

THE depeche MODE FAN CLUB



BONG

23
From provide the A Live
omlive.

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BACK ISSUES

2, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 are still available. If you live in the UK or have a BFPO address the cost is £ 1.00 each. If you live elsewhere the cost is £ 1.75 (US \$3.75) each.

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Photo by Michaela Olexova

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Intro

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the first issue of Bong in 1995.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a wild start to the new year. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sent Xmas cards to the band and to us here in the office. We would also like to wish you all the best in the next twelve months with lots of DM related experiences but don't forget to tell us about them first!

Talking of Christmas, we had an overwhelming response to our special Xmas card competition. Judging it was extremely difficult for the fan-club and DM office as all the designs were good. After some deliberation we chose a very simple but effective design which can be seen together with the runners-up inside of this issue. Thanks to everyone who took part.

We are pleased to say that Mute Records' boss Daniel Miller has agreed to take part in our "Ask?" series and will answer as many questions as he can about Mute, his relationship with Depeche Mode and his career etc. Please remember the questions for Daniel should be sent to our usual address before March 3, 1995 and don't forget to mark your envelope "Ask Daniel".

The fan-club Convention in Jena, Germany turned out to be very successful so you should be sorry if you didn't go. The good news is that we are planning to take part in events like this more often in the future, so we can see how fans are moding in different parts of the World. In the meantime, we have decided to open a new section in BONG called 'In Our Eyes' which is for anyone who wants to tell us more about their Conventions and Parties. We have already included two stories in this issue as the Autumn/Winter season of last year seemed to be full of DM partying.

With reference to a couple of complaints we have received about 'old information' being printed in BONG, we would like to point out that the Fan Club is here for everyone and that includes the younger generation of fans and those who have only recently 'discovered' Depeche Mode. So printing the 'old' stuff in the magazine helps the newcomers find out and learn more about their favourite band, and perhaps you could brush up on your memories as well. Remember you were there once.

That's all for now. Just one more thing before you start reading the following pages of BONG 23. Please, keep your letters coming in as we are always interested in what you've got to say but remember to mark your letters or contributions with your name and address. Thanks.

Until April, keep moding!



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dmlive.wi

Pressed In Black

Dear Bong,

Regarding the recent remixes debate, I personally think that there is nothing wrong with a little variety. It is interesting and enjoyable to hear how a song could be interpreted in other ways.

Another thing I must ask about is the Greatest Hits compilation. I was very excited to see the references to it in BONG 22 but please give us some info. I hope Depeche Mode do release it, it's certainly something worth looking forward to.

Peter Regan
Lancaster, England

Editor's note: If the band do decide to release a Greatest Hits album, it will be at least another year.

Dear Bong,

Greetings from San Antonio! I just want to say THANK YOU Depeche Mode for giving us a spectacular show here in my home town. I enjoyed every minute of it. I dreamed of the day you would come to Alamo City and I hope that some day you will come and give us another awesome show.

Ray Arredondo
San Antonio, USA

Dear Bong,

Hi! Here is devoted DM fan from Lithuania. I have decided to write to you after reading some of the letters printed in BONG. Sometimes when I read some of those letters I want to cry. Oh, I just think to myself how happy they are that they can go to Depeche Mode concerts, buy every CD released and have all the videos. I feel so unhappy

that I have none of these things and besides that I can't go to the DM concerts either.

Some DM fans think that they are real fans when they have all CDs, all videos and so on. But here in Lithuania I will hardly find something like this. Today, I looked in every shop here if I could find some DM videos but I couldn't. I usually buy tapes but they are not good quality. I don't even know where to get any DM posters. The situation here is very difficult and I just hope it will change very soon...

Inga Kairyte
Siauliai, Lithuania

Dear Bong,

Why is it that America seems to get the best of everything when it comes to Depeche Mode? Not only does the band go there twice during virtually every tour, they get to hear new and old songs completely revamped and always seem to get a bigger range of tour merchandise. This usually consists of all the merchandise they sell in England plus a lot of new things. I bought a T-shirt promoting the Masses Tour complete with the megaphone symbol on the front which was nowhere to be seen on the merchandise stands when I went to see DM at Whitely Bay in 1988. Yet you can see the same T-shirt worn by a number of people in "101".

As for the music, I went to see Mode twice during the Devotional Tour (Cry-stal Palace - August and Sheffield - December) and apart from replacing two songs, one of which was an alternative in the song line up anyway, I saw the same show twice. Believe me it was excellent but when you take into account that the Sheffield show was part of a latter set of shows, they could have given us at least one different version of either an old or new song.

If all this isn't enough the American fans even get different mixes of released singles which us British fans have to pay about 8 or 9 pounds for an import - "Master And Servant" (Black and Blue Mix) for example. Now for the icing on the cake "the 1994 DM tour CD released by Sire especially for the States" as mentioned in 'Waiting For Two Nights To Fall'

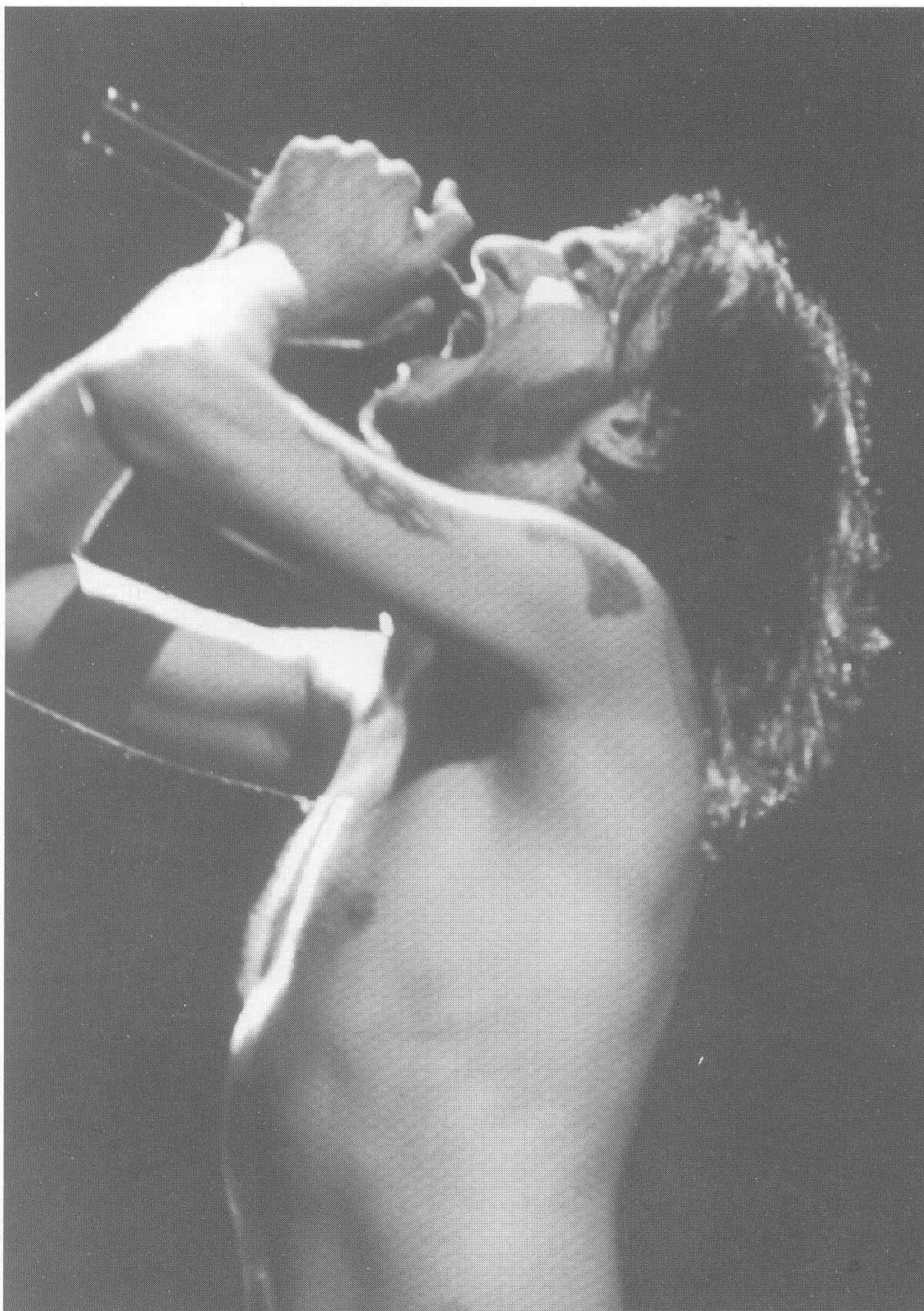


Photo by Michaela Olexova



featured in BONG 21. Come on Mute what's the score? How about a bit of consideration for the fans from the bands home country? We're not all like the press, Depeche Mode are not everybody's kicking post.

On a happier note I'd like to let Bong and it's hundreds of members know just how much of a devotee I am. This is easily done by telling you about my 5 month old son. My wife and I couldn't decide on a boys name that we could agree on. I was making a computer data bank about the Depeche Mode albums (producers, engineers etc.) and there it was before my eyes. The list of the band member's names on the inner sleeve of "Some Great Reward":

M.artin Gore
A.lan Wilder
D.ave Gahan
A.ndrew Fletcher

which when listed in reverse order make a well known boys name. Bingo, problem solved. Even if he grows up to hate Mode and their music, in a very obscure way they will always be a part of him.

Michael Wilson
Newcastle Upon Tyne, England

Editor's note: The 1994 DM Tour CD was produced by Sire as a promotional item in the United States, and was not released for sale.

Dear Bong,

Hello! I have only recently joined your Fan Club and I was wondering if you have a mail order list on their releases or something? I have a wide collection of DM's stuff but I want to get some more of their singles, maxi-singles, videos etc.

I have Martin Gore's "Counterfeit e.p." and Alan Wilder's (Recoil) "Bloodline" but I've heard that Alan has also released another album before this one.

I have quite a lot of maxi-singles and on a number of them there are new songs that were not even released on the regular albums. Songs such as "My Joy", "Death's Door", "Kaleid", "Ice Machine", "Fools" etc. Why aren't these songs featured on the regular albums? They are all very good songs.

I also have a few of the DM video tapes (Hamburg, 101, Devotional). Do they have any video compilations with just their music videos?

Fayaz Jamal
New Westminster, Canada



Photo by Anton Corbijn

Editor's note: This is not the only letter we have received asking about the older DM releases so we decided to print it in BONG and answer the many questions new DM fans are asking us. So here we go... To complete your collection with the missing singles or albums you should contact Mute Bank (see their advert on page 26) where you can ask for the catalogue and order almost everything Depeche Mode have ever released at Mute. Apart from Alan's (Recoil) solo album "Bloodline", he has also released a mini-LP called "Recoil 1 & 2" and an LP called "Hydrology". You will find more about DM releases and their solo projects in the official discography we are working on at the moment and we plan to print it in BONG magazine in the near future. The songs on the maxi-singles are actually B-sides of the singles taken from the album and usually come out when a new single is released to support the sale. Finally to answer your question about the videos. Apart from the videos you have mentioned in your letter there are two video compilations available. They are: "Strange" and "strange too-another violation by anton corbijn".

Dear Bong,

Since the release of the DM album "Songs Of Faith And Devotion",

Depeche Mode have given us four brilliant singles, fantastic Devotional Tour, live version of "S.O.F.A.D." and great live video "Devotional" but wasn't that a bit too much at once? I don't complain, not at all. I would welcome even more material from the guys. But why didn't they serve these things to us in portions? They fed us to the limits in past two years with all these releases and now they let us starve again. How long for? Why didn't they wait and save the release of the live "S.O.F.A.D." and the "Devotional" video for later on when the tour is over and there's nothing happening around the band?

Steven Russell
California, USA

Editor's note: After a gruelling 3 year project: recording and promoting "S.O.F.A.D." & the singles from it, making videos and then the marathon tour, the band need time off to rest and concentrate on other things. Releasing more product after the tour would mean more meetings, studio work, videos, promotion etc. and would mean no breaks for the band. Rest periods are essential to keep creativity and enthusiasm fresh.



Everything Counts

We've tried to find out from the band what they were doing during the Christmas festivities and what their New Year resolutions were. This is what they told us: Dave stayed in Los Angeles while Alan spent Christmas in Paris and all his New Year resolutions have already been broken. Martin spent Christmas at home with his family and friends and apparently he never makes New Year resolutions. Fletch also stayed at home with his family and is currently having holidays in South Africa with them.

At the beginning of November, Martin went to see Renegade Soundwave gig together with some of his friends. Daniel Miller was also spotted in the audience.

David Gahan, Jonathan Kessler, Daryl Bamonte and a few friends attended the Primal Scream concert on December 15 at the Shephard's Bush Empire. They all enjoyed Bobby Gillespie's gang a lot and it turned out to be a great night out.

As many of you have written to us asking about the song "Ghost Of Modern Times", we would like to clear this up to avoid any possible misunderstanding. The correct title of this song is in fact "Tomorrow's Dance" and the track comes from the 'Bridgehouse' era.

