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RECORD MIRROR

THE RETURN OF **eurythmics**

DAVE STEWART
OPENS HIS HEART

**DEAD OR
ALIVE**

PETE BURNS
AND HIS
AMAZING MOUTH

**JON BON
JOVI**

AND HIS
AMAZING SENSE
OF HUMOUR



STEREO MC's

BRIT RAP TAKES
A BITE OUT OF
THE BIG APPLE

REVIEWS

ALBUMS

- DEAD OR ALIVE
- WATERFRONT
- IMAGINATION
- BLOW MONKEY
- LIVES
- GEORGE CLINT
- BOOGIE DOWN
- PRODUCTIONS
- THE WHO
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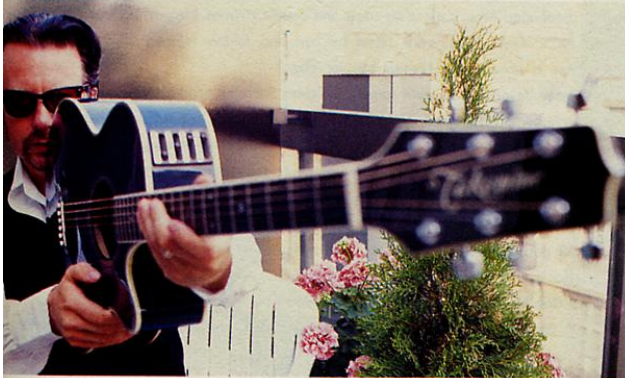


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★THE OFFICIAL TOP OF THE POPS TOP 100 SINGLES AND ALBUMS CHARTS INSIDE

+ NEWS, GOSSIP+ ALL THAT'S NEW ON THE INDEPENDENT AND CLUB SCENES

If Dave Stewart ever had to give up music, he could always do Terry Wogan's job. Sitting in a hotel just off the Champs Elysees on a blistering hot day, after a frustrating press conference, he shows no sign whatsoever of superstar fatigue. Dave loves to talk. And listen. And write, play and produce. And talk some more.



Does he ever stop? Well, in theory he and Eurythmics partner Annie Lennox are taking a couple of months off before they start touring with their new album, 'We Too Are One'; but somehow we suspect he'll find the time to write a few more songs, produce a few more records... And then, of course, he's got a new TV music series to make, his company Anxious Records to run, and a million other things to do before breakfast. How on earth does he and his ex-Bananarama missus Siobhan, currently enjoying her first hit with her new band Shakespear's Sister, ever find time to see their baby son?

"I have times when I'll say 'this week I'm not going to do anything', but it's not time off in my head," laughs Dave. "I'm one of these people who go manic in their brain all the time. Siobhan will say 'why don't you just read a book?' and I will start to read for a while, but then it all gets going again.

"Once a year the management will say I'm going to get ill. They can see it coming, it's usually through exhaustion. Then I have to stay in bed or go away for 10 days and I'm all right again. I'm an obsessive personality — before I used to do this I would spend all my time and energy trying to find out where drugs were and then taking them. As soon as I stopped that, I had to find something else. Even as a kid I would play football all day, I would carry on until I was absolutely knackered and my dad

had to carry me in. Unfortunately, my son's turning out the same way!"

It must be Dave's extraordinary energy and curiosity, coupled with Annie's ability to translate her emotions and experiences into song, that has made the Eurythmics such a force to be reckoned with in the Eighties. 'We Too Are One', their eighth album, is as fresh and imaginative as anything they've produced so far. Yet it's surprising the songs sound so natural and unforced when Dave describes the arduous creative process.

"It's frightening because it's so intense and argumentative. We're our own worst critics because when you've lived with someone it's hard to talk to them like you would a mate who you write songs with. There's no bullshit, we're really critical of each other's stuff to the point where sometimes I really like something I'm doing and Annie doesn't and it turns into an argument.

"I even add to the pressure by saying we have to make the album in three weeks or whatever. Annie will ask why and I'll make some lame excuse, but really it's because I like that kind of pressure to make things work. If it was with the wrong person it might make them go crazy, but Annie and I both tend to rise to the occasion.

"It's really draining, emotionally it's like going in a boxing ring with somebody for hours on end. Annie goes through periods when she feels like she's staring at a blank page. She's got so much to say it all gets tangled up, and she's very hard on herself. I have phases when I'm always churning out stuff, but then I look back and I've made loads of tapes and they all sound stupid! But I even enjoy making the crap things, at the end of the day I'll just say 'never mind, we'll do some more tomorrow!'. Annie finds it more tortuous."

People are queuing up to work with Dave Stewart, from stars like Dylan and Jagger to complete unknowns who get his help for free. This probably has as much to do with the fact that he's such great company as it does with his widely praised writing and producing skills. The world is his oyster, it would seem, so there must be something special about working with Annie which keeps him going back to Eurythmics.

"In order to get it from these other people I would have to be married to them and then write songs with them for 10 years! It's almost like having an affair when you work with somebody, writing songs is a very intimate thing. Annie and I have so

refined our relationship in songwriting terms that we are usually on the same track, we wouldn't come up with something that the other would think was too stupid."

The new album's title is a declaration of solidarity, an indication of how important Dave and Annie's working relationship is to them both.

"It's been almost a decade since we started and we've been through loads of things together. Lots of bands who started alongside, us like Wham! and Yazoo, have broken up. It's like a statement, we've been through all this and we're still as strong as ever, with the same kind of vision. But also we spelt it 'We Too Are One' — t-o-o. It's like the Rastafarians say I and I. Basically, the whole planet is full of different nations but we're all one species, the human race, so it's a little play on words."

The human race is obviously Dave's main preoccupation. When he's not writing about it or making videos of it, he's talking to it, 19 to the dozen. The warmth and kindness he shows to everyone, strangers as well as friends, reveals a genuine interest in people. Being a castaway on a desert island would be unbearable for him.

"Physically I probably could survive, but I'd go insane! Luckily Siobhan's the same as me. Ten minutes alone and I start moping around. I've ended up boring the pants off the gasman. As he's leaving I'm saying 'are you sure you don't want another cup of tea?'

"I did go through a terribly shy phase at about 13. Some boys grow up quicker than others, they look like gorillas with really low voices. Well, I had a low voice, but I didn't have any pubic hair yet, it was like a Woody Allen film. I thought I was a complete freak, I'd never have a girlfriend because how could I possibly explain it! But that's the only time I can remember avoiding people."

Fatherhood hasn't subdued Dave at all.

"Except that I'm a bit more aware of my own mortality. I'll be driving really fast and suddenly slow down. I think, 'it wouldn't be very good if I died now and he didn't have a dad'. Of course, I go into toy shops buying things for nine-year-olds when he's still only 18 months, under the pretence that he'll play with them later. Meanwhile, I've got Scalextric all over the bedroom!"

Next week: Dave talks about the new Eurythmics music and reveals just what makes the band tick

ONE AND C



Dave Stewart and Annie Lennox have been together as Eurythmics so long that they've begun to think and work as one. Even the title of their upcoming eighth album, 'We Too Are One', reflects this merging of two minds. Lisa Tilston went to Paris to visit Shakespeare's husband. Eurythmics: Joe Shutter

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