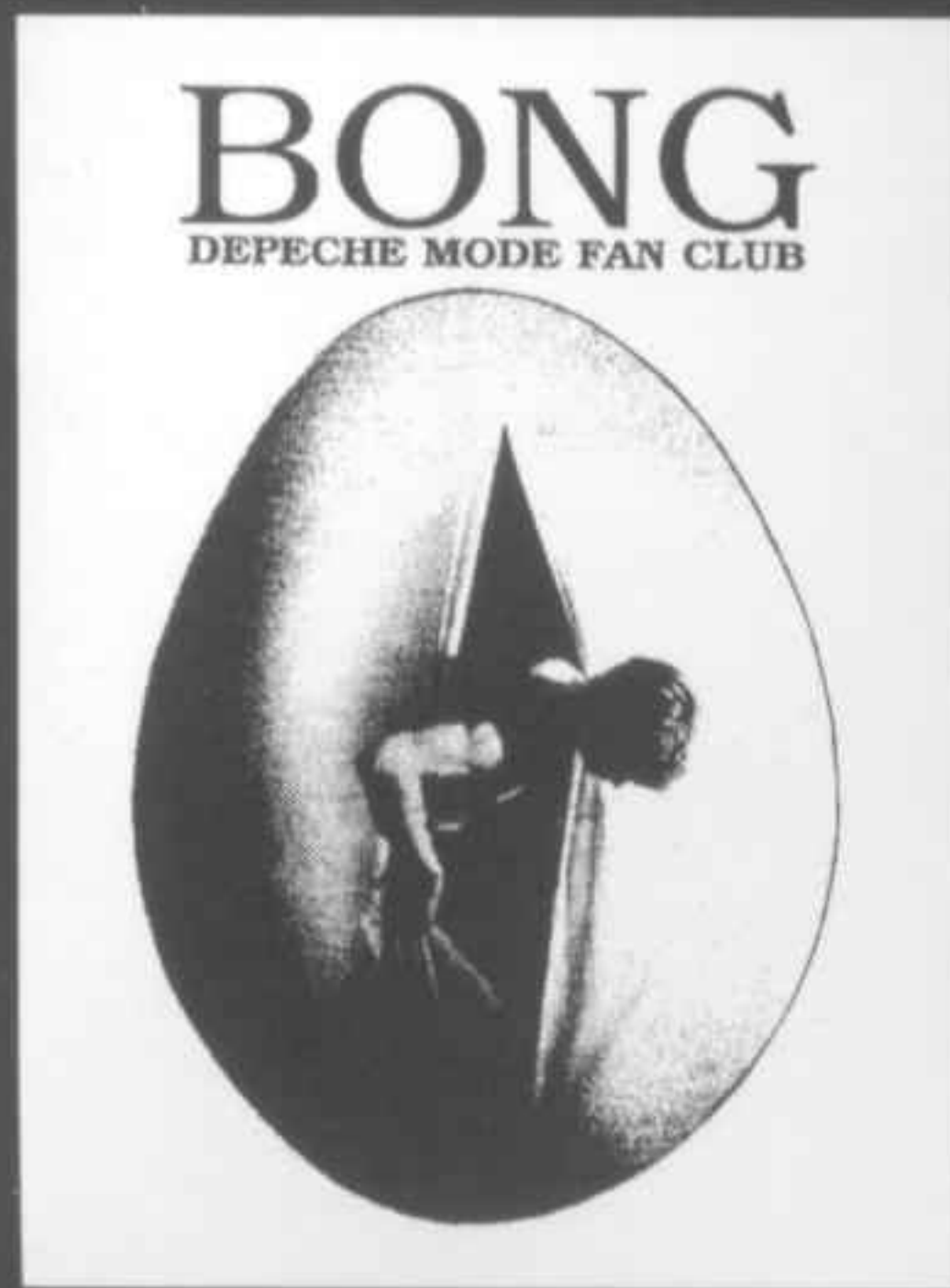
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1998-B