At the end of October, MTV broadcasted a special 'Best 100 Ever!' weekend edition featuring the best 100 songs voted by the MTV view-

ers. We are pleased to say that Depeche Mode were placed at number 53 with their song "Personal Jesus" and "Enjoy The Silence" even made it to number 24! Congratulations!

The January 1995 issue of 'Q' Magazine includes a number of pieces and mentions of Depeche Mode. Dave made it onto the front cover and inside, he features as one of the 'Q 100' interviews. He discusses last summer's tour with Primal Scream as a support and his interest in body piercing. A feature about the work of Anton Corbijn discusses his work with Depeche Mode and credits him for 're-inventing' them.

Depeche Mode's albums "Violator" and "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" made it to 'The 100 Best LPs of our lifetime' announced by 'Q' Magazine.

The Fan Association NETWORK started to operate only a couple of months ago. They are based in Koblenz, Germany but soon they are hoping to open their office in England as well. The Fan Association NETWORK works on a similar basis as the Computer Network in the USA but at the moment to access the computer programme is only possible within Germany due to a problem with the access code. The system offers those with computers to enter the programme and receive the latest information on many different bands including Depeche Mode, also on new releases, concerts and

a discography, the activities of the Fan Club and conventions. There is also a collector's corner and occasional competition with prizes. The Fan Association NETWORK cooperates with the official Fan Club, the recording company and the band's management so all the information and news are from official sources. Also, they don't associate with bootlegs and bootleggers! For those fans in Germany who are interested in getting in touch with The Fan Association NETWORK and finding more about this computer programme, here's the number to call: 0261 - 803000 or fax: 0261 - 801002.

Towards the end of 1994, Depeche Mode's songs or videos were played or shown many times in the various programmes, series or advertisements in the different parts of the world which was proved by you in your letters we received. It's nice to know that Depeche Mode and their music is so popular...

Depeche Mode's "Mercy In You" was used in a short film called 'Cry Wolf' which was shown on ITV in England on Sunday 6th November as part of a programme called 'New Visions'.

"Just Can't Get Enough" was used on a trailer for the 'Good Sex Guide' on Central TV, England on Sunday 16th October.

The German music channel 'Viva' used the DM song "People Are

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Scan by Maudy

People" in a report about robot wars in a programme called 'Was geht ab?' on November 3 and again on November 7.

Mode's music was featured on 'Entertainment Tonight' (October 26) on Sky News. "Policy Of Truth" and "Enjoy The Silence" were used in a feature on a Memphis model. Also on 'Entertainment Tonight' on November 22, "Rush" was used on a feature about the film 'Jaws'.

Excerpts of "Policy Of Truth" and "Enjoy The Silence" are featured in the MTV's 'Focus' flashes.

Spanish radio station 'Radio Vinilo' as a tune to introduce their chart list.

In a recent repeat of the film 'Summer Lovers', "Just Can't Get Enough" was used and also featured on the O.S.T. compilation with the artists such as Heaven 17, Tina Turner and Chicago among others.

'UK Gold' is currently showing 'Top Of The Pops' of the 80's. Depeche Mode have featured several times. They have done "People Are People", "Get The Balance Right" and "Just Can't Get Enough".

Dave walking across snow covered mountains.

In Beverly Hills 90210 in October, Dona (played by Tori Spelling) had just played the last track on her college radio show and signed off by saying: "And that was 'Walking In My Shoes' by Depeche Mode, speaking of which it looks like it's time for me to be walking on out of here".

On a Saturday night in October, there was a programme on LWT, England called 'The Best Of The Restaurant Show'. In one clip, one of the presenters was wearing a "S.O.F.A.D." T-shirt.

The 'Kiss' Radio Station in Czech Republic is using "People Are People" as a theme tune for their chart list and an extract of "See You" to advertise the programme.

The Children's series 'It'll Never Work' on BBC 1 is using "People Are People" as its theme tune. On another day, the same show used "Everything Counts" all the way through the programme and at the end credits.

Many thanks to Vivienne Leyster, Jason Whitlock, Robert Broj, Anne May, Anna Williams, Aimi, Susana Sanchez, Steve Hickson, Berit Rammelt, Nick Smith, Michael Wilson, Martni Fitzgerald, Susana Sanchez, Mario Vella, Brian Weihe and to anyone else who sent in contributions. Please, keep the information coming in and don't forget that Everything Counts!



Durban, South Africa

On November 15, MTV used an extract from the Renegade Soundwave Afghan Surgery Mix of "I Feel You" on MTV 'Sports'.

In 'Neighbours' on Tuesday 1st November while Cody was sorting through some CDs, she picked out "The Singles 81-85" CD.

"Dangerous" was used by the

On BBC 2, earlier in October, there was a 15 minute programme about Route 66. Depeche Mode's mega mix of "Route 66 & Behind The Wheel" was used for about 7 minutes of the programme.

In October, the satellite TV Channel 'VHI' used a montage that had a clip from "Enjoy The Silence" with

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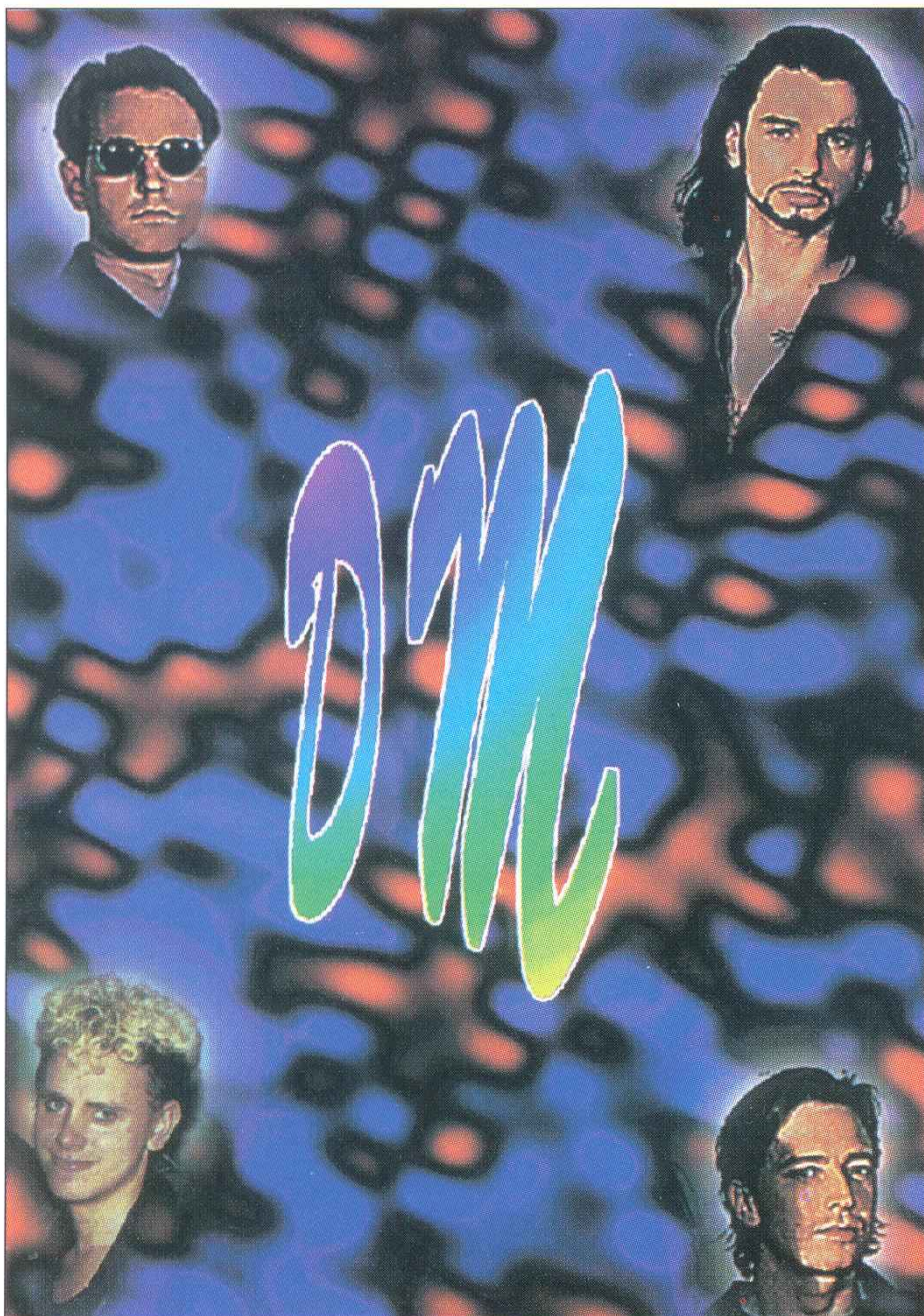
X-Mas Card Competition

So the grand competition of 1994 is over! We spent a lot of time and energy deciding on the winners, but there could only be one winner, and finally chose the design by Colin Neary of Liverpool, England. Colin's design was used as the official Christmas card for not only the Fan Club but for the Depeche Mode office as well. Thousands were sent out to fan-club members and DM associates all over the World. Congratulations to Colin!

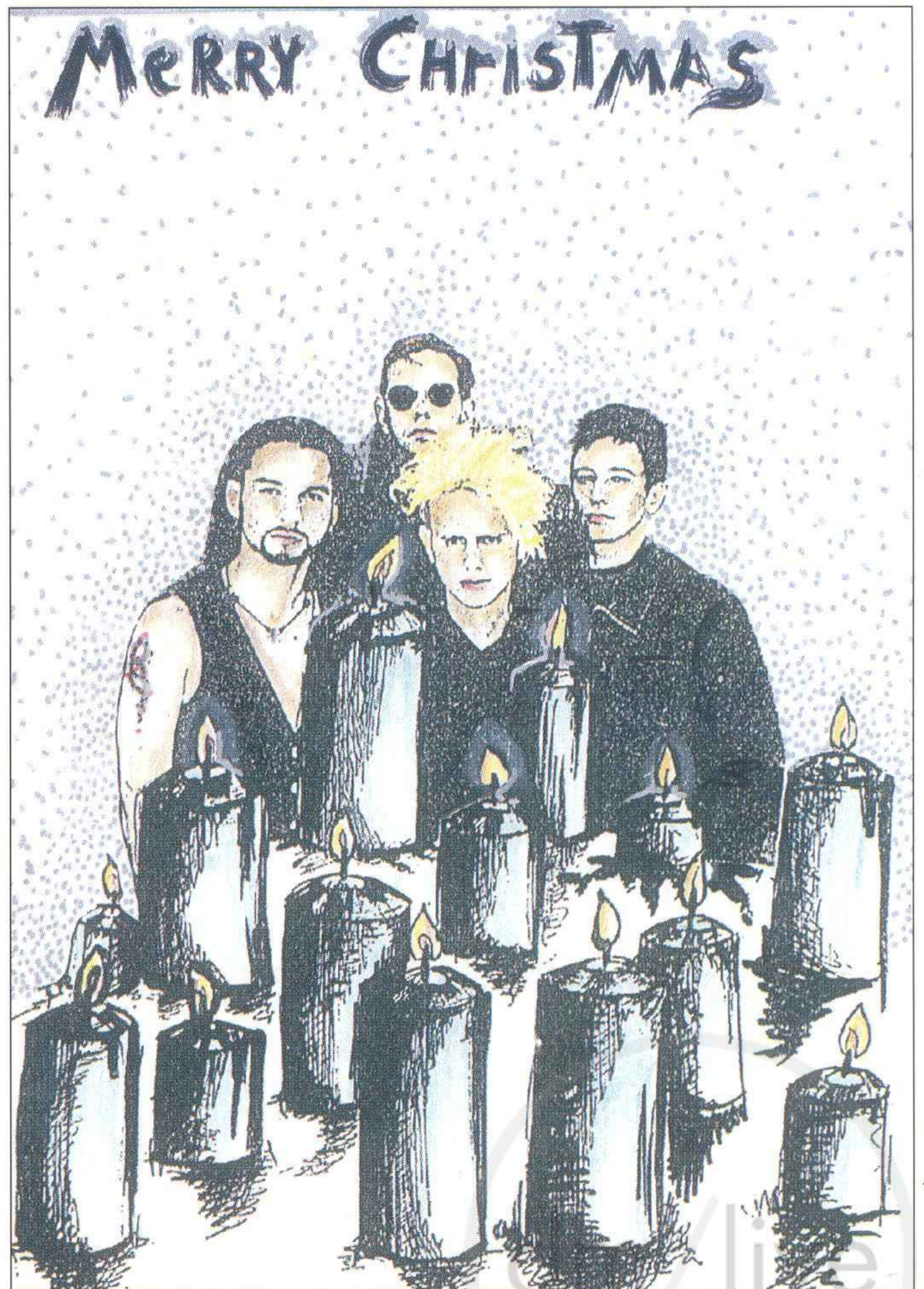
As we did have such a difficult choice, we have chosen two runners-up and they are Virginia Cassano from Italy and Holger Volz from Germany. They have won a 1995 official DM calendar each.



Design by Colin Neary



Design by Holger Volz



Design by Virginia Cassano

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Did you enjoy being on stage?

- Yes, although I was very nervous.

Have you ever thought of taking on the career as a musician?

- Not really.

How did you feel when fans started recognizing you as 'a member' of Depeche Mode?

