

ARTS



An interview with Sister Andreas

by "Switch"

I had the pleasure of interviewing Andreas Bruhn, one of the guitarists for the new **Sisters Of Mercy** line-up on March 19. Andreas, who was in Hamburg, Germany, was preparing for his flight to Toronto (via London) for the CPI show at Massey Hall, last night.

6:30 p.m. (Hamburg time)

Switch: Are you alone in Hamburg?

Bruhn: Andrew (the lead singer of the **SofM**) is in Hamburg as well, he lives pretty close to my place.

Switch: Are you meeting up with the rest of the band in London then?

Bruhn: Yes, Tony James is in London, but the other guitarist, Tim Briceno lives in the north of England.

Switch: I would really like to know a little of your background, since you are a new member of the band, we don't know that much about you. Can you tell us about your background?

Bruhn: When I joined the **Sisters of Mercy** I was just 21, that was two years ago, and I was working on a lot of my own stuff. I was close to a record deal when Andrew (Eldritch) heard the tapes and asked me to pop by and play guitar for him, which I did, and that led us to do the record together and he asked me to join the band.

Switch: So, you were working on a project of your own or with another band before you met Andrew?

Bruhn: I did loads of studio work for boring advertisement agencies but basically I worked on my own stuff, I have a little studio at home. I had been at the record company recording some songs and fighting with them for a good contract when Andrew heard the tapes.

Switch: The new album *Vision Thing* is quite a change for the **Sisters Of Mercy**, and I think that a lot of fans are of the opinion that the **Sisters Of Mercy** have gone commercial and are only interested in money and fame. Do you have any answer to that?

Bruhn: This is the first time I've heard that. I think the **SofM** have gone back to their roots with this album, because it has loads more guitars than on the first album and I think the *Floodlands* album was more commercial than this one.

Switch: I think some people will say that this new release has definite influences of glam metal bands (notably American bands like **Guns N Roses**, **Faster Pussycat** and also **The Cult's** move towards a metal edge). Can you answer to being compared to that type of music and tell me whether you think it is a fair comparison?

Bruhn: No, I don't think so, I don't think there is a comparison between us and these groups, because there is still Andrew's dark voice, there are still very



THE SISTERS OF MERCY: They're not like **Guns N Roses**, **Faster Pussycat** or **The Cult** (especially not **The Cult**) and they can't talk about the breakup until it clears the courts.

intelligent and political lyrics and it's still the good old drum computer, (A.K.A. Doktor Avalanche)

Switch: You mentioned the political lyrics. I've been noticing that lately Andrew seems to be using more politically based lyrics, even focussing on a Marxist point of view . . .

Bruhn: Yes

Switch: Can you tell me something about that?

Bruhn: I'm not really keen on saying anything about the lyrics, because it's still Andrew's way . . . but when he writes the lyrics he really writes about things that happen around him and so he wrote about the things that happened around him when he did this *Vision Thing* album.

Switch: Can you give me an idea of why gospel singers were used as back-

ground singers on *Vision Thing* and on "This Corrosion?" Was this a decision of the band, or of one of you or one of the producer . . . ?

Bruhn: On "This Corrosion" and on the new album, "More" were co-produced by Jim Steinman (**Meatloaf's Bat Out Of Hell**). He really loves gospel singers, he really loves them and he puts them on every possible song. So, when we did "More" alone there were no gospel singers, but when we went to New York to finish it Jim Steinman put them on and we really liked them in the end. All the other back-up vocals on the album are sung by Meg Reilly formerly with **Mike Oldfield**.

Switch: Can you give me an idea of what the **SofM** might be working on for the future?

Bruhn: Sometimes, we get together and work on something when we have some time. We're going on tour for more

or less eight weeks, so during this time we will work on new material to go into the studio and work it out as a whole band. This time it was more or less Andrew and I doing the record or writing the songs for the *Vision