**Interview:**

When Countdown Club Magazine editor Glenn A. Baker rang Duran Duran's Simon LeBon in Hollywood, he was recovering from the celebrations that followed the wedding of Andy Taylor. Midway through a series of Californian concerts, he was obviously delighted to be speaking to Australia's premier pop journalists.

CD: Can you tell us about Andy's wedding?

SL: Well, it was on the top of a grubby hill, and we wore grey morning suits and top hats, and there were carnations everywhere. It was really very nice. It's great to see something go right for Andy; he's had so many health problems lately. I think he just overdid it, he came down with glandular fever and plain nervous exhaustion.

CD: How are the Los Angeles shows being received?

SL: Amazingly well actually. We just did three shows at the Greek Theatre, where Neil Diamond recorded Hot August Night, and they were the most exciting shows of my entire career. Last night, the moon was shining brightly overhead and I don't think the audience sat down during the entire performance.

We did two weeks in Japan after the Australian tour and we just couldn't believe the audiences there either. It was strongly female, between 16 and 18, and incredibly powerful. We could make them laugh, make them cry, whatever we wanted. They were right into the music, they knew every song.

CD: Do you enjoy having that sort of power over audiences, particularly young girls?

SL: Of course it feels great on stage, but it's not the sort of thing I like to do for more than 90 minutes at a time. I love the contact with the audience but it can be a strain. I also like my privacy.

CD: Do you have fond memories of Australia?

SL: That's an understatement! We all fell in love with Australia and can't wait to get back. Of all the cities in the world that I've visited, Sydney is the only one outside of London that I could live in. I love the weather, the people, the music, the atmosphere. You're all so lucky to be able to call that country your own.

CD: What was your reaction when you heard that the 'Rio' album had debuted on Australian charts at number one?

SL: We all got so excited that we threw a party to celebrate. You see, Australia is our strongest market. We're taking off all over the world but not quite on the incredible level that we have down under. We haven't been in England for such a long time that some of our home following may have seen off a bit. We always intended to create a firm base in England and move out slowly to the rest of the world but Australia has become a sudden springboard.

CD: I believe that Cliff Richard is performing one of your songs at the moment?

SL: That's right, he's doing 'Sound Of Thunder', which was the first song I ever wrote with the group — we did it within an hour of our meeting them. I'm a bit surprised about Cliff adding it to his live set. I mean we don't exactly have similar images do we? I thought after all the stir about the 'Girls On Film' video that he would stay right away from us! I hope he records it, the royalties would be nice.

CD: How did you come to join up with Andy, John, Roger and Nick?

SL: They were already together as Duran Duran. Continued...
before I came along. They'd taken their name from the evil
fiend in the Jane Fonda movie ‘Barbarella’. I bumped into an
ex-girlfriend one day who told me about a band that needed a
singer. So I showed up and it all worked out.

CDC: What were you doing

working with Russell Mulcahy
right now on a complete video
series or something. The band is very into visual
images; video is such an exciting
new art form.

CDC: How does the creative
process within the band
work?

SL: We all get together, lock
ourselves in a room and come
out with a few black eyes and
a few good songs! No, it all runs
very smoothly. I do a lot of my
lyric writing because I’m not
going to take the chance of
giving up good words! I like
mine best.

CDC: Is it true that you were
a crew star on ‘Rent’ ad?

SL: Who told you that? Well
yes, I have to admit it. I did one of
the first ‘Pops’ ads when I was
about 15. I was wearing the
dirty shirt. I also did a Bisto
(like Bonox) advert but that
wasn’t really about sick!

Acting helped me confi-
dence. I always felt a bit differ-
ent when I was a kid. I always
knew that something different
was going to happen to me in
life. I guess this is it.

CDC: Do you have a difficult
adolescence?

SL: It didn’t bother me that
much. I was more worried that
I wasn’t going to go through
puberty as the actual going
through it. I was rather a late
developer. I think it was when
my voice actually went deeper
and I got spots and hair. I was
really pleased, it showed
I thought, at last it’s happening
to me! I didn’t find it a misera-
ble experience at all.

Of course I went through all
the usual rebellious bit with
my mates, you know. I experi-
enced things with drink and
drugs as a teenager.

The kids in my neigh-
bourhood had quite a lot of
music, and I thought that
it was awful that so many of
them were speed freaks or
drunks at sixteen. I was
always in control of myself.
As far as drink goes, I can take it
or leave it. I probably used to
drink more. I was a teenager as
I do now.

CDC: What was your main
interest as a teenager?

SL: Girls! I’ve always been
intrigued by them; they’re an
endless source of mystery to
me. I would really have liked
to have had a sister, to know a
bit more about what makes
them tick. I love being fascinated
by women, which is probably
why I get on so well with them.

CDC: What kind of girls are
you attracted to most
strongly?