- They didn't.

Do you think your personality has changed after you started to work with DM and especially after you appeared on stage with them?

- No, unfortunately I've always been this way.

Would you like to be a full member of Depeche Mode?

- No thank you.

How did you meet the band and got to work with them?

- At school and growing up in Basildon. I offered to hump equipment for them in return for beer.

What do you consider to be the best show you performed with DM? The most enjoyable?

- Santiago, Chile was good. Apparently the last show in Indianapolis was good but I don't remember it.

Did you make any mistake such as pressing the wrong key on the keyboard during any show at all?

- Yes. Once during "Behind The Wheel". Can't remember where.

If you could choose to work with a different band who would it be?

- Personal Assistant to Jon Secada.

What's the biggest experience you've had with DM over the years?

- Playing on stage with them and getting a new van.

What is your favourite DM album and why?

- "Violator" and "S.O.F.A.D.". They are the most accomplished, also I was involved in co-ordinating both of these albums.

Did you enjoy co-producing the S.O.F.A.D. album and what was involved in such a task?

- Yeh, sure, sure. I enjoyed it. Tasks involved making sandwiches for Flood!

Before you started to work with DM, were you a fan?

- I've worked for them since they were "Composition Of Sound".

In general, what do you think of the DM fans?

- I'm intrigued by their obsessiveness, and moved by their passion.

You can see all the changes of he audience, so is there a big difference between the crowd in 1980/81 and 1994?

- Yes, 1994 audience was much bigger.

What is your favourite DM song?

- Black Celebration.

Are you often or ever recognised by fans in the streets?

- Never.

ask daryl

Which of the DM members have you known longest?

- Fletch, then Martin, then Dave, then Alan.

Which of the DM members are you closest to?

- I've just spoken to Dave on the phone, so at the moment it's him.

Have you ever played in a band?

- Never (except DM).

What musical instrument can you play?

- Keyboards (a bit).

Why do you think they picked you as a 'fill-in' for Andy?

- Because I'm 'part of the gang'.

What responsibilities does your job include?

- Taking care of business.

What football team do you support?

- Manchester United.

Wouldn't you like to work for The Cure as your brother Perry is a member of the band?

- If would be a privilege to serve under him.

What country and city do you like the most (visited)?

- Barcelona, New York, Milan and Cape Town.

What foreign languages do you speak?

- Basildonian.

What is the best practical joke you have played on the band?

- I wouldn't dare.

Who has been your favourite support band for DM over the years?

- Book Of Love.

What other jobs have you ever had?

- None.

What is the worst thing about working with DM? Cos I once spotted you behind the stage at Wembley, during the concert. Dave was standing on the top level, back to audience and you gobbled at each other!

- There are some bad points, being gobbled at is one of the good points.



When the band is not touring what are your day to day duties?

- Office bound.

What DM song begins 'And'?

- Told You So.

Have you got any nicknames?

'Monty Bamonte' - Alan

'DAZ' - Dave

'D' - Bobby Gillespie.

Did you ever sweat on stage - even though you're a keyboard player?

- Only my hands (nerves).

Do you think you & your brother could arrange some kind of co-operation between Depeche Mode and The Cure?

- If DM and The Cure ever wanted to 'co-operate', I'm sure they'd be capable of arranging it themselves.

Would you consider making a solo album now that the Devotional Tour is over?

- What, as opposed to all my well known non-solo albums?

Which DM track did you enjoy playing the most?

- "Enjoy The Silence", because it was an encore, and I could relax (a lot). It's also an enjoyable song to actually play.

Will you be replacing Andy for the rest of the DM career?

- I did not replace Andy in DM. I merely stood in for him for the remainder of the tour.

Would you go to a Depeche Mode Convention if you had a time?

- I went to a couple of conventions a few years ago.

Are you DM's best soccer player?

- I am definitely DM's best soccer player, although this is not difficult to maintain.

Do you find it hard to live with the fact that Holland stopped England from going to the World Cup?

- My torment is marginally eased by the fact that England actually won the World Cup in 1966, whereas Holland have never won the World Cup.

Who took over your job backstage when you were on stage?

- A great man called Alan Sullivan.

How did Andy tell everyone he wasn't going to finish the tour?

- He had a private meeting with the band.

How are you coping with fame?

- I'm not famous.

Now you've had a taste of fame. Do you think you'll form your own band?

- No, my 'taste of fame' has satisfied my craving.

When did you learn to play keyboards?

- During 10 days rehearsal with Alan in Hawaii.

If you were a passenger in a demolition derby stock car race who would you most want and least want (out of the band) to be your driver?

- Most want: Anyone but Martin. Least want: Martin.

What is the most important thing you have ever forgotten to do at work?

- Get out of bed, be efficient, smile, be polite etc.

What do you consider are the best and worst aspects of touring with the band?

- Best: You live in a fantasy world. Worst: You live in a fantasy world.

Have you ever been called up for a jury service?

- No.

What has happened to the DM football team?

- You can't play forever, you know.

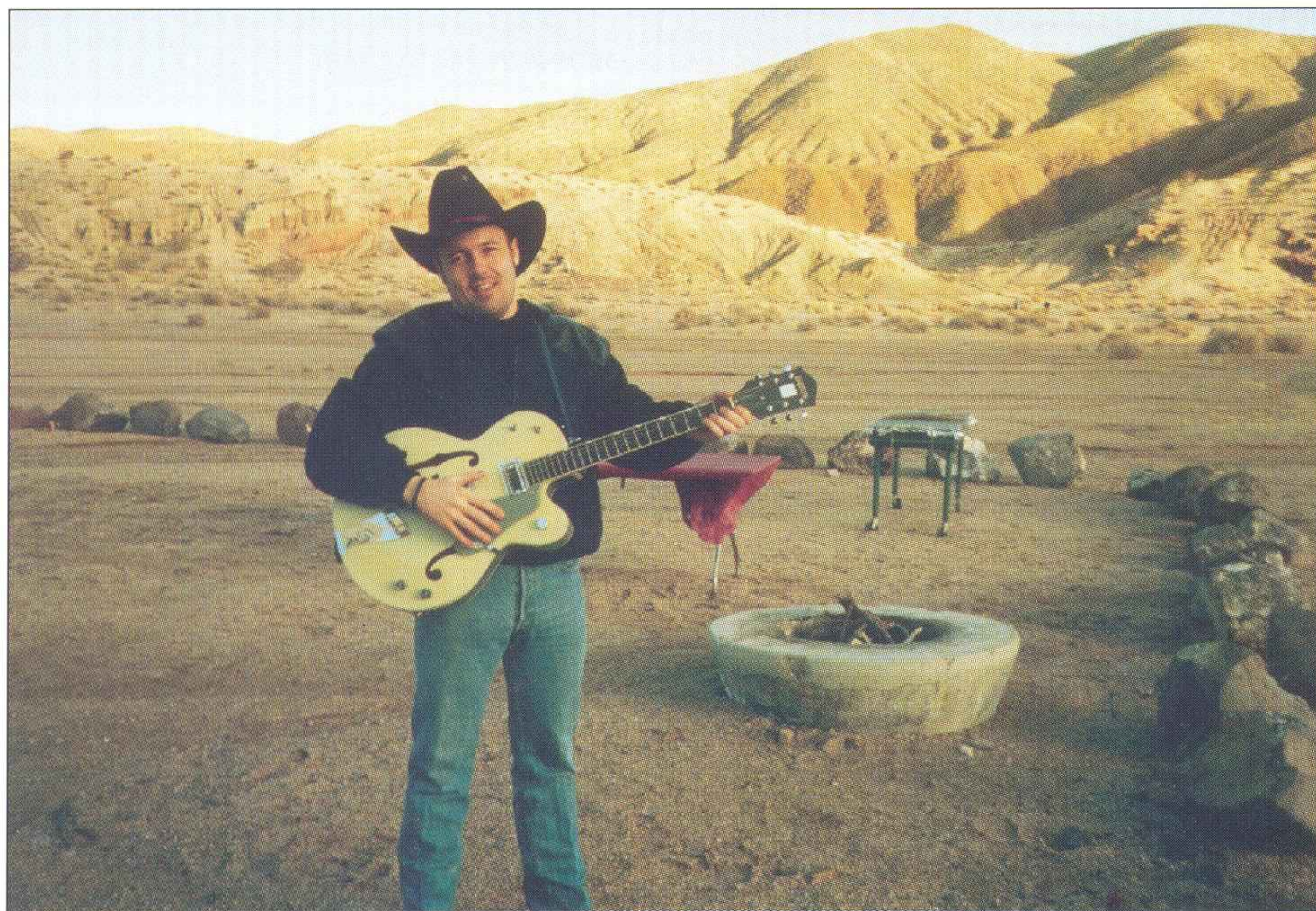
Were you at The Warehouse record store in 1990 when it all 'went off' - was it scary or was it exaggerated by news reporters?

- Yes, I was there. No, it wasn't scary, just a bit 'edgy'. The scale of the whole thing was not exaggerated. The misleading reports were that fans rioted. Actually they did nothing of the sort. There were just too many people in too small an area.

Now that you've been a member of Mode, will you stay clear of conventions like the others?

- I haven't been to one for a few years anyway, but I'd like to go to one again.

Questions by Stephanie Cruche-France, Gunar Vykus-Germany, Anja Kohlert-Germany, Andreas Trozowski-Germany, Andrea Krauss-Germany, Philippe-France, Agnieszka Baranoliska-Poland, Thomas Franken-Germany, Gavin Rose-England and others.



Los Angeles, 1993

devotional diary II.

This is the second part of Daryl's personal diary from the Devotional Tour. We hope you are going to enjoy reading it as much as you did the first part we printed in Bong 22. What other way would you get so close to the band on tour anyway???

September 6th, QUEBEC: Did a rehearsal tonight and we have the opening night of the North American tour tomorrow night. The hotel sent us a memo today (in French). Kessler translated it. It basically said that all the power in the hotel would be cut between midnight and 5am due to work being carried out. Couldn't they have let us know when we booked the rooms three weeks ago? The memo also said that extra "staff" would be provided to "assist" guests to their rooms in the darkness. What this should have said was: "Several large, fat, ugly, stupid off-duty policemen will shine industrial strength flashlights in your face whilst hurling obscenities at you in French, therefore implying that you have no right to be in the hotel and so giving them every right to deny you access to the rooms that you have paid a lot of money for." Signed The Management. As you can imagine, a melee ensued, and Dave bumped into one of them. I'm sitting writing this in the waiting room of the local nick as Kessler tries to get Dave and Darrell Ives (Head of Security) out on bail. One of the band is in jail and we haven't even done a gig yet!

September 7th, QUEBEC: Went to court with Dave today. All charges were dropped. We were so happy we bought ice lollies on the way out of the courthouse and appeared on the front cover of the local newspaper eating them. You've gotta laugh, ain't ya? Dave did a very good show tonight, considering he had done some bird bang to rights.

September 8th, MONTREAL: Me, Alan and Joel (security) went to a bar to see England play Poland in a World Cup qualifier. England were superb and we easily won 3-0. Look's like we're on our way to USA 94! We couldn't drink too much as there's a show tonight, but we'll more than make up for it afterwards.

September 10th, BOSTON: Did a show in a strange little town called WORCESTER, then drove back to BOSTON, home town of Tom Wilson, our drum technician. He was our "guide" for the night. Why do people, when on their home turf, keep apologising,

and putting their arm around you, and asking if you are having a good time?

September 13th, WASHINGTON D.C.: Saw an amazing sight today. Me, Martin and Darrell Ives were in a cab on our way back to the hotel from the video shop when we were held up at a stop sign for a full five minutes as a convoy of about fifty limos, police cars, armed jeeps and other vehicles, flanked by police motorcycle out-riders, rushed by, sirens blaring. The reason? Yasser Arafat, PLO leader was in town and on his way to The White House for his historic meet'n'greet with Clinton and Rabin. We tried to get a glimpse as his car went past, but saw nothing, except a red and white tea-towel...

September 17th, PITTSBURGH: Don't like it here. Decided to liven up the club we were in by taking off my clothes and putting on a girls dress. Martin, not to be outdone, did the same but missed out the bit about the girls dress. Mr. Gahan was on hand with his camera, but the film has mysteriously disappeared. Said a prayer to God tonight: „Please don't make me come here again.“

September 26th, NEW YORK CITY: Feel a bit rough today. We've had a few late nights recently. I was sitting in Alan's room earlier waiting for him to have his hair cut before we went to the cinema. A Woody Allen film, "Manhattan murder mystery", funnily enough. I was staring out of the window at the "Manhattan skyline", trying to recount how many songs had that title, when I saw another of those "amazing sights". A motorcade of black sudans stretching the whole length of Madison Avenue. Alan thought I was exaggerating, until 15 minutes later as we tried to cross the road to enter the cinema as the motorcade drove past at high speed. A full 15 minutes we stood on the kerb-side and missed the start of the film. Who was in town? The President? Almost. Hilary was giving a lecture. (Probably on how to run the country without being President).

September 27th, HAMPTON: Left New York after 8 days. Everybody seems to love it there. Flew to a place called HAMPTON, Virginia and had to land in a hurricane. This is not something taht I recommend. It is not funny. It is not big and it is not clever. Our little 16-seat airplane was tossed around like a crouton in a caesars salad. We couldn't land in Virginia or North Carolina

because of the hurricane and we didn't have enough fuel to get to Atlanta. Martin and I initially tried to keep spirits up by singing Buddy Holly and Patsy Cline songs, but then something scary happened - the co-pilot and stewardess started WHISPERING. What did they know that we didn't? The thunder and lightning intensified as the engines roared louder and the jokes stopped. Then it got really scary. All of a sudden, as we passed through a cloud, everything went QUIET. The thunder stopped, the engines purred and we just seemed to drift through the air as the clouds turned into a pink mist, and for the first time in my life I really thought I was going to perish. Then BANG! The turbulence re-started, the prayers re-started (Dave clutching a crucifix!) and our pilots somehow managed to get us down in one piece. However, after spending a night in a hotel in HAMPTON, we decided that the plane had crashed, we had all died and were now in hell.

September 28th, CHAPEL HILL: I keep seeing this strange name at the top of the rooming list. Grant Abramson...mmm...Grant...Abramson...No sorry, you've got me there.

September 30th, ATLANTA: Had lunch with Grant Abramson today. I was telling him how today was the anniversary of James Dean's death and would have been Marc Bolan's birthday had he still been alive. He then launched into this long, complex monologue about my obvious obsession with death, coupled with a fascination with calendar dates, therefore indicating a deep-rooted childhood desire to die on my birthday. I'd still like to know what he's actually doing on this tour.

October 6th, NEW ORLEANS: Three weeks to go to my thirtieth birthday, I hope Grant Abramson was lying. Discovered a new drink in NEW ORLEANS tonight. It's called a hurricane: a plastic 1 litre beaker filled with pink rocket fuel. I managed to break "The cats meow" house record by drinking seven, but I wasn't capable of walking the three yards to collect my free T-shirt so I was disqualified. Fletch actually drank 8 hurricanes, but was also disqualified for doing it in less than an hour. "But I like to get home early", he protested.

October 14th, DALLAS: Depeche Mode do not have a manager, therefore we have a group of people on this tour called "The Committee", who have meetings to discuss various points of the tour. "The Committee" comprises of Kessler (the manager, if you ask me), JD, Franksy, Tour Manager Ivan Kushlick, Tour Accountant Derek Rauchenberger and Myself. A committee meeting occurred today in Dallas, and guess who was there? That man, Grant Abramson! I was going to tell him that this is the city where JFK was shot, but I wasn't in the mood for his response. (It's my birthday in THIRTEEN days remember...).

October 15th, AUSTIN: We went to a good club tonight, and I witnessed two things I never thought I'd ever see. A man picked a fight with Darrell Ives (ouch!), and Fletch had to be carried home. Every day my eyes are opened a little wider.

October 21st, DETROIT: Went to see The Detroit Red Wings beat someone else at ice hockey. A fantastic atmosphere. It's amazing how the Americans can have a sport where the players beat the shit out of each other, and yet the crowd remain jovial and even bring their kids along. THAT'S how you maintain sell-out crowds. Premiership clubs take note.

October 23rd, DETROIT: A Saturday night in Detroit, just did two great shows here (Friday and Saturday) and it's our security company's home town so we've been to the best clubs and been very well looked after etc. Then during a room party afterwards, David Gahan, the most accident-prone man in the world, did something that a billion people do every day - he opened a bottle of beer. Except Dave somehow managed to cut his finger off as well.

October 26th, CLEVELAND: Good evening Cleveland! Travelled aftershow to Chicago. Travelled to the airport in Alan's car and he gave me the ultimate gift - a Manchester United away shirt. On the plane at midnight I was given a huge cake, champagne etc. and Dave gave me a gift that matched Alan's for ultimateness - The Barry Manilow box set collection! I'm in heaven. I got to my room and Ivan had decorated it with streamers and put in ANOTHER cake (and he put me in a huge suite - God bless him). Me, Martin and Denise (Kessler's assistant) are now on our way out for a quiet drink, as a build up to the big day tomorrow.

October 28th, CHICAGO: I'm gutted. I missed my birthday. Most people get presents. I get punishment. Locked in my room for 36 hours with only "Mad Marty" as company. As usual, I made the most of it, but by the time I surfaced, it was already the 28th, and I had missed the whole day. Never mind, at least Grant Abramson got it wrong and I didn't die (apparently I had a good go, if Flood is to be believed). Anyway, I've got my surprise party tonight. (Oops!)

October 31st, MINNEAPOLIS: Was that our wardrobe girls on those brooms?

November 1st, CHICAGO: The band is shooting a video on location, starting promptly this morning. Or in the immortal words of JD Fanger: "You will be taken into the woods at 11.00am and shot immediately!"

November 2nd, DENVER: Poor old Martin L. Gore. I've just seen him dragged out of his room dressed in nothing but a pair of silk boxer shorts and a pair of huge handcuffs. Two huge female police officers burst into his room and arrested him for 'making too much noise'. The funny thing was, we had turned his stereo off, after a few complaints. The source of offending volume? Martin's infamous loud voice. "Can I just say one more thing!?!..."

November 4th, SALT LAKE CITY: The Osmonds home town. Need I say more?



November 6th, VANCOUVER: Showed my diaries to leading critic (well, mine at least) Mr Andrew Fletcher. He says the diary in America has become too serious, and needs more humour, like the European one. I'd better think of some jokes.

November 7th, SEATTLE: "There was this band from Basildon..."

November 12th, SAN JOSE: THE THE have asked me to do a song on stage with them in Las Vegas. It's my version of "Slow Emotion Replay". A sort of Mike Reid meets Matt Johnson kind of affair. I can't wait.

November 19th, LOS ANGELES: Tonight I met up with Anton Corbijn, a gentleman and a scholar. The four of us had drinks and then went out to dinner.

November 20th, LOS ANGELES: We start a run of five shows at The Forum tonight and everybody is excited. Alan is scratching himself at the moment. He claims he's got an itchy kravitz.

November 21st, LOS ANGELES: Backstage was chaos last night. Worse than Crystal Palace. Backstage co-ordinator Carol Gra-ham and I were pulling our hair out (as opposed to each others, which has happened in the past).



Photo by Anton Corbijn

November 25th, LOS ANGELES: We had a superb party at Trader Vics last night, courtesy of Bamonte/Kessler Productions. It was a bigger success than our sight-seeing tour of Lisbon (or sound-hearing tour, in Jon Lemon's case). Experienced a true American Thanksgiving tonight, courtesy of Dave and Theresa. Loads of turkey and beer and people wishing each other well. All it needed was a Bond film and I could have believed it was Christmas.

November 26th, LOS ANGELES: We've finished our five night run at The Forum. I'm exhausted. We should get an early-ish night tonight. Las Vegas tomorrow!

November 27th, LAS VEGAS: Kessler phoned and told me the Vegas show is cancelled. Dave's voice is shot to bits, and he's got flu to boot. Bummer. I've never been there, and I was supposed to do my gig with THE THE. Life seems like one disappointment after another at the moment. Fletch just rang. He says the plane is still going to Vegas and do I want to jump in with him and Grainne. Oh superb! A night off in Vegas with a pocketful of greenbacks!

November 28th, LOS ANGELES: "Oh what a night!" I forgot to go to bed last night. Las Vegas IS superb. 24 hours of sheer heaven (and I'm 400 bucks up). I'm going to buy a crucifix in Mexico with the money.

December 3rd, MEXICO CITY: We have just done two amazing shows here. "The crowd were amazing, up there with the best. The shows were stunning", so says JD Fanger. It's a shame then that Mexico City is about a thousand miles above sea level and has the worst traffic pollution in the world. I was out of breath walking across the room, Dave had to run around on stage for two hours....

December 11th, DUBLIN: Four months of sheer madness touring North America and now I'm sitting in

a hotel room in Dublin with my girlfriend, Alison, blowing up balloons for our son's 1st Birthday party. She keeps asking me what planet I'm on, and I keep asking HER what planet I'm on.

December 14th, BIRMINGHAM: Back in England again. How strange.

December 20th, LONDON: Played Wembley tonight. A very good show, but you guessed it - backstage was chaos. We had a good party at The Regent afterwards. So what now - a long rest...NOT! I move house tomorrow, then it's Christmas, then it's time to start all over again....

To be continued...

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GUTEN ABEND,
DEUTSCHLAND!

Text and photos by Michaela Olexova



Still not over the excitement of the last Depeche Mode Fan Club Convention which took place last June in London's Limelight Club, yet there was another Fan Club Convention to come. But this time all the chaos with organizing such an event was left on the shoulders of the 'Devotee' club in Jena and Indie Tours operating from Berlin. One less thing to worry about and it worked out very well in the end. So after a couple of months of hard work (many thanks Peter, Connie, Kay and the others involved), countless phone calls and faxes, Paul Green who's been the DJ at various Bong conventions since I can remember was also invited to do the same in Jena and with me carrying all the prizes and promotional stuff from our office we set out on our way to a foreign land...

The date was set for November 19, 1994 and the place was the Kulturzentrum ('culture centre' for those who don't speak German!) 'Lobeda' in Jena, Germany. If you were not there you should be sorry you missed it because it turned out to be a brilliant night, not to mention successful as well.

The doors were opened with a small delay thanks to a late soundcheck so our apology to all the fans who stood in line in the rain and waited patiently to be let in. Before the convention began at 9.30pm, the fans had had plenty of time to browse around all the stands that were set up in the

foyer, giving them the opportunity to purchase and add even more DM merchandise missing from their collections as there was a limited number of BONG T-shirts made especially for this occasion. Also there was a chance to sign yourself up for one of the 'musical' trips organized by Indie Tours who have in the past managed to bring quite a few fans to several DM gigs in Europe. 'Strange Promotion', a merchandise company had the official merchandise from the American leg of the Devotional Tour on offer and merchandise available only at the Crystal Palace gig. The stuff was sold out within minutes. For fans of industrial music, the guys from the mail order service called 'Grazy Horse' were ready to show them what they had in store. 'The Fan Association' based in Germany made sure that every fan had a leaflet with information about their latest activities (find out more on page 8). Last but not least, I should mention the presence of the radio station 'MDR Sputnik' which is transmitted via Astra satellite system and was promoting the DM convention on their programme. Also coverage on DM fans was scheduled for broadcasting the following Monday.

At 9.30pm, we finally said hello to over two thousands fans who came to Jena from all over

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Germany, France, Italy and Greece. After the welcoming speech the endless night began...

The venue itself was a great choice because those who didn't want to spend the entire evening listening to Depeche Mode music in the main hall could change the frequency and enter an adjoining room where industrial music was played, but I am pleased to say that this room was almost empty every time I popped in.

The atmosphere was warming up minute by minute and reached boiling point at 11.30 when the local band, called 'On Friday', went on stage to play a half hour set. Although their native language is German and the songs were sung in English, they didn't lose any contact with the audience where a few fans could be spotted singing along and even jumping on stage to do a bit of dancing with the singer. After this concert, there was much more DM music to be played and plenty of time to meet new people and talk to the fans.

The first competition, a 'Dave look-and-dance-a-like', was held at 1.00 am. Around eight 'Daves' entered and each of them had to perform on stage one DM song of their choice. The three best contestants were chosen by the audience. The winner was Matthias Bräuer from Rostock, Germany who performed "Rush" and won one of Alan's drumsticks and a bag full of DM goodies.

Matthias: "I felt really nervous on stage at first but as soon as I heard the response from the audience I began to enjoy myself."

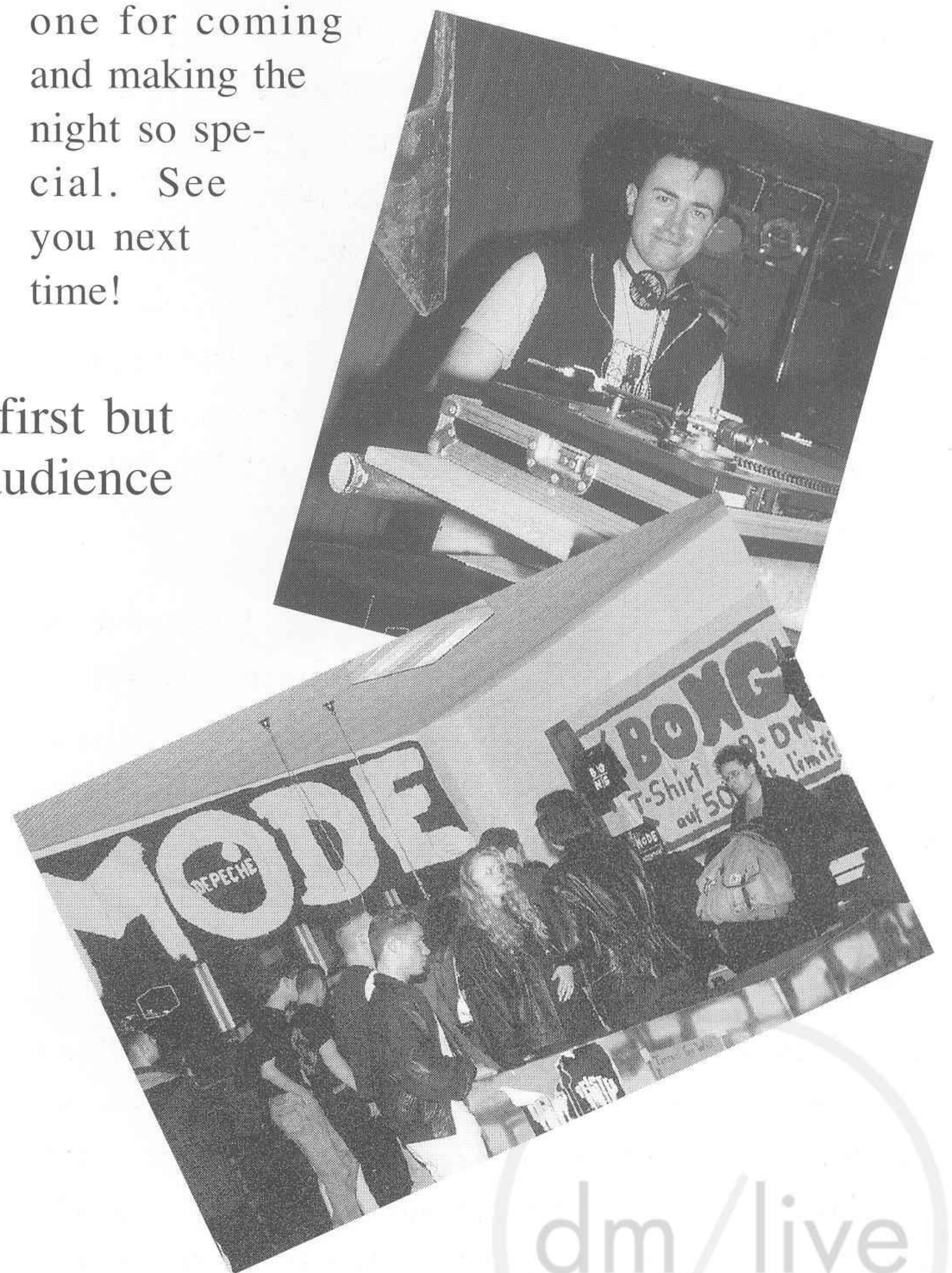
Eighteen year old Lars Krantz from Jena, Germany became the second Dave look-a-like with the song "Never Let Me Down Again". He won a white label of "S.O.F.A.D.", a T-shirt and some other things. He told us he felt like one of the band. It was like the others were standing behind him and that he had to give the best performance. Third in this competition came Gunar Vykus from Schönebeck, Germany whose choice of music was "A Question of Time". His prize included a "Violator" picture disk, a T-shirt and a few more items.

Gunar: "I am having a great time and love the idea of conventions when all the fans get together for one common reason."

After giving the fans another two hours of DM music and a chance to move their bodies, a ticket draw was organized at 3.00am. Ten plastic bags packed with special prizes and DM merchandise were brought on stage and the tickets of the lucky people were picked in random. The top three prizes consisting of a plectrum signed by Martin, a signed song list from the US tour from Alan, a copy of a "Violator" album signed by the whole band, were won by Stefan Helmert from Pausa, Bela Olah from Jena and Dirk Menzel from Penig.

The excitement from the ticket draw was followed by more music and dancing up to 5.00am when the fans started to leave the venue either due to exhaustion or travel arrangements. And so we felt it was time to say 'good-bye'.

Thanks to everyone for coming and making the night so special. See you next time!



dm/live

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R

1. Songs For The Faithful And Devoted

A beautiful ballad titled "Death's Door" was the first song to be heard after a few months of silence. The track wasn't meant to be released as a new single but was in fact the band's contribution to the Wim Wender's film, "Until The End Of The World". Nevertheless, the song was featured on the soundtrack and also a special flexi-disc featuring "Death's Door" (Jazz Mix) was available from the official Fan Club as a give-away at the time.

U

Just prior to the release of their new album, the band members appeared at a listening party at the club 'Ministry of Sound' in London, on March 12, 1993 to launch their LP "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" and also to meet their fans and to take part in an interview that was broadcast world-wide by satellite.

S

With the global release of "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" on March 23, 1993, Gahan's best performance could be heard all over the world. With tracks like "Judas" and "One Caress" of which Martin sings, the band continued to prove that they could craft music of any style. Other numbers like "Walking In My Shoes" and "Rush" immediately became the favourites among their fans. Once again, they proved that they could reach new heights and musical wizardry with each passing album. As "Violator" was a dramatic change from "Music For The Masses", so was "Songs Of Faith And Devotion". This was especially evident in the way in which they used more guitar and added the surprising use of orchestrated ensembles on a few of their tracks, most notably "One Caress" which included strings. Depeche Mode had never before used independent extras and outside musicians. Until now...

H

Just within a week after its release, "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" had reached # 1 in many countries including the U.K., U.S.A., Italy, Germany and France to name just a few. It also reached the Top 10 in other countries around world.

I

With that momentum, the band set out on its boldest world tour yet. An extensive 18 month world-wide tour was planned which would take them across the globe twice and playing to a total number of over 2 million devotees by the tour's end. That number is equal to the band playing 30 performances just like at the Rose Bowl "101" performance.

N

The first stage was ingeniously titled, "Devotional" and played to audiences throughout Europe and North America. The second instalment titled, The "Exotic" Tour, which began in early 1994, brought the crew to far off places like Australia, Singapore and South America. Returning to the United States in 1994, the tour was simply titled "USA '94" Tour and they closed out their extensive ventures with a bang.

G

Composition by Bryan Do

4. Walking In Mode's Shoes

F

The second single from the album, "Walking In My Shoes" was released on April 26 as the band was just under way into their tour. The single climbed to # 1 in Czechoslovakia where DM fans are a stronghold. Some of the track's outstanding lyrics are seen here: "I'm not looking for a clearer conscience/Peace of mind after what I've been through/And before we talk of any repentance/Try walking in my shoes/Try walking in my shoes/You'll stumble in my footsteps/Keep the same appointments I kept/If you try walking in my shoes".

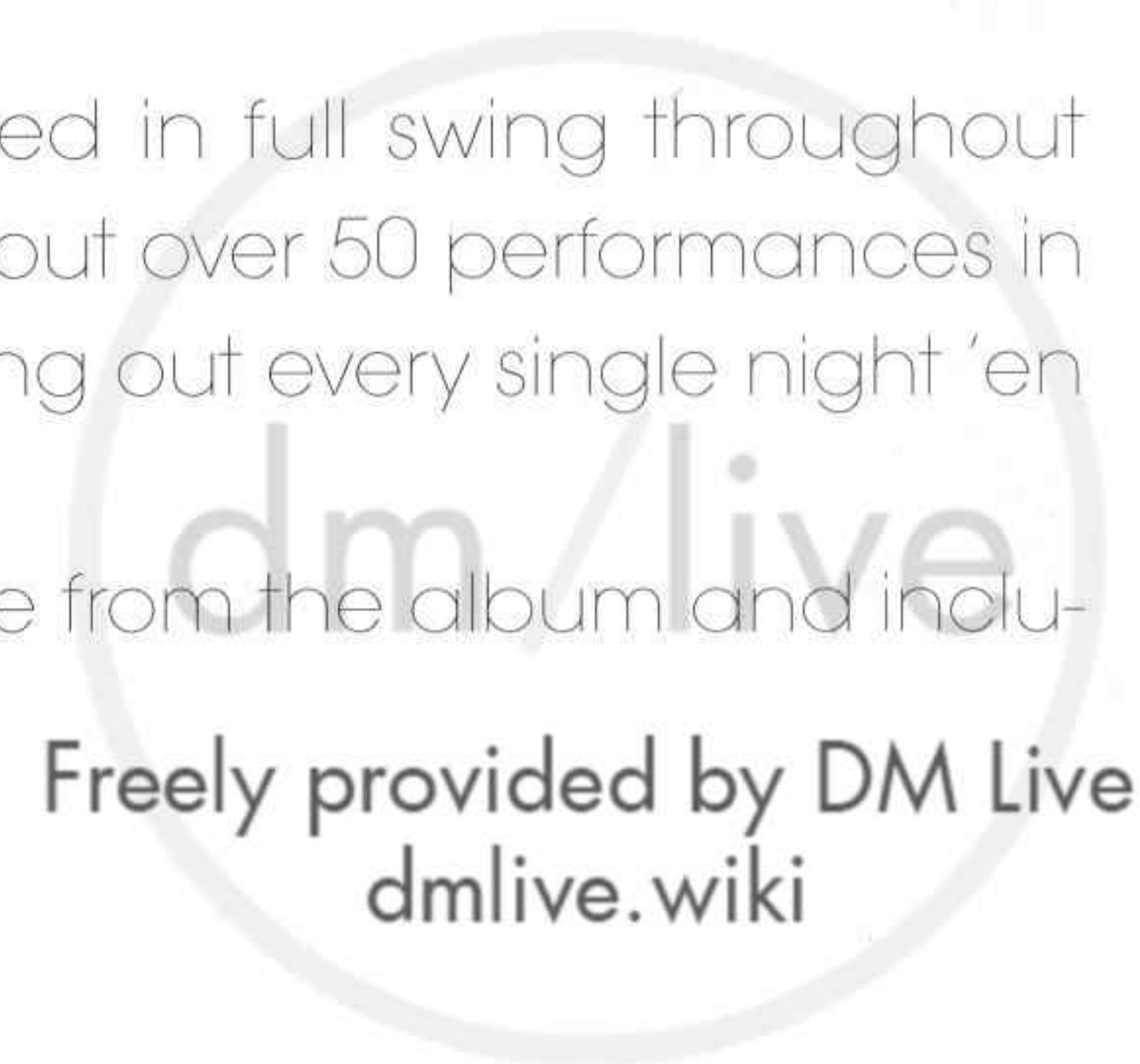
D

The tour started on May 19th 1993 in Lille, France and continued in full swing throughout Europe and then headed for North America where the band played out over 50 performances in less than 3 months. The band swept through the continent nearly selling out every single night 'en route' to a five night finale at L.A.'s Forum in Inglewood, California.

R

"Condemnation", released on 13th September, was the third single from the album and inclu-

16



D

ded a version of the haunting ballad "Death's Door". The CD also featured remixes of "Rush", which had become a crowd pleaser in their concert performances and the single made it to No. 9 in the UK Chart.

E

Anton Corbijn, the band's visual director, had compiled "Devotional", a concert film taken from selected shows in Lieven, Barcelona and Budapest. The video captures Depeche Mode at their finest during the Devotional Tour and was released in December, 1993 as the band then toured Mexico and returned to England for a mini second leg tour at selected venues in Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield and London. It would be but only a few weeks rest that the band would be off again. This time to South Africa playing five nights in Johannesburg, then onward to Singapore, Australia and South America.

D

E

Much of the new excitement from the tour stemmed from the expanded roles of Martin in full swing with his guitar playing and Alan pounding away on the drums. This gave new direction to some of their old classics such as "I Want You Now" or "A Question Of Time", which was the encore track to the USA'94 Tour performances. The uplifting tour from Devotional also spawned the release of a live version of "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" which pieced together the tracks from the studio album in the same order, but taken from live performances from the first leg of the tour. Compare the two albums and it is clear how far the band has come since their last concert experience.

C

H

E

The final instalment from "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" was the release of the fourth and final single "In Your Room" (January 10). Mute Records had ingeniously packaged the single in a 3 CD gatefold that folded out into a cross and featuring a painted picture depicting Dave Gahan.

M

O

D

E

The SOFAD era has ended, with the last tour performance on July 8 in Indianapolis, USA. But rest assured, there will surely be lots more to see as we venture into the next era and see what Depeche Mode surprises us with next time. Until then, 'enjoy the silence'...

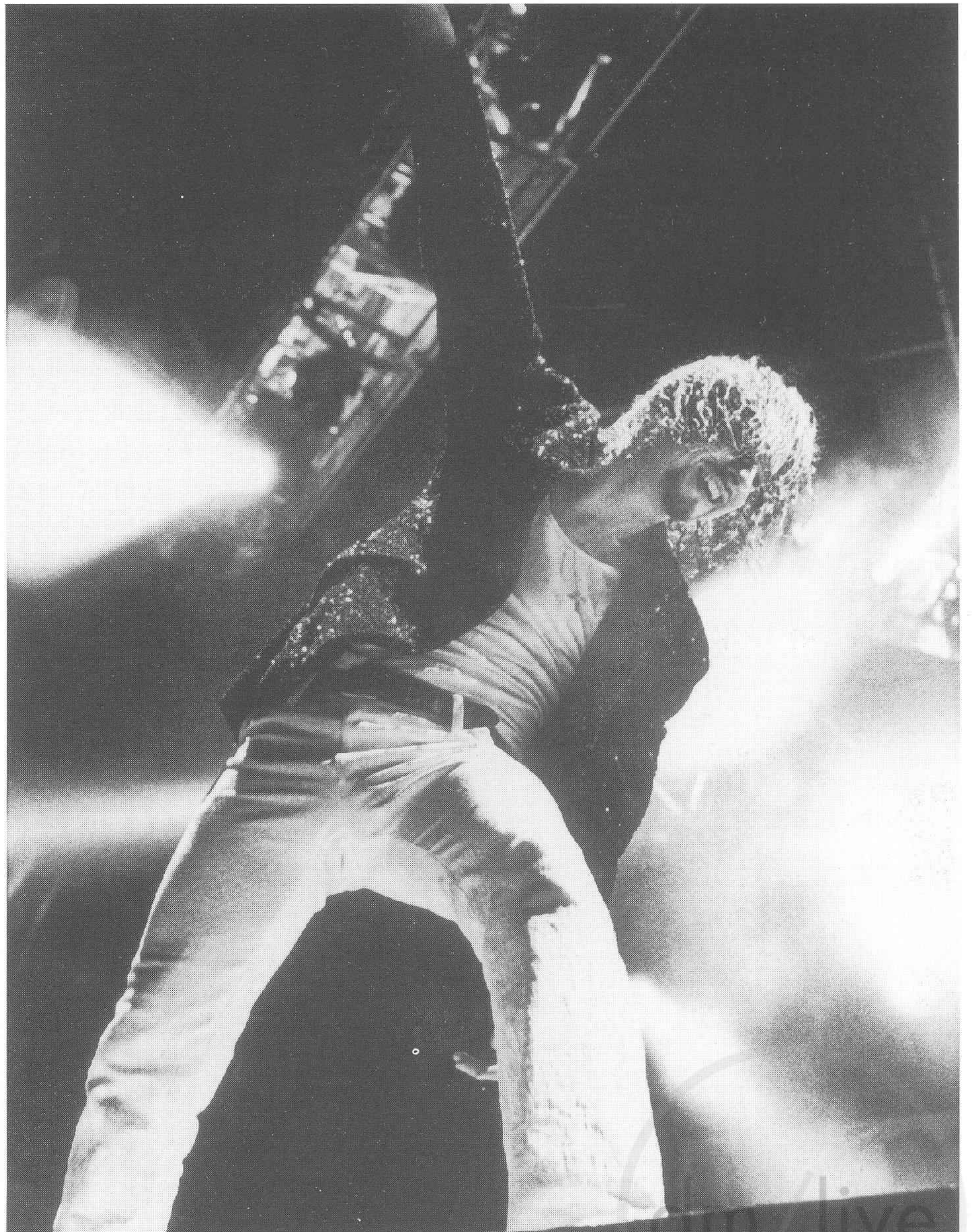


Photo by Anton Corbijn

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 organized we'd like to hear about it. Please, send us all the details to the BONG address.

Devotional Fan Club
C/Taxonera No. 9, 2nd Floor
Ferrol 15403 - La Coruna
Spain

Depeche Mode Friends
P.O. Box 239
160 41 Praha 6
The Czech Republic

Long Play
P.O. Box 18
109 147 Moscow
Russia

Kaleid
Ezermals Str. 2/1-29
Riga LV-1037
Latvia

workHard
apdo. correos 12.283
46020 Valencia
Spain

Rush
Crabethstraat 15
2801 AL Gouda
The Netherlands

Sacred
Apartado 217
8903 V.R.
St. Antonio Codex
Portugal

Prodigy
John E. Roberts
159 82 Darby Court
Fraser Michigan
48026-2748
USA

DM FC
Budapest
Petäfi Csarnok
1146 Zichy M.U. 14
Hungary

DM Club
Linda Andreasson
Norrskensq. 21
37151 Karlskrona
Sweden

DM FC
Stephanie Fagel
311, rue Montgolfier
59100 Roubaix
France

The Peterborough "Devotees" are having a convention in March and everyone is invited. If you're interested, please write to: Tony Lewis, 3 Marne Avenue, Walton, Peterborough PE4 6A5, England.

DM Club
ul. Stefana Batorego 88 m. 13
41506 Chazow Batory
woj. Katowickie
Poland

A la Mode
20 St. Patrick St. Suite #719
Toronto
Ontario M5T 2Y4
Canada

Faith FC
P.O. Box 25281
East Rand
Withfield 1462
South Africa

Strange
Beata Mezya
ul. Utariska 10/6
60748 Poznan
Poland

HYSTERIKA
dM info service
P.O. Box 4296
10210 Athens
Greece

The Czech FC „Depeche Mode Friends” would like to invite all DM fans to a fan club convention held on March 11, 1995 at a club 'Belmondo' from 6pm until 5am. For more information, write to: Petra Blazkova, Promvova 1376, 149 00 Praha 4, Czech Republic.

There will be a Depeche Mode party organized by the Spanish "workHard" FC sometime in February '95 and you are all most welcome to attend. Should you require further information, please write to: workHard, p.o.box 12.283, Valencia 46020, Spain.

If you want to take part in a DM party that is going to be organized on March 11, 1995 in Boxmeer, Holland by the "Rush" FC, please write to this address: "Rush", Crabethstraat 15, 2801 AL Gouda, The Netherlands. Look forward to a night full of music and competitions with the original DM prizes! See you all there!



-In Our Eyes

To inform you about the activities of the fan clubs that exist all around the world and work locally for Depeche Mode fans in that particular area or country, we have decided to create a new page in Bong called 'In Our Eyes' which is open to every fan club who wants to share some of their experiences during their conventions or parties. We will

also welcome any photographs to go with your stories. All contributions should be sent to the usual Bong address. To give you an idea, here are the first ones we have received.

Please note, the official DM Fan Club BONG is not associated with the activities expressed below, doesn't take part in the events and therefore takes no responsibility.

workHard, Spain

Here's just a few lines to report on a DM convention held in Valencia on November 4, 1994. It was organized by a local fan club that in spite of the tight time between all the arrangements and the party itself managed to gather a pretty good crowd of devotees, some 300.

The convention run all night from 11pm till 5.30am. There was plenty of DM music, but also some Nitzer Ebb and more.

There was live music by a local techno band called 'Odysea' whose DM covers of "Black Celebration", "Enjoy The Silence" and "Photographic" were warmly acclaimed by the audience.

Fans also had the chance to go on stage to perform their favourite DM songs. Although there was no look-a-like competition, we all enjoyed the presence of our own 'Personal Dave', a guy called Luis Montoliu, who looked very much like Dave and who did a great job cheering and encouraging everybody to keep dancing and singing. The party was a great success as everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Marisol Diaz
Valencia, Spain

Rush, Holland

At first I thought there might not have been any DM parties in Holland before, but boy was I wrong. As I found out later on, there were quite a few parties before this, but this one happened to be my first.

It was held in Venray, a town near the German border, in a club called 'Dingus'. The party started at 8pm but long before that there were many fans waiting outside to get in. Some of them were very nervous as it was their first DM party ever and so they didn't have a slightest idea what to expect.

At 8 o'clock, we entered a nicely decorated dance hall with a few DM posters hanging around on the wall, burning candles, large video screen, bar etc. The place was covered in a complete darkness apart from the candlelight. But we got used to that after a while. But as soon as the music started to play, you were in the middle of the light show. The songs were a personal choice of our own DJ Richard who sometimes swapped his CD player for a video and showed us some of DM top videos.

The number of party visitors was more than our host had expected, mainly because of the late promotion, we only found out about this party thanks to another Dutch fans who had given us a flyer at the Bong convention last year in London.

So let's hope there will be some more parties and conventions like this one.

Gwen den Ouden
Gouda, Holland



Photo courtesy of "Rush"

Blasphemous Rumours

Considering the fact that not everyone can get hold of all the newspapers and magazines with DM interviews, reviews and gossip, we have created this section with the aim of bringing you some of the most interesting bits that were published on DM not just in the press but also on TV and radio. This should give you an idea of what was said or written about Depeche Mode worldwide and how popular the band is in that particular country.

So far we have managed to collect information from the press in most European countries and America, but if you would like to take part and help us make this section as colourful as possible, 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 and mark your envelope "Blasphemous Rumours". We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Violator

"Violator marked a move away from Depeche Mode's more adolescent infatuations, songwriter Martin Gore developing into a surprisingly subtle observer of emotional ruction without losing the gift for pop melodies which was largely responsible for their earlier success."

Q Magazine

Depeche Mode

"There's been a big change in each individual member of the group which I couldn't sum up in a few sentences but particularly over the last few years, I think. Since we've got to our thirties, certain aspects of our lives have become much more important to us. We had a significant break away from each other before we started making this record, and when we came back together you could really see the changes in us."

Alan Wilder

Devotional Tour - Laguna Hills

"Gahan may have had the devoted crowd in the palm of his hands, but when Martin Gore appeared front and center to sing lead on the spiritually uplifting 'Condemnation', as well as the enlightening 'Somebody', many of the female audience members were reduced to tears."

The Orange County Register, USA

Devotional Tour - Los Angeles

"The band's stance was healthy in two ways. The synthesizer emphasis showed a new generation of pop fans that rock doesn't have to rely only on the traditional guitar, drums and bass instrumentation, and the lyrics were certainly preferable to the recycled sex, drugs and rock'n'roll ones."

The LA Times, USA

S.O.F.A.D.

"...Dave Gahan, seemingly a man possessed, throws himself into thundering powerhouses 'I Feel You' and 'Walking In My Shoes' and pulls off a gospel heart-wrencher with 'Condemnation'. The slicing of this album's running theme of emotional torture and religious redemption would require recently sharpened cutlery."

Q Magazine

Editor's note: The reason we are printing these two reviews is because they were recently featured in Q Magazines' BEST 100 Albums since it's first publication back in 1986.

I Feel You

"I Feel You" has the Mode moving further away from slick Euro doom into a multi-layered heavy electro blues."

Gladstone Observer, Australia

Devotional Tour - Rotterdam

"Depeche Mode's show was beautifully designed by the internationally renowned Dutch pop-photographer Anton Corbijn. But, especially in the first part of their performance, the band members got lost in the scenery of a moving painting made out of lights and video-animation."

Het Algemeen Dagblad, Holland

S.O.F.A.D.

"I'd like to feel that this music will lift people and make them feel better in whatever they do. I'm just trying to push myself further."

Dave Gahan



Video making

"We hated making the videos from the very first one and it wasn't until we started working with Anton we actually started liking to make them. We always felt that we could never trust the directors 'cos you're totally in the director's hands, you've got no idea how it's looking when you're filming it, you basically don't see it until it's finished, and then by that time it's too late to change anything and it's got to go out. So for our first fifteen videos or whatever, we pretty much hated them. And now we've got into this sort of routine of working with Anton and he explains things to us and also because we have this trust in what he's doing, we know the end result is going to be quite good which makes it a lot more enjoyable to actually film."

Martin Gore

Devotional Tour - Manila

"Gahan stripped to his waist while the band played 'Stripped'. Like the Englishman before him, he gyrated ('oh', so sexily, said my friend), occasionally touching his crotch.

Ooooh.... what would the censors have said? Because that wasn't all. To the tune of 'Stripped' there rolled a video with a lot of breast and navel exposures. Thank God concerts are beyond the jurisdiction of the censors board. Or else, this one would have been raided clear out of FAT by the zealous guardians of morals."

Philippines Free Press, Philippines

Devotional Tour - Toronto

"As if to test the devotion and attention span of the crowd, slides and videos were utilized on several songs.

The main feature of 'In Your Room' was a slide of a giant lightbulb. The audience loved it. If contemplating your navel is a favored pastime, the band was there projecting a giant image of a belly-button for over five minutes on the number 'Stripped'. The audience loved it. This was a crowd that has loved 'everything' DM have done since their first recording in 1981, critics be damned. Depeche Mode are a pill, sure, and a pretty harmless one at that. What's so amazing is that after 13 years, they're a pill whose effect seems to last forever."

Toronto Sun, Canada

David Gahan

"He's more interested in that scene in LA than us. We're not that keen on most of the LA grunge bands ourselves. It's affected his performance and his look, and personally it's affected him and he listens to a lot of that music and he obviously tries to influence us in that direction as well and to a certain extent he has."

Andy Fletcher

Devotional Tour - Sydney

"Singer Dave Gahan does a more convincing impersonation of Michael Hutchence than Hutchence himself. Arriving on stage looking something like Gary Oldman in the Victorian scenes of Dracula, he preens, prances and slides about, geeing up the audience and his colleagues."

Herald Tribune

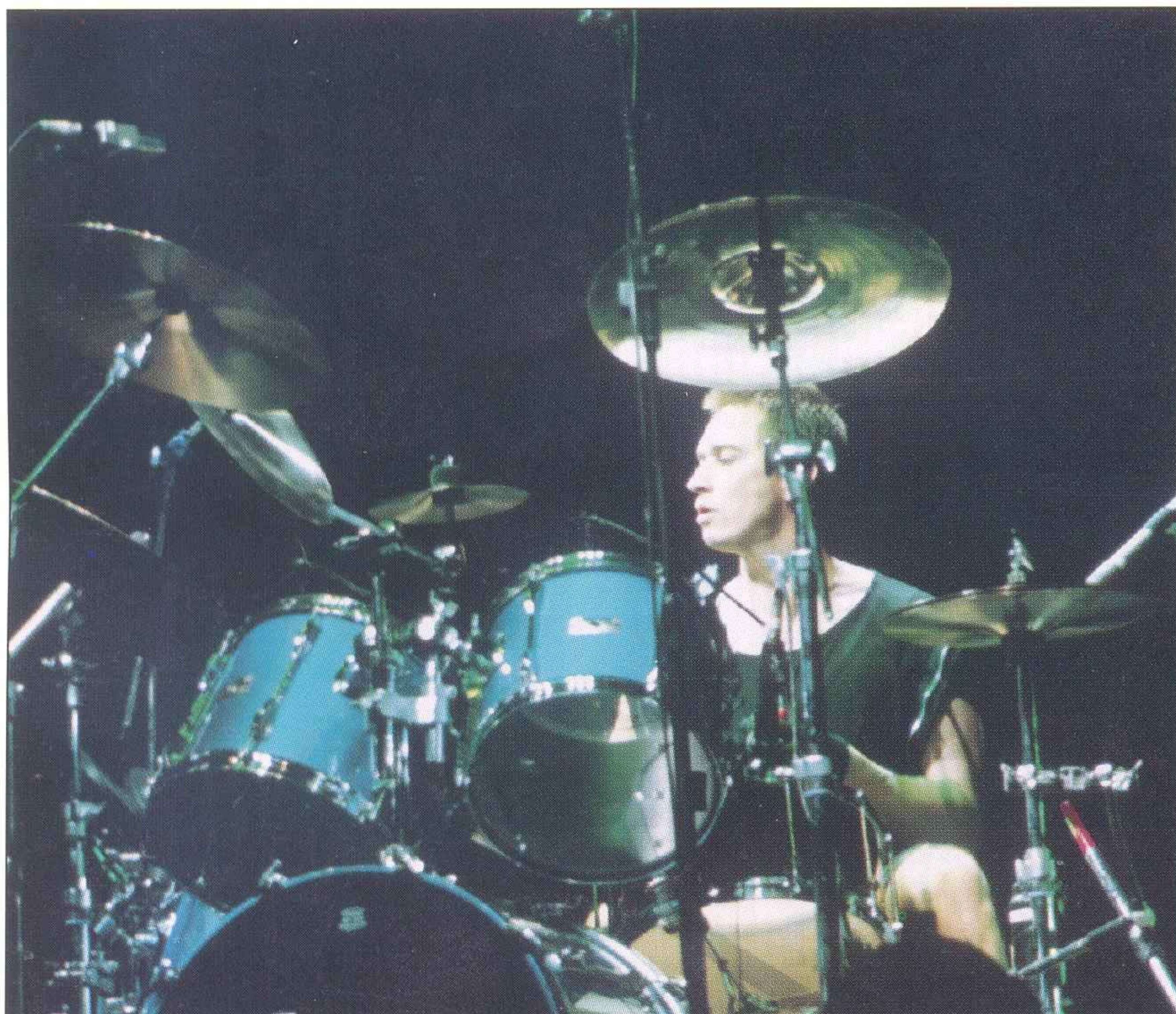


Photo by Michaela Olexova

Thanks to everyone who sent us a contribution for "Blasphemous Rumours". We look forward to some more information on DM from the press in your country.

Freely provided by DM live
dmlive.wiki



Competition Time Again

Well done to all those who entered the competition in BONG 22. Nobody got it wrong! We had so many replies we had to put them in sacks. Nevertheless, some people still had difficulty in finding a few hidden song titles even though they solved the puzzle and gave us the right answer. So for those of you who were not sure about their guesses, here is the completed crossword.

The three lucky winners we picked at random will receive some goodies from our office. They were: Janie Livingstone from England, Mark Elliott from USA and Diane Meyer from England. Congratulations!

In this issues competition you have to see how many words you can make out of "DEPECHE MODE". There MUST be at least two letters to make a word. To make it easy for everyone you can use any language but please don't mix two different languages together and let us know what language you are using (we know English, though). The person with the highest number of words will become a winner. So get your dictionaries ready! The closing date for entries is March 31. Please, mark your postcard or envelope "Competition Time Again." Good luck!

FLY
GNTRNG
PPLN
DTHSDR
SHM
TRTRTR
DNGRS
SCRD
STRSFLD
FTHHLR
LVNTSLF
SY
FYWNT
SFSN
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C	L	E	A	N							

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BONG 1992 (white on black)

BONG CAP (white on black)



Pen Pals

Alana Poazoni
Rua Prvolente
de Moraes 579
Apt. 302
22420-041
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

Hi! I'd like to correspond with DM fans. I'm 19 and I've been into Depeche Mode since I was 14. So if you wanna talk about life, love or lust just write to me.

Mario
27 Severn Street
Highfields
Leicester LE2 0NN
England

Here is a plea from a faithful and devoted Modehead to the neighbourhood, the country and the World. Whoever you are, whatever you do - reach out! Write to me (or E-Mail me). Let's talk life and Depeche. E-Mail-MMV @ cov.ac.UK.

Alina Szizyrbowska
ul. Bystrzanska 27d/2
43-309 Bielsko-Biala
Poland

'Once upon a time there was emptiness and it grew. And as it grew, it became more and more darker. And at last, one day.... One rainy day my letter box burst because there was a letter from you inside.' Whoever you are, wherever you live, write to me in Polish, English or Italian. I'm a 21 years old female from Poland and I can't get enough of letters in my letter box.

Aart Koopmans
Brinkstraat 18
7771 BE Hardenberg
The Netherlands

I'm a 21 years old boy. I've been a Mode fan for over 4 years. It almost has become a sickness, some strange kind of obsession. If you're as devoted as I am, write to me (especially the Dutch fans). You can write in English, German or Dutch.

Peter Regan
51 Granville Road
Vale Estate
Lancaster
Lancs LA1 2PE
England

A 20 year old rampant modie, I've been a devotee since "Violator".

Interests other than Depeche Mode are reading (especially Steven King and Graham Masterton) and drinking vast amounts of alcohol.

I am presently studying at Oxford so if you live near Oxford or Lancaster we could easily arrange to meet. Despite this, I will gratefully accept any letters from anyone. An interest in Nursing would be a bonus (that's what I'm doing a degree in!). See You!

Stephane Derisbourg
2-3 R. Adrien Meslier
93400 St-Ouen
France

Hello! I'm a 21 year old boy. I want to 'meet' fans who only listen to Depeche Mode, live for Depeche Mode, breath for Depeche Mode and so on. See You!

Jaroslav Prazenka
Sturova 12
900 21 Svaty Jur
Slovak Republic

You're dressed in black again and I'm falling down again. Down to the floor again. I'm begging for more again but oh let me see you stripped.... Hi, I'm 21 years old boy. I'm devoted and faithful to Depeche Mode. I'm interested in art, photography, books etc. I also like Art Of Noise, Sade, Front 242....

Kim Levens
438 Broadway
Thornton Cleveleys
Blackpool
Lancs FY5 1HH
England

I'm 18 and I've loved Depeche Mode for about twelve years now!!! I'd like to hear from any male Moders in the area of Preston and Blackpool. Other music tastes include U2, INXS, gothic and early eighties. Get writing to this blonde haired, blue eyed DM head - Dave Gahan look-a-likes will definitely not be ignored. All letters will receive a reply.

Adrian Reenan
6 Castle Park
Dundalk
Co. Louth
Republic of Ireland

Sexy female Depeche Mode fan (21) is seeking a male pen pal.

Drop me a line with prospect of a visit from me!

Erin Martin
5H Creekway
Columbus
GA 31907
USA

I'm a twenty year old female and to me Depeche has, is, and ever will be as much a part of me as the blood in my viens. Access to information etc. in limited in this forgotten corner of the earth. So write to me!!!

Paul Burns
56 Carrfield
Bamber Bridge
Preston
Lancs PR5 8BT
England

I'm a 25 year old 'lad' wanting to hear from any DM fans anywhere in the world, age or sex unimportant. Get writing and help me Shake The Disease of boredom. Replies guaranteed! Other interests include Kate Bush and early eighties music.

Anna Walburg
ul. Krasinskiego 3/7
99-300 Kutno
woj. Ptockie
Poland

I'm a 19 year old girl and a Depeche Mode fan for 7 years. I like their image and all their hits. I love Dave Gahan because he sings very beautifully and he is a good looking man. I'd like to correspond with a boy who loves DM. Please send me A Photograph Of You.

Yaniv Ben-Hamo
Balfur 40 street
Bat-Yam 59371
Israel

I'd like to correspond with other boys and girls. I'm twenty one yrs old and apart from Depeche Mode, I listen to Front 242, Front Line Assembly, Skinny Puppy, Sisters Of Mercy, Legendary Pink Dots and more.

CONTACTS

Dear Russell Bliss and Robert Vanstone, let's go out for a drink

sometime and chat all night about Mode! Give me a ring! Love and kisses, Anna Williams XXX

I'd like to get in touch again with these old friends: Chelo Romero, Daniel Karlsson, Fabrizio Pellegrini, Nicole Ciffolillo, Riccardo Radaelli and Elena Salgado. I know it's a long time since our last contact so in case you've lost my address: Analia Valeria Agnetti, Boulogne Sur Mer 837 3A, 1213, Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, Argentina. I'd also like to contact fans from Chile and Brazil.

Stephen Papaghikas from Athens! Where are you? Please, send me (give back) my videocassette! Thanks. Jaroslav Prazenka, Slovak Republic. Chris Plant from Stoke-on-Trent, UK! Thank you for everything you have done for me. Jaro P. (your Slovak friend).

Attention Germany!!! We met in Cincinnati in the pit and front row in Indianapolis. If you're not mad at me, please contact: S.A. Williams, 8110 BayBrook Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46256, USA.

To Dr. Feelgood & co.: Thank you very much. I had the best days in my life with all of you. Wishing you all the best with all the love you deserve. 'The Faith Healer'.

Wanted: Linda Hansson! Whoever saw her or knows where she is, please let me know. Linda, you moved and I don't have your new address. Please, get in touch. Ala S. ul. Bystrzanska 27d/2, 43-309 Bielsko-Biala, Poland.

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".

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 —

Live in Johannesburg

Format: Video

Origin: Unknown

A live performance filmed with one camera. The sound quality is good. The picture is staggering some times but in general the video is very good for the low price. I've paid £ 17 for it.

Andreas Hein

Neustadt, Germany

Live In David Gahan's Pants

Format: CD

Origin: Italy

It's recorded live at Irvine Meadows, Irvine, CA, USA on May 20, 1994 and it contains: "Halo", "Behind The Wheel", "Everything Counts", "World In My Eyes", "Walking In My Shoes", "Stripped", "Condemnation" (sung by Martin), "In Your Room", "Never Let Me Down Again", "Personal Jesus",

"Somebody", "Enjoy The Silence", "A Question Of Time". It's 13 tracks all together and the running time is 71 minutes. Unfortunately, this CD doesn't contain the complete show (i.e. "Rush" is missing). It's a good quality although it sounds a bit 'heavy' sometimes. Dave seems to be having a great time as he is laughing a lot.

Martijn Lemmens

Veldhoven, The Netherlands

World Violation Tour At The Star Lake, Amphitheatre, Pittsburgh, PA - 24th June 1990

Format: Double LP

Origin: England

The cover of this LP set looks great! On the front it has a photo of all the DM members taken from around 1988. The band look really happy. The back cover has four photos, three of Dave and one

of Martin. All song titles are printed clearly and correctly and the packaging looks very professional. The records themselves are white label copies and the quality is really good. The only fault there is that there are occasional silent breaks between songs and this makes me think that these LPs may have been copied from another bootleg under a different name. I paid £ 15 for these LPs and I'm very pleased with what I bought.

Faithful - Live, Europe 1993

Format: CD

Origin: Possibly France

The sleeve has a photo taken from DM's "I Feel You" limited 12" CD with Alan and Dave featured. The sound quality is very good. The only drawbacks are that there are songs missing from the show's song line up, and therefore silent breaks are on the CD. But since I only paid £ 7 for this CD, I consider it to be a good value.

Wendy Lawson

Aberdeen, Scotland

Diesel Mode

Format: CD

Origin: Germany

On this CD, there are five songs from the DM's album "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" covered by the German band Diesel Christ. The songs are: "Walking In My Shoes", "Rush", "In Your Room", "I Feel You" and "Higher Love". The CD is produced and mixed by Diesel Christ and Len Davies at Principal Studios. Also this CD contains an original Diesel Christ song called "Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep?".

Live in Paris

Format: Video

Origin: Unknown

This is a recording of the Devotional concert in Paris on June 30, 1993. It's a great video! Songs featured: "A Question Of Lust", "In Your Room", "Enjoy

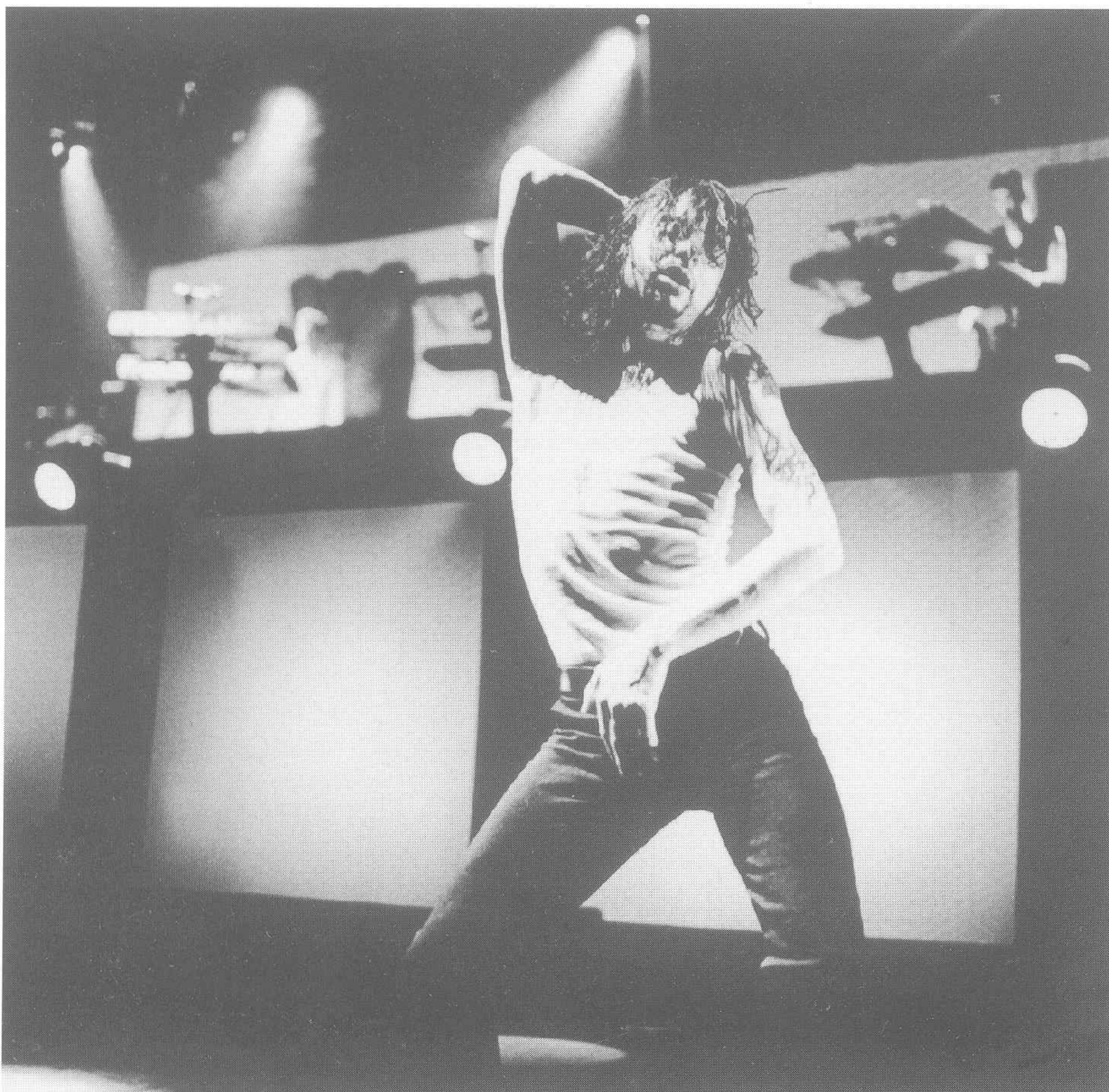


Photo by Anton Corbijn

The Silence", "Everything Counts" etc. The quality is good.

Depeche Mode - Devotional

Format: CD

Origin: Unknown

This CD features twelve tracks including: "Higher Love", "Stripped", "I Feel You", "Enjoy The Silence", "Fly On The Windscreen". This is a recording of the concert in Zurich on May 21, 1993. On the cover, there is a photo of Depeche Mode by Anton Corbijn. The sound is very good.

Higher Love

Format: Video

Origin: Unknown

This video was recorded in 14 soundry cities such as Berlin, Munich, Zurich, Paris, Prague, Lyon, London etc. It contains 23 songs and the sound quality is good. When you see it, buy it!

Nadine Schmidt

Grossalsleben, Germany

King Of Strangers

Format: Double CD

Origin: Italy

These CDs include two concerts. The first one was recorded in Paris on the 23rd November 1990. It includes Martin's solos "Little 15" and "Blue Dress". The sound quality is pretty good. The second concert was recorded in Southend-on-Sea on November 14, 1980. Tracks featured on this recording are: "Television Set", "Ghost Of Modern Times", "Dreaming Of Me", "Just Can't Get Enough", "Big Muff", "I Sometimes Wish I Was Dead", "Tora! Tora! Tora!", "Photographic", "New Life" and "Ice Machine". The recording is quite good considering how long ago this concert took place. Everything is packed in a four-fold pack with David dressed as a king on the front. Some pictures and the introduction inside is taken from Anton's book. It's a beautiful sleeve.

DM- In Your Favourite Game

Format: Double CD

Origin: Unknown

Depeche Mode live in Zurich on May 21, 1993. It has an excellent sound quality (ten out of ten). It also contains "Judas", "Death's Door" and "Get Right

With Me". It's certainly worth of money.

We Feel You

Format: CD

Origin: Italy

This is a recording of the concert in Paris on June 29, 1993. It includes "Higher Love", "Policy Of Truth", "World In My Eyes", "Walking In My Shoes", "Behind The Wheel", "Halo", "Stripped", "Condemnation", "Judas", "One Caress", "Mercy In You", "I Feel You", "Never Let Me Down Again" and "In Your Room". The quality is quite good but the recording microphone was a little too far from the scene so the sound is not loud enough. There are photos of David and Martin on the cover and inside.

A.M. Dejaiffe

Brussels, Belgium

Singing In The Rain

Format: Double CD

Origin: Germany

This is a recording of the concert in Berlin on June 16, 1993. The sound quality is good. Depeche Mode play the song set featuring "Death's Door" and "Mercy In You". The piano had a total break-down during "Condemnation". It contains three extra tracks: "Get Right With Me" (Hannover, 31/5/93), "One Caress" (Paris, 29/6/93), "A Question Of Lust" (Stockholm 29/5/93). Apparently, this double CD is a limited edition of four copies.

Marco

The Special 10th Strike

Format: CD

Origin: Unknown

This CD has a total running time of 59:31. It contains eight remixes: "It Doesn't Matter Two" (Mysterious Mix, 5:36), "Enjoy The Silence" (Blue Mix, 7:15), "Black Celebration" (Fast Celebration Mix, 7:46), "Two Minute Warning" (Synth Mix, 8:40), "World In My Eyes" (Holy World Mix, 8:10), "Halo" (Dark Tone Mix, 7:31), "Told You So" (Noog That Beat-Mix, 7:20), "Policy Of Truth" (Oriental Mix, 7:13). The sound quality is excellent and is a CD well worth purchasing. This CD is limited to 500.

The 11th Strike

Format: CD

Origin: Unknown

Yet another CD in this excellent series. This one contains seven songs with a total running time of 60:34. The tracks are: "Behind The Wheel" (Long Version, 12:16), "Dreaming Of Me" (House Mix, 6:33), "The Things You Said" (Club Mix, 5:46), "I Want You Little 15" (Rough Beat Mix, 9:07), "Ice Machine" (Kild Remix, 5:23), "Rush" (Spiritual Mastermix, 8:33), "Shake The Disease" (Long Version, 12:35). Again the sound is of top quality and at £ 14 is a CD well worth buying. Note: All these remixes listed above are all new remixes, not old remixes simply re-named!

The Elite Recordings

Format: CD

Origin: Unknown

A nice picture of the band on the front from 1985. Track listing is: "Master And Servant" (Power Mix), "Just Can't Get Enough" (Disconnect Mix), "Photographic" (Some Bizzare Edit), "Personal Jesus" (Kazan Cathedral Mix), "Dangerous" (Art Of Mix), "Get The Balance Right" (Class x Mix), "Time For A New Life Megamix" (Odd Mix), "Little 15" (Bogus Brothers Mix), "Behind The Wheel" (Razormaid Mix), "Pleasure Little Treasure" (Razormaid Mix), "Breathing In Fumes". The sound quality is excellent, but unfortunately the mixes aren't very good, most being very boring. I paid £ 10 for this. If you see it, don't pay any more.

Laura Pilling

Bolton, England

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.

Classified

I have a copy of Recoil's "Hydrology Plus 1+2" (CD Stumm 51) and will sell it to the highest bidder". Mark Annetts, 13 Victoria Street, Clay Cross, Derbyshire S45 9LF, England.

I have three large posters detailing the Chronicles X1 and X2 for sale. Send your offers to: Aimi, 39 Beresford Rd, Chandlers Ford, Hants S05 2JZ, England.

Wanted: any DM tickets (concert, backstage, any sort of passes) from 1980 to 1994! Any place you are in the world, any concert you've seen. You can help me to make my collection bigger! I'm also looking for other collectors to swap. If you can help me, please do write to: Isabelle Petit, 39-41 rue Jussieu, 75005 Paris, France.

I am looking for a synthesized copy of "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" by a German band Diesel Christ. Is there anyone who can help me? Write to: Dave Griffin, 20 London Rd, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9JN, England.

I want to make a complete Depeche Mode Discography and I have some sources to get the information from. Now, I'd like to get more information about original releases and unofficial material from all the Bong readers and true DM record collectors. Please send information to: Christian Zieske, Am Burgwald 13, 49393 Lohne, Germany.

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.


THE OFFICIAL 1995 DEPECHE MODE CALENDAR

The calendar is available from DANILO, Unit C2, Enterprise Business Park, Marsh Wall, West India Dock, London E14 9TE, England, telephone: 071-538 5557, fax: 071-537 2677.


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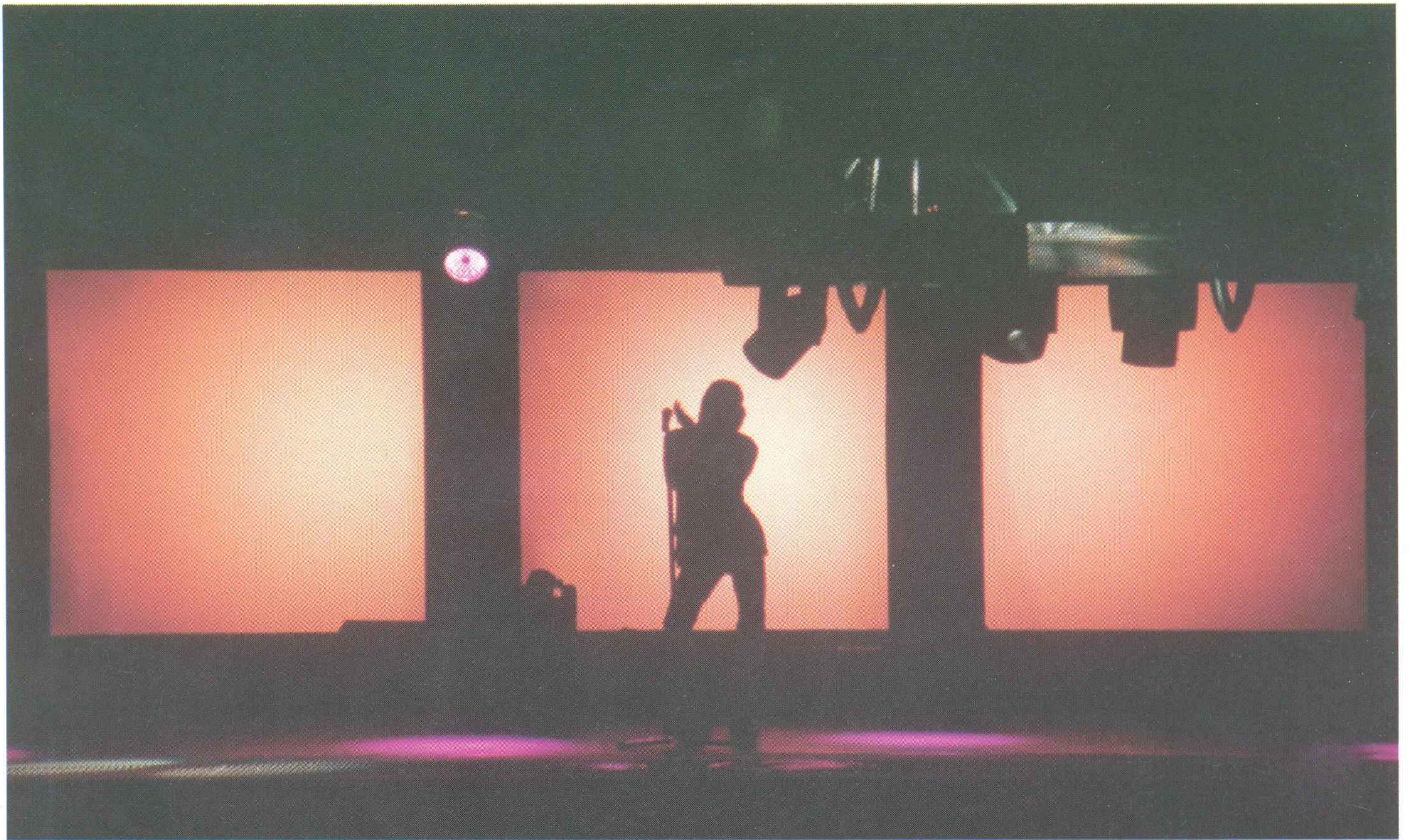


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