Depeche Mode

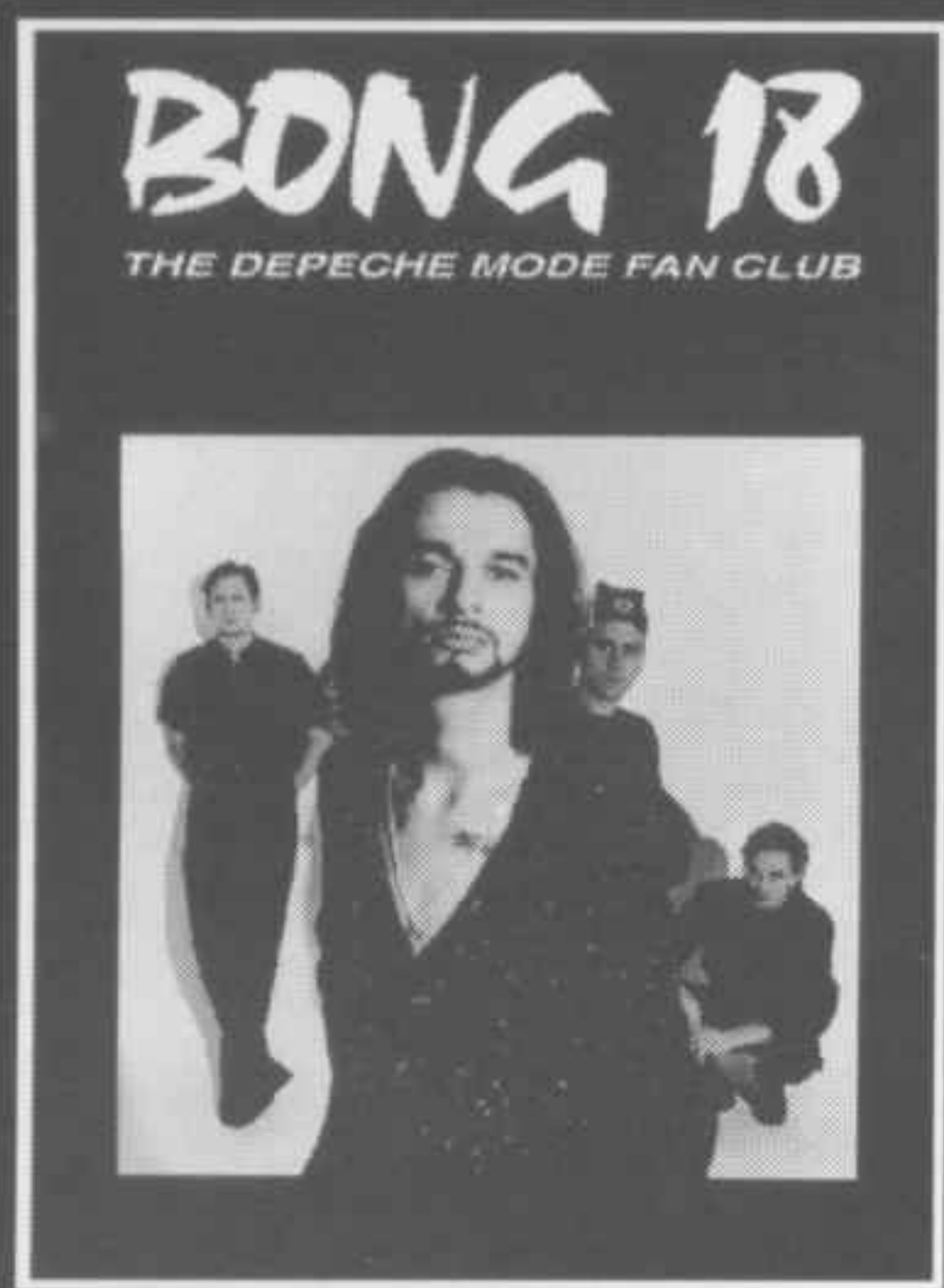
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