

Terry Crawford Interview

The following is an interview with RCA recording artists the Terry-Crawford Band at the Palace on Friday, September 18, 1981 by Walter G. Speirs of the Dalhousie Gazette.

Hello! Howdy! Salut! Alright!

Gaz: How are you Terry?

Terry: Excellent. Guess you want to meet the guys in the band? On lead guitar we have Rick Johnson.

Rick: Hello, Hello, Hello!

Terry: On drums we've got John Hannah.

John: Howdy!

Terry: And we've got Chris Rezeine on bass guitar.

Chris: Salut!

Terry: And on keyboards, we have Dale Saunders.

Dale: Alright!

Terry: And last but not least, our manager is here, Allan Katz.

Gaz: How are you Allan?

Allan: I am just fine, thank you very much.

Gaz: Could you tell us about some of the changes in the band that have happened over the last couple of years?

Rick: There's been minor personnel changes. We've only made one change in the last three years and that was our bass player. Chris Rezeine is the newest member of the band. Everyone else has been with the band between five to ten years.

Gaz: Has your style changed much in that time?

Terry: Not really. We've progressed with our own individual abilities though. We feel more confident in what we're doing, but the style is the same. We've never followed the trends that much. We've always done what we've felt comfortable with.

The British are coming!

Gaz: How did the band get its start? Who influenced you?

Terry: Well, we started in Winnipeg in 1971. As far as influences, we all have our own thing that we like to listen to. For myself, speaking for everybody, I guess it would be the Beatles. Anything in that whole British invasion thing. Everybody was sort of heavy with that.

Rick: We all grew up with the British music. But everybody's got different tastes. John, our drummer, is into the funk thing. I like softer stuff myself. But we all have a common thing with the band. You put all those influences together and you get something unique, hopefully.

Gaz: Could you tell us some stories behind some of the songs on your first album?

Terry: Don't mention any names!

Rick: "Dreamer," which was our first single, was our road song. It was a song about travelling and being very tired and just looking for a place to settle down. "Best Friend" is about, you guessed it, best friends and wanting to be with close friends. "You Take All My Money" is about booking agents in general.

Allan: That's bullshit! Not all booking agents.

Long live the Maritimes!

Gaz: Allan, you're the manager. Where has this band got its best reception?

Allan: The band has got its best reception in the Maritimes. That's not any bullshit; it's true. They were very well received in the midwest as well. That is because the Maritimes and the West don't believe in their own sophistication. They just respond to the music, whereas Toronto and Vancouver believe in their own mythology.

Gaz: They're into themselves?

Allan: Very much so; instead of the band. So when we tour after the next album is recorded, we'll have to work much harder in Toronto and Vancouver.

New album coming!

Chris: We're recording our second album in October in Montreal at Listen! Audio.

Gaz: Do you think there will be any changes in the direction of the music in this next album?

Terry: I think we'll keep playing the way we are now and try to improve. There were a few things we weren't satisfied with on our last album. It's a learning experience, to make it bigger and better.

Ten years on the road.

Rick: The band was originally started in high school. It was just four people from the same room who got together after school and started playing the clubs at night. When we graduated we were used to the money coming in, so we figured if everything was going OK to keep trying. We thought we'd be millionaires in two or three years. That was ten years ago, it doesn't work that way! It's taken a long time, but you really appreciate it because you've done it yourself.

Gaz: You pay your dues with no obligations to anybody else.

Rick: For sure, you give it your best shot.

Gaz: Chris, you're the most recent addition to the band. How long have you been with them?

Chris: Seven months.

Gaz: How did you get involved?

New national anthem.

Chris: At the time I was working on a new national anthem for Quebec during the referendum. So when the referendum didn't pass, I said "Fuck, I'm going to have to speak English." I met these English fellows who needed a bass player. I learned the songs and liked the people so I said "Sure, let's go for it."

Gaz: I wonder what the band's impressions are of the Maritimes?

Too many bricks in the wall!

Rick: We did Western Canada in May and June, and spent the rest of the summer knocking our heads against the wall in Ontario. Playing in Ontario was a very frustrating experience. The people there seem so set back unless the music is happening in New York and the Americans say it's OK. After we got down here, the whole thing turned around. The audiences have been really good and the response has been great. Everybody's up and looking forward to getting back into the studio and trying again. It's from the enthusiasm we've got from the people down here. Playing with Toronto picked us up a lot too.

Party time in the Maritimes!

Gaz: Are there any ways you think you can break that non-response in Upper Canada?

Terry: People down here know what they like. They don't care what anybody else thinks. They're here to have a good time and have fun. What we got off on is the party mood everybody's in down here. I think that if everybody else likes it, Ontario will eventually come around because they're basically followers. You guys are the trend setters.

Rick: It's true. When "Dreamer" came out, Ontario were the very last people in the country to go on it.

Terry: You see, what it is is that it's the East and the West who make the hits and Ontario plays the hits.

Rick: The difference is that the people here and out West are more willing to take a chance and support Canadian bands. I guess it's because radio is a very competitive market up there and the stations have to compete with the Americans. It's sad!

Gaz: I don't know about the Americans, but here in the Maritimes we've gotten off on you guys and wish you the very best. Good luck with your next album!

Rick: Thanks. Hope to get back to Dalhousie and have some fun up there. Nice to be back.

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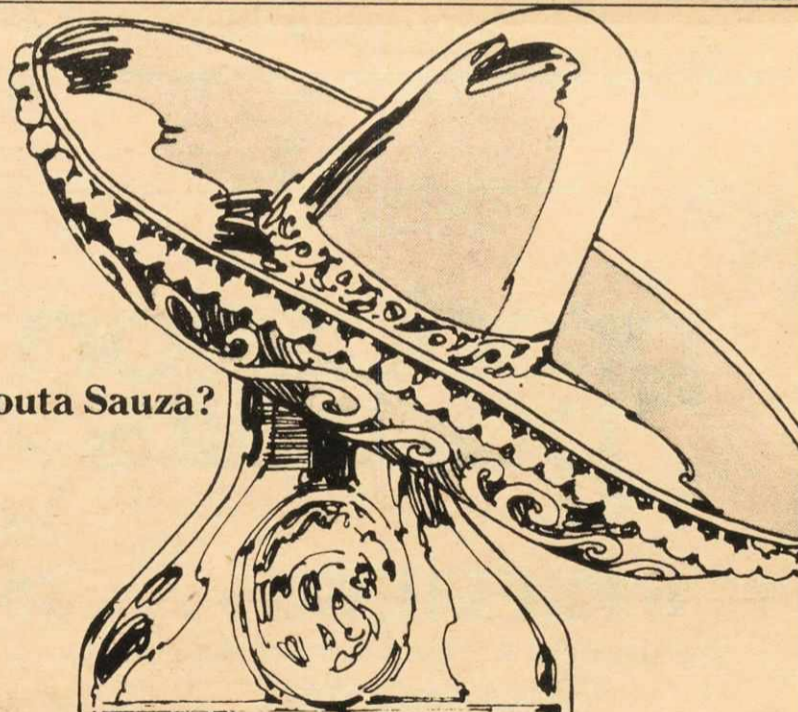


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