SL: I like the ones with hour-
glass figures, long legs, pretty
faces and long hair. I don’t
like the punky, spiky types, I
like soft stuff. I was the first
one out when I was 12 or 13 —
the back row of the chorus!

CDC: What’s on the horizon
for Duran Duran?

SL: We do a small European
tour in September and then
we kick off an English tour on
my birthday, October 27th.
That takes us to the 30th, plus
and six shows at the Hammersmith
Odeon in London,
who is quite an achievement, if I do say so
myself! We’re very keen to

over the world people are
becoming aware of the pos-
sibilities of nuclear war and
are afraid that WW3 doesn’t
ever happen.

I think about moving to
Australia so I won’t get blown
up!

CDC: Simon, thank you very
down to it. I can’t wait to
talk to your Australian fans.
SL: Thank you. I feel quite
privileged to have made
contact with my favourite people
in the whole world. I’m looking
forward to seeing you all as
soon as we can get it together.
All the best from Nick, John,
Andy and Roger as well.

SHOTS

NEIL YOUNG, one of the very few rock megastars never
to have set foot in our wide brown land, just may be
touring in November — keep your fingers crossed.

The second MENAT WORK album is titled Cargo and will
probably be in the shops by the time you read this. I hope
it has a better looking jacket than the first, which was
terribly tatty.

The beautiful ERIC BOGLE song ‘And The Band Played
Waltzing Matilda’ has now become the most recorded Aus-
trian popular song ever, with more than 50,000 cover
versions throughout the world. A close second is the
old JPY hit ‘Lovelies In The Air!’

LITTLE RIVER BAND’s new album ‘The Net’ has been held
off until about April next year, to give new singer John
Farnes-
ham a better chance to settle into his
role. Six of the tracks on the LP may be a version of the old Easybeats’ hit ‘St.
Louis’. Can’t wait for that?

CHRISSEY HYNDE is back in action after the virtual
collapse of THE PRETENDERS following the death of James
Honeyman-Scott. She has cut a new single called Back On The Chain
Gang featuring guitar from ex-Rockpile man Billy Brummer,
whose own ‘Loud Music In Cars’ single seems to have suf-
fered an unobserved death.

MARC HUNTER has patched up as narrator on a fasci-nat-
ing Audio Documentary album from WEA on the history of Radio Birdman. He is masquerading as M.A. Hunter.

MICK JAGGER’s next film role may be in the screen
version of Gore Vidal’s ‘Caiku’, as a Vietnam veteran who
becomes a Buddhist monk.

Just how long will Stevie Nicks and Lindsay Buckingham
be in FLEETWOOD MAC?

RICK SPRINGFIELD’s film debut looks like being in a
movie that may be based on the real-life story of singer
Sting’s. His first solo single will be an old 1930’s tune called
‘Spread A Little Happiness’ It is featured in the new movie
’Brienstone & Treacle’

DAVE EDMUNDS seems to have recovered from his
serious internal ailments, thank heavens!

PETER GABRIEL is not a man who believes in
breaking traditions. His fourth solo album since leaving Genesis will be
‘The Lamb Lies Down As The First’, a concept album. You had
better get used to men remembering serial numbers!

GEORGE HARRISON’s new album may be titled ‘Gone
Troppo’, a title he picked up while on holiday in Queensland earlier this year.
ON THE BRINK: THE EUROGLIDERS

Perth’s contribution to the evolution of Australian rock has been small but certainly notable. Some of the western city’s exports include Johnny Young, the Valentines (featuring Bon Scott), Ross Ryan, Western Flyer Christie Allan, Boys, Riffs, the Duplex and the Stockings.

The latest smash sound from the west is The Eurogliders, who have been setting the East Coast alight over the past few months. This hot new ensemble comprises vocalist Grace Knight, guitarist/songwriter Bernie Lynch, drummer John Bennett, bassist Geoff Rosenberg, guitarist Crispin Ackerman and keyboards player Amanda Vincent.

The Eurogliders formed in 1980 under the name Living Single and so excited record companies with their demo tapes that A&R men were knocking each other down as they dashed up the boarding steps of westbound aeroplanes. All the members have interesting backstories. Bernie and John were in the illustrious Stockings. Geoff was with Stockley, See & Mason. Amanda was a composer of film and ballet scores and Crispin is a classically trained musician.

The centrepiece of attention within the group is invariably the daffy Grace, who has been described as the world’s most accident-prone living creature—sort of a cross between Mr Magoo and Frank Spencer.

Scottish by birth, she contemplated becoming a policewoman before coming to Australia. Since arriving she has certainly left her mark. In her own words, “I’ve been run over by cars on two occasions, trampled by a horse. I’ve broken six fingers, one wrist, one ankle and have sprains that Frankenstein would be proud of.”

