

# NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

ANTS AND DEXYS BRITISH TOUR DATES

Dixon



## WOULD YOU HANG THIS MAN ON YOUR LIVING ROOM WALL?

WRAP'N'ROLL WITH PIL • BY GAVIN MARTIN • PAGES 30-32

HEAVEN  
17

DEAD OR  
ALIVE

STRAY  
CATS

NOT SO VERY ANGELIC

YOUR CHANCE TO DECIDE!

STORM THE U.K.

YOUR GUIDE: MICK FARREN

# REFUGEES IN A PSYCHEDELIC JUNGLE

IF ROCK AND ROLL ever failed them, Lux Interior and Ivy Rorschach could easily star in a modernised *Addams Family*. They live in a slightly run-down two-storey apartment building in predominantly hispanic East Hollywood. By L.A. standards, I guess it would be something of a dubious neighbourhood, but from the point of view of the real world it simply has a certain funky charm.

The front door mysteriously swings open immediately I press the bell. There isn't anybody there — the whole door trick is done by a remote control device in the first floor apartment. It's an impressive start. Lux mumbles something about how he's meaning to try and get the door to creak.

The living room looks as though it rarely sees direct sunlight. A bunch of Japanese toy robots are on display, as are an 18-inch plastic Godzilla and a number of clockwork insects. On a side table there is a copy of a paperback with the title *Concentration Camp Bestiality*. There is also a toy planetarium that doesn't work very well in anything but pitch darkness.

The Cramps are now based in Los Angeles. They are refugees, fleeing the sub-zero winter, New York, the escalating prices and a constant buzz of "mad slasher kills four" style media mayhem. They have opted for California with its idyllic climate, its comparatively healthy economy and its lower paranoia count.

Nick Knox



"It's not that we don't like New York anymore. It's great to live in a city where you feel that anytime of the day or night you can get into a cab and go and do something exciting, but when you don't have the money to jump in a cab..."

At the moment, the final touches are being put to their album 'Psychedelic Jungle.'

"It's a psychedelic record."

Isn't everything these days?

Talk moves on to the subject of the departed (and one-time rumoured for dead) Bryan Gregory. At first, Lux is noncommittal in a world-goes-on sort of way.

"I haven't spoken to him

since he left."

But information always filters through. Gregory has totally changed his hair and appearance and is still also in Los Angeles, reading his way into the occult.

"He'd started to give us these lectures on how rock 'n' roll was the silly earthly way. He told us that we should transcend all that."

Ivy makes a gesture that leaves no doubt that she has more faith in the silly and earthly than in the transcendental.

One thing The Cramps aren't doing right now is playing live. In fact their last concert was

Lux Interior

Kid Congo

Ivy Rorschach

collects soundtrack albums of old horror movies ("Those great electronic sounds") and cites them, along with rockabilly, as a major influence on the music of The Cramps. In between recording sessions Lux and Ivy have been checking out the current deluge of slash, hack and maim flicks — the offering of the moment being *Blood Beach*, in which innocent bathers are sucked down into the sand and digested by a giant carnivorous plant.

"There's this cinema up on Hollywood Boulevard. It's great... everyone is screaming right from the start."

What kind of people get in there?

"Lowriders."

A low rider is a kind of Chicano hotrodder, totally unique to Los Angeles. In Spanish they call themselves *vacos locos* — the crazy ones — but more of them at another time and in another place. Lux grins.

"There are times when you're not only scared of the movie on the screen, you're scared to go to the lobby for popcorn."

Those who want to join one of the more warped fan organisations of our time are referred to the Legion of the Cramped. The LOTC's official 'funzine' is *Rockin' Bones*, which features high-contrast (ie smudgy) black and white pin-ups of the band — on nice quality paper. For a two-quid enrolment fee, you get *Rockin' Bones*, a badge, a photo, poster, and membership card, 'erratic' bulletins on the band, and self-satisfaction! Write: LOTC, 10 Dochart Path, Grangemouth, FK3 0HJ, Stirlingshire.

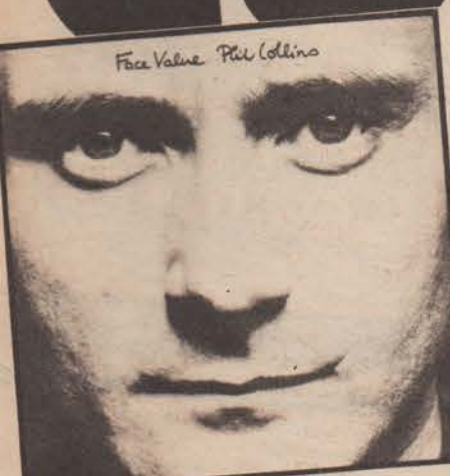
that at London's Lyceum.

"Now that we've finished the album we have to start playing out again. We'll probably play some things in L.A., even parties, just to ease into it again. There'll be some dates fixed when the album comes out."

The conversation wanders off into the realms of cheap '50s and early '60s horror movies. (For my sins, I am also talking to The Cramps on behalf of a monster magazine.) We cover everything from *The Horror Of Party Beach* to *Plan Nine From Outer Space*. Lux Interior is something of an expert. He

# RECORD SPENDING CUTS!

At WH.Smith, we're striking a blow for low-price records. Because right now you'll find all our Top 50 albums, cassettes and many specially selected new releases are as easy on your pocket as they are on your ears. But not only will you spend less on albums, you'll also find that we've trimmed all our Top 30 (standard 7") singles to 99p as well. While we're in this generous mood, we're even selling all 45 r.p.m. golden oldies for a mere £1.09 each. Fab eh? So to get a slice of the action, hurry down to the record department at WH.Smith — chop chop!



Phil Collins: Face Value Album: £4.49 Cassette: £4.49



Ultravox: Vienna Album: £4.29 Cassette: £4.49



Neil Diamond: Jazz Singer Album: £4.79 Cassette: £4.99

| Top 50 examples:                            |       |          |
|---|-------|----------|
|   | Album | Cassette |
| John Lennon: Double Fantasy                 | £4.29 | £4.49    |
| Rainbow: Difficult to Cure                  | £4.49 | £4.99    |
| Rush: Moving Pictures                       | £4.29 | £4.49    |
| Adam & the Ants: Kings of the Wild Frontier | £4.29 | £4.49    |
| Stray Cats: Stray Cats                      | £4.29 | £4.49    |
| Dire Straits: Makin' Movies                 | £4.79 | £4.99    |
| Barbra Streisand: Guilty                    | £4.29 | £4.49    |
| Visage: Visage                              | £4.49 | £4.99    |
| Freeez: Southern Freeez                     | £3.49 | £3.49    |

# WHSMITH

Prices, which are for a limited period only, are correct at time of going to press. Subject to availability, where you see this sign