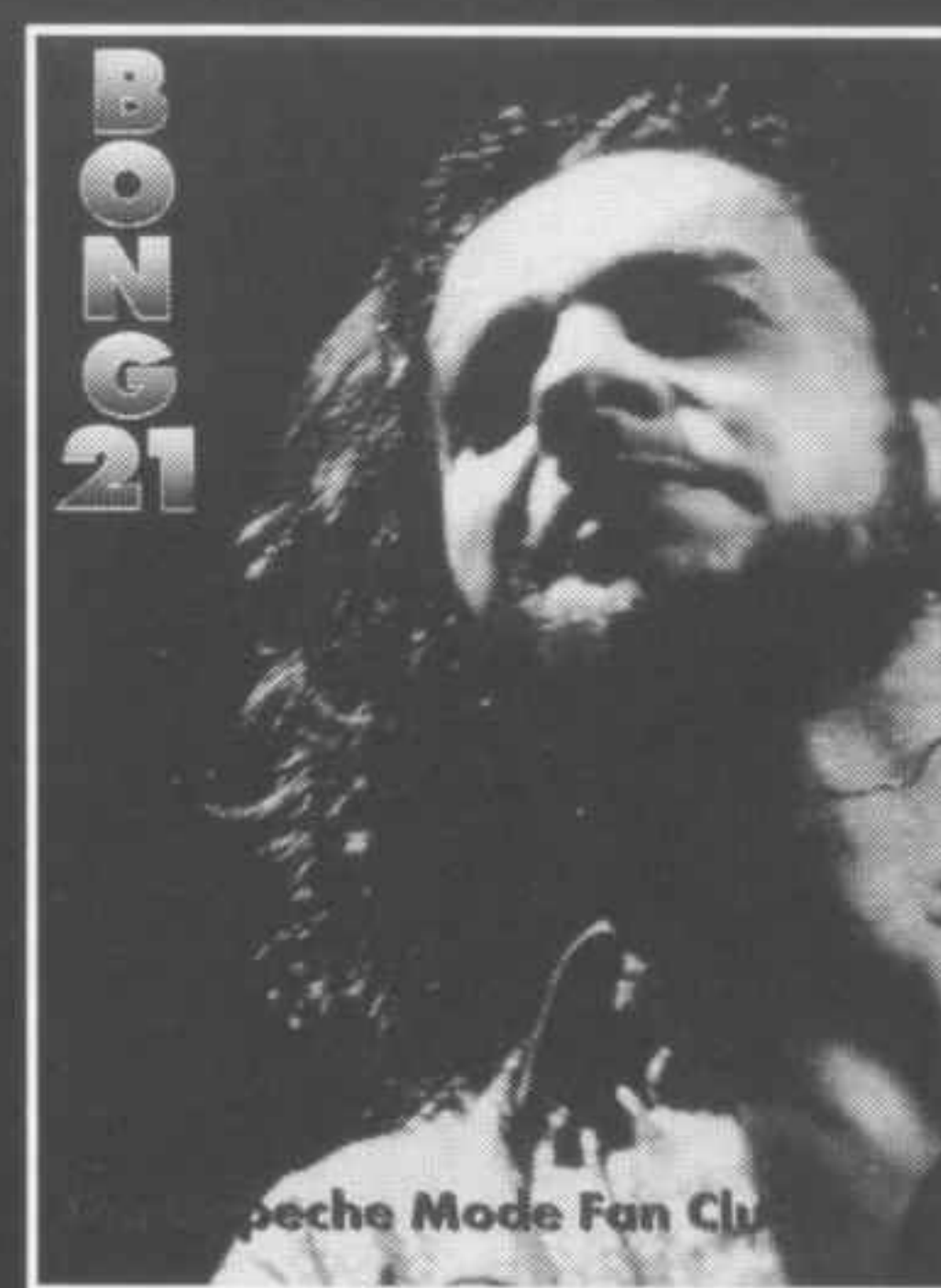
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A4, colour

BONG 22



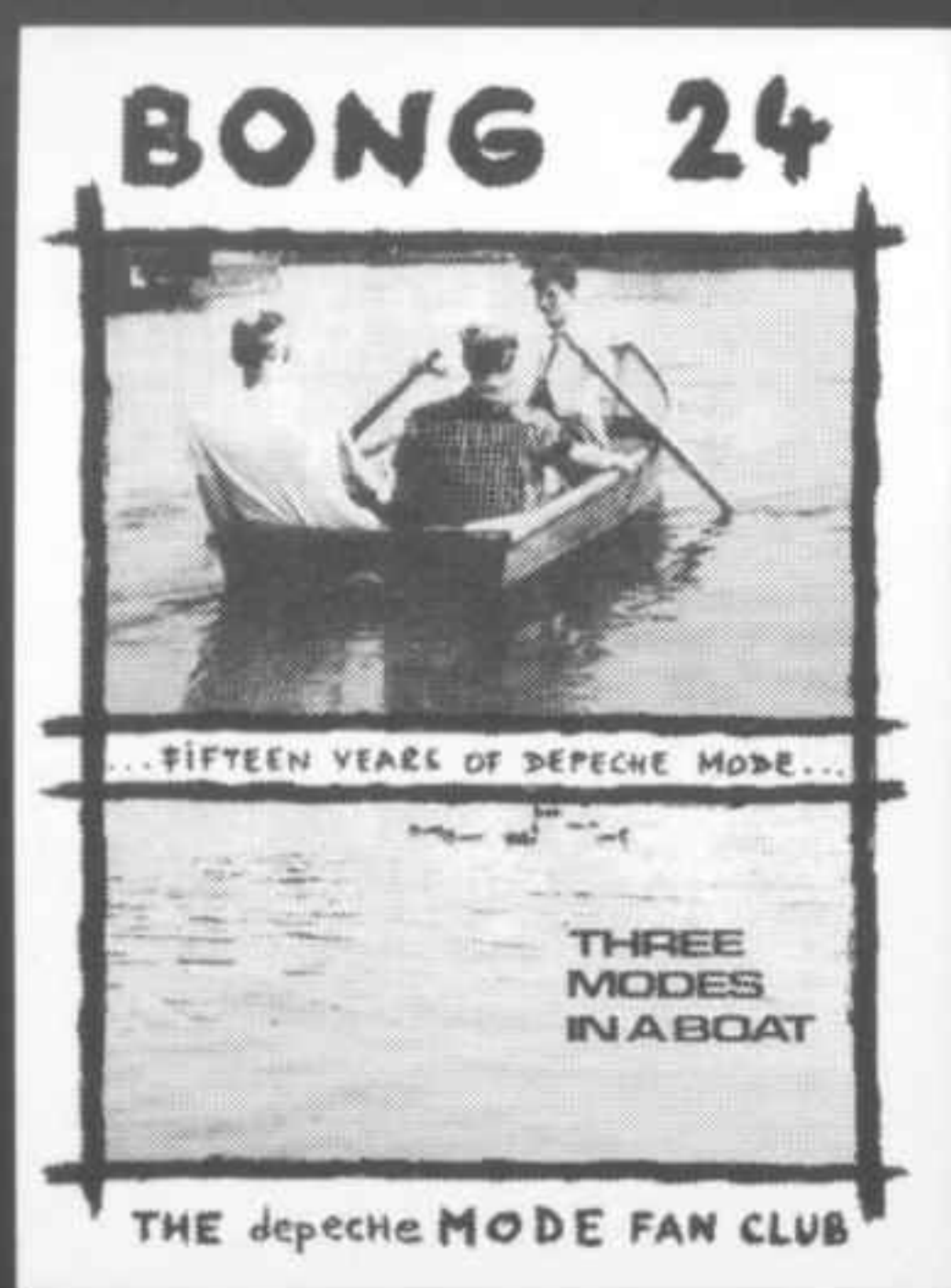
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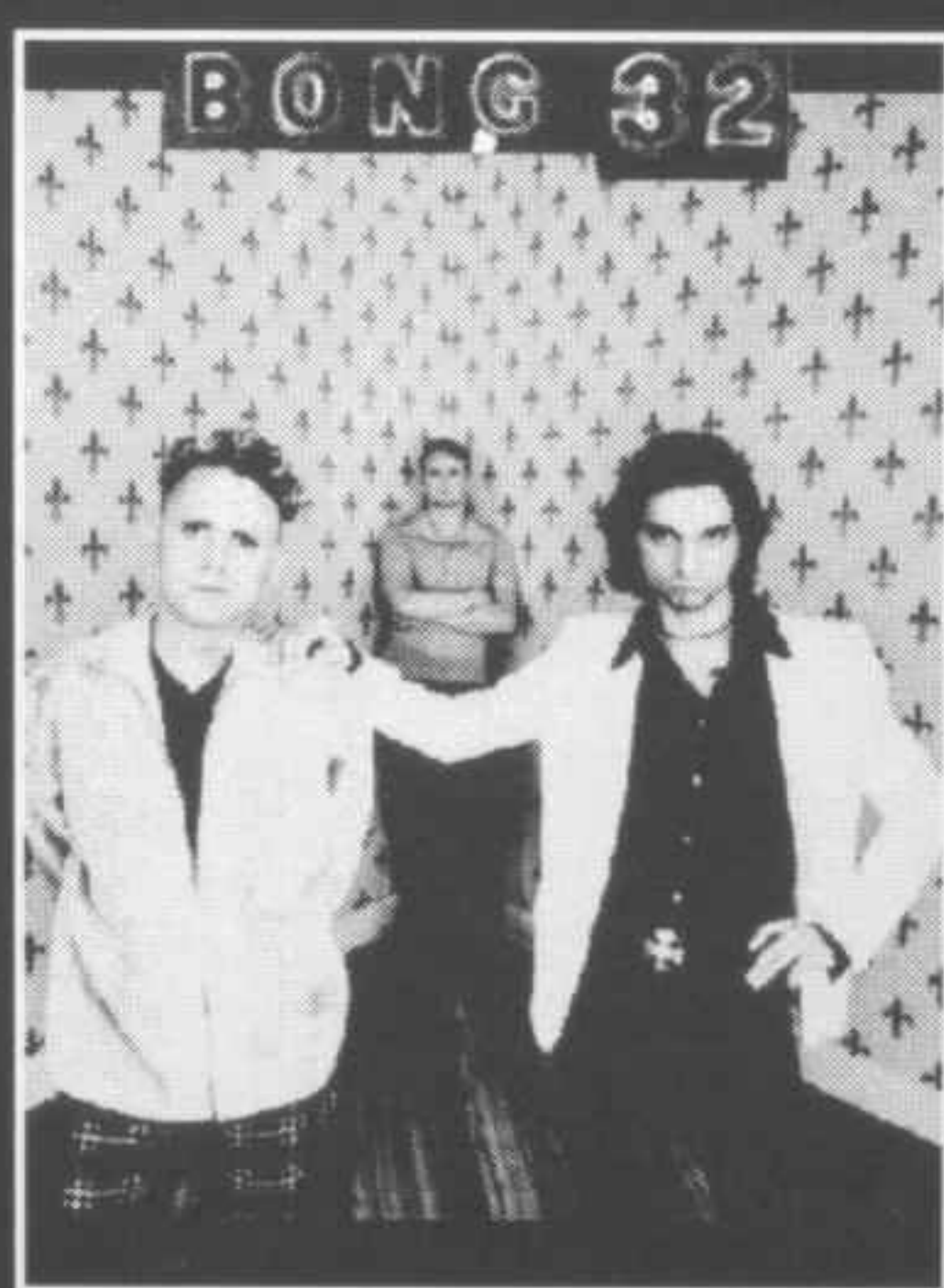
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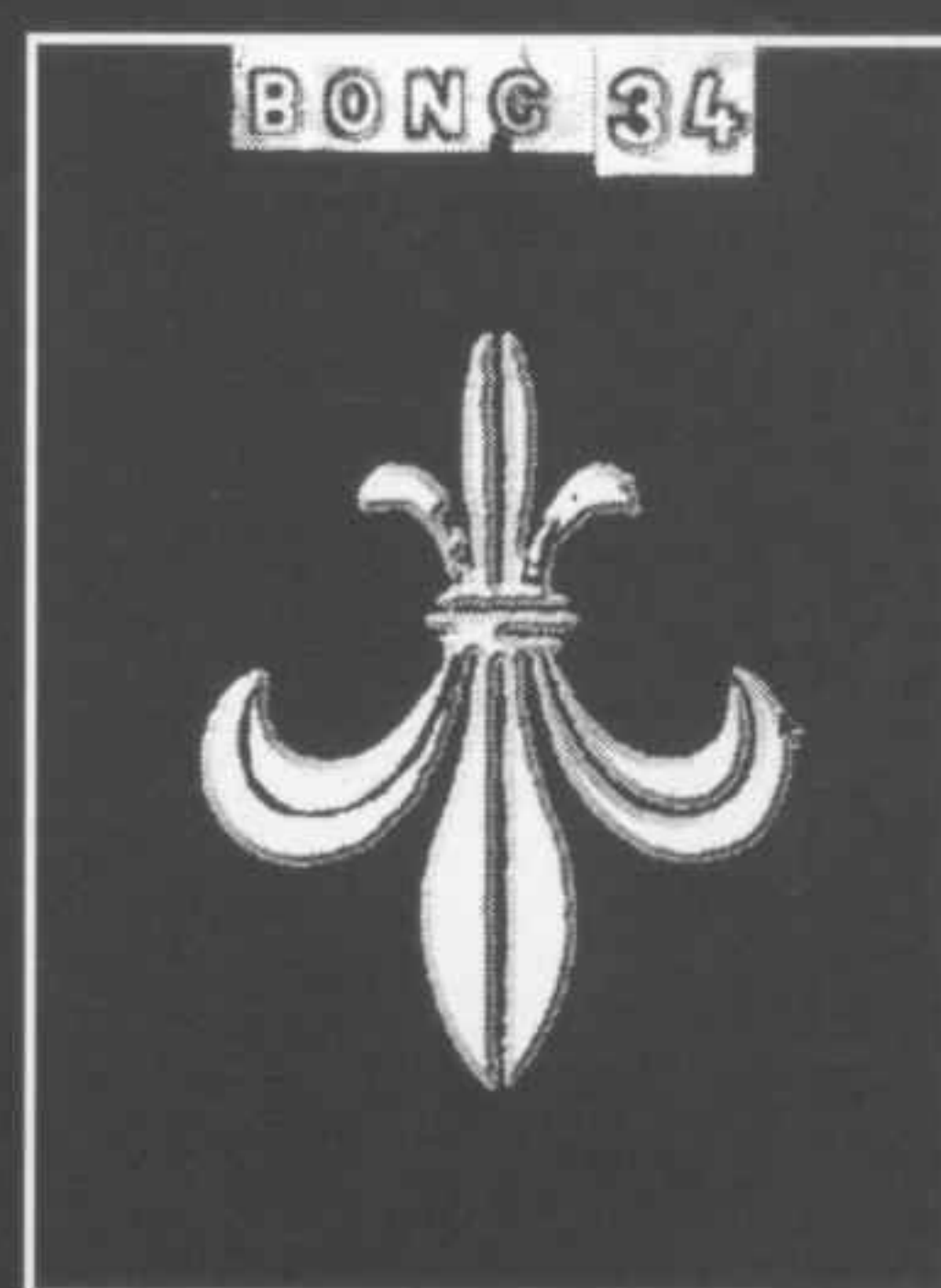
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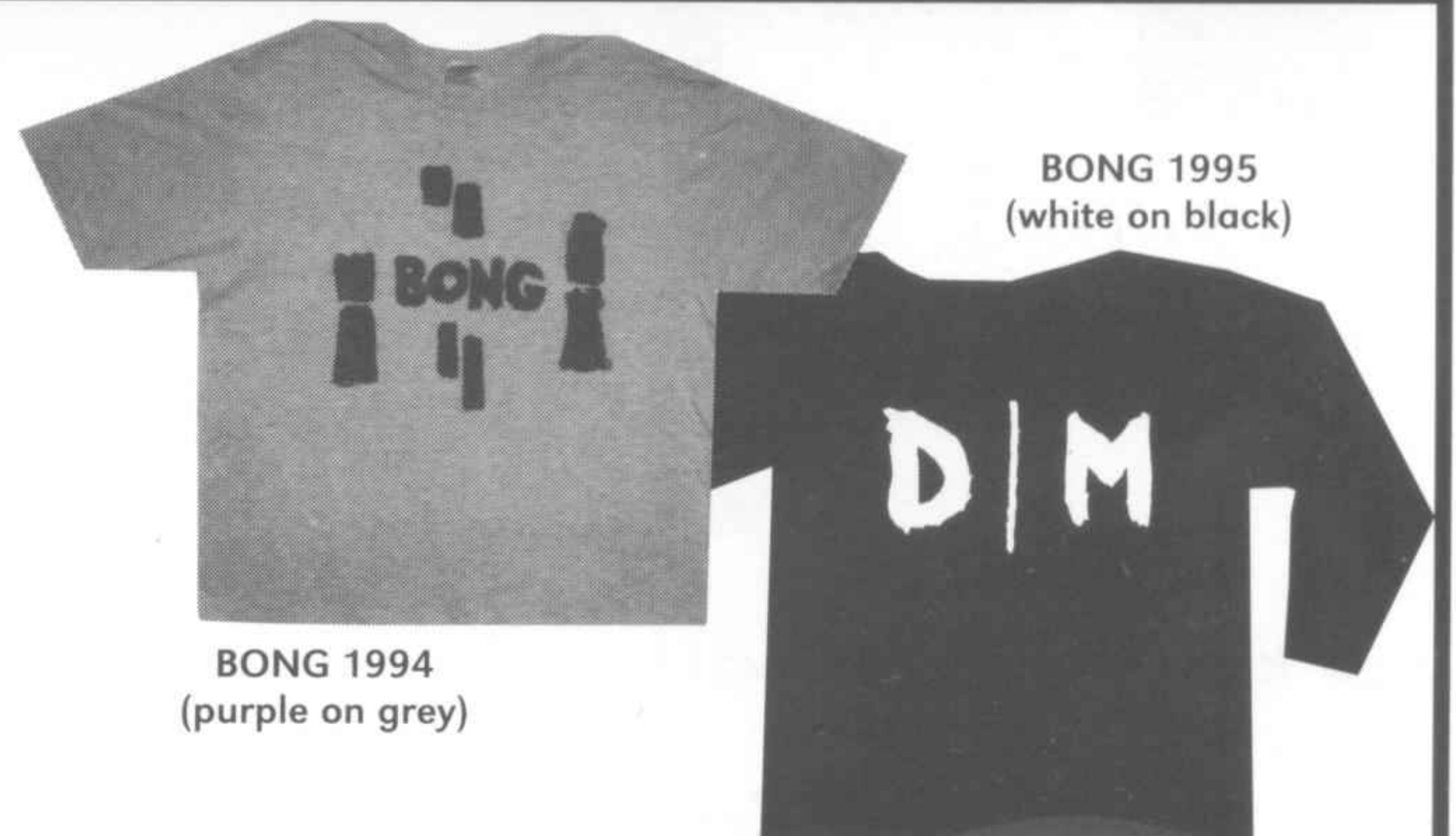
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