Most recently, she nearly woke off a borrowed Mercedes. Critics have difficulty tagging a label on the Eurogliders. Some thought they were “psychedelic” (inspired by their fuzzy workout of Monterey) but Bernie dismisses the suggestion with the words, “I honestly can’t see it. We went through that phase but when we did some support gigs to the Church we gave it up because they carry it off so much better.”

The Eurogliders are simply an inventive, totally contemporary 80’s rock band, who need no real categories to justify their existence.

Like so many of Australia’s more inventive new bands, the Eurogliders have quite an affinity with video. The clip for their second single “No Laughing Matter” is truly stunning, featuring kids from a Glebe public school cavorting in the office of their record company manager, Grace and Amanda hit upon the great idea of providing some crazy gymnastic sequences and spent the next week walking about like hunchbacks, swearing they’d never do it again.

Self-contained, super-confident, original and talented, the Eurogliders have all the pieces in the right slots. They have nowhere to go but up... and up!

ROCK BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER
1 Betty Midler, 1944
2 Gilbert O’Sullivan, 1946
3 Tom McGuinness (Blues Band), 1941
4 Ritchie Lee Jones, 1954
5 Bonnie Raitt, 1944
6 Terry Lee Miall (ex-Ant), 1958
7 John Walsh, 1947
8 Mimi Stee Van Zandt, 1949
9 Billy Connolly, 1942
10 Tina Turner, 1938
11 John Mayall, 1933
12 Mal Eastick (Big Combo), 1964
13 Chuck Mangione, 1940
14 Billy Idol, 1956
15 December
16 Keith Emerson (ELP), 1944
17 Adam Ant, 1954
18 Lulu, 1946
19 Peter Noone (Troggs), 1942
20 Art Garfunkel, 1942
21 Glennis Frey (ex-Eagles), 1946
22 George Young (Flash & the Pan), 1946
23 Nick Gilder, 1951
24 Ozzi Osbourne, 1948
25 Micky Thomas (Jefferson Starship), 1949
26 Dennis Wilson (Beach Boys), 1944
27 Southside Johnny, 1948
28 Little Richard, 1932
29 John Gage, 1940
30 Rick Buckler (The Jam), 1955
31 Tom Waits, 1949
32 Greg Allman, 1947
33 Jim Morrison (RIP), 1943
34 Joan Armatrading, 1960
35 Donny Osmond, 1957
36 Hermine Jackman, 1954
37 Jeff Lynne (ELO), 1947
38 Paul Rodgers (Bad Company), 1945
39 Ted Nugent, 1948
40 Tom Verlaine, 1949
41 Peter Crimmins (Cheap Trick), 1951
42 Paul Simonon (Clash), 1955
43 Cameron Apple, 1948
44 Benny Andersson (Abba), 1946
45 Keith Richard (Rolling Stones), 1943
46 Frankie J. Holden, 1952
47 Maurice White (E.W.F), 1941
48 Stevie Wright, 1948
49 Peter Criss (ex-Kiss), 1945
50 Frank Zappa, 1940
51 Carl Wilson (Beach Boys), 1946
52 Kevin Peak (Sky), 1946
53 Robin & Maurice Gibb, 1946
54 Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick), 1947
55 Graham Bonnett, 1947
56 Lemmy Kilmister (Motorhead), 1945
57 Ian Burden (Haven League), 1947
58 Jimmy Buffet, 1946
59 Henry Valentine (Canned Heat), 1944
60 Phil Spector, 1939
61 Johnny Chestar, 1941
62 Mike Pinder (Moody Blues), 1942
63 Nick Jones (Foreigner), 1947
64 Edgar Winter, 1947
65 Ray Thomas (Moody Blues), 1947
66 Yvonne Elliman, 1951
67 Mike Nesmith, 1942
68 Patti Smith, 1946
69 Greg Maclean, 1951
70 Del Shannon, 1938
71 Davy Jones (ex-Monkees), 1946
72 Andy Summers (Police), 1942
73 John Denver, 1943
74 Donna Summer
75 Mick Pealing (ex-Stars), 1965
76 Burton Cummings, 1947
You Were Asking

Can you give me some information about Adrian Gurvitz? I really love "Write A Classic," Gall, Arncliffe NSW. Well, Adrian certainly isn't the new falco he appears to be Gal. He first came to notice in 1968 in the British trio The Gun, who had a hit with a time rocker called "Race With The Devil." At that time he was called Adrian Curtis. He formed the Three Man Army with brother Paul in 1971, which became the Baker Gurvitz Army after former Cream drummer Ginger Baker joined in 1975. Before his solo hit he was working in a band backing former Moody Blue Graeme Edge.

Was the lead singer of Heaven once a member of AC/DC? Reg, Morphett Vale SA. Not quite...but almost. Allan Fryer was on the short list when a replacement for the late Bon Scott was being sought. AC/DC liked his gravelly growl and the fact that he was born in Glasgow, Scotland, like half of AC/DC was. However, he lost out in a tight struggle to Brian Johnson from Newcastle, near the Scottish border, and so formed Heaven out of the remnants of his old Adelaide band Fat Lip. Heaven are now taking great strides in the British heavy metal market. I get laughed at by my friends for still being rapt in Kiss but I don't care. I still like them, even with Gene Simmons' short hair. What's happened to them? I haven't heard anything for a long time.

"Sammy." Doncaster Vic. I'm afraid there's not much to report on Kiss at the moment. Apparently they have almost finished recording a new album and it may just feature a song called 'Lipstick And Leather' by young Australian songwriter Jim Mandcz. Until the album comes along you can always checkout the new 'Kiss Killers' collection album released by Polygram Records.

"It's called 'Starstruck.'" Five times now. Oh is Jo Kennedy going to make another movie? I think she's terrific. Also, how old is she and what is her real name?" Marlene, New Farm QLD. Ja is it a bit secretive about her next film, except to say that it begins shooting later this year or early next year. At the moment she's working in a theatre group with 'Puberty Blues' stars Neil Schofield and Jad Capel. Jo, who uses her real name, was born on August 5, 1960. Watch for an exclusive interview with her in an upcoming issue of your Countdown Club Magazine.

Is it true that Bryan Ferry is Simon Lebon's father? All our friends say he is and we don't know whether to believe it or not. Gayle, Wangaratta Vic. Natasha, Perth WA. Samatha, Bendigo Vic. Girls you are just a small portion of members who have written asking this extraordinary question. When we put it to Simon he almost split his sides. Bryan would have probably taken us with a meat cleaver! The answer is a resounding NO!! Petes Shelley, of 'Hommassien' fame, the same man who had a hit in 1973 called 'Gee Baby' under the name of Peter Shelley?

Greg, Bundaberg QLD. Your confusion is understandable Greg. They are in fact different people. Peter is a solo singer/songwriter, while Peter was the founder of new wave The Buzzcocks with Howard Devoto. How old is Cold Chisel's Jimmy Barnes and is he married? Sherie, Bundaberg QLD. Barns is married to a beautiful Thai lady called Jane and has an equally beautiful baby daughter called Mahalia, no doubt named after the great gospel singer Mahalia Jackson. He is 25 years old...honest!

Vinyl Verdict

Reviewed By Glenn A. Baker

****Masterpiece
***"Mighty"
**"Moderate"
*"Mediocre"
*"Miserable"

Flash & The Pan
Headlines (Albany)

The emergence of Steve Wright as lead singer in the studio group, with which he has long been involved marks this album for very special attention. Master rock craftsmen Harry Vanda & George Young have honed the potent force of synthesizers and spoken word vocals on their third album under the guise of Flash & The Pan. A more standard rock approach is used, with new emphasis on vocal harmonies and thick production. The single "Where Were You" really is sumptuous pop, as is "Hey Jimmy" and "Psychos On The Street", which carries some fascinating lyrics.

Musically, "Love Is A Gun" is a dazzler, with dramatic changes of pace and surging passages. A certainty for strong overseas success.

VERDICT: ****

Hunters & Collectors

(White Label)

What we have here, beneath some very bizarre packaging, is one twelve inch 45rpm single and one album with only 6 tracks - a maxi single and mini album. Not exactly what one would call bright, commercial pop, this stuff is very much an acquired taste. Find under Eco, Zappo, Throbbing Gristle, Orchestral Manoeuvres in The Dark, Fad Gadget, Wall Of Voodoo, Scritti Politti, Jump Vision etc.; inventive and explorative but not quite rock and roll as we've come to know and love it. Futurists will flip.

VERDICT: ***½

Girlschool

Screaming Blue Murder (Bronze)

A somewhat appropriate title.

This British thunder-rock all girl quartet could give Iron Maiden, Heaven, Scorpions, SAXON, Motorhead and other heavy metal heroes a run for their money. This is even more blistering than their last two albums, with thunderous guitar interaction from Kelly Johnson and Kim McClure. To use their own title, a real "Hellrazer", highlighted by a version of the Rolling Stones' "Live With Me".

VERDICT: ****½

Robert Plant

Pictures At Eleven (Swan Song)

Fears that Zeppelin-ites Robert Plant has not deserted the cause with guitarist/songwriter Robbie Blunt proving a near perfect replacement, the Led Zeppelin tradition is carried on by this fine solo effort. However it has taken fully two superstars drummers - Cozy Powell and Phil Collins - to fill the hole left by the much-mourned Bonzo Bonham.

The ingredients in this piece are quality - the musicians (including saxophonist Raphael Ravenscroft, the studio (the famed Rockfield in Wales) and producers (Plant & Pat Moran).

VERDICT: ****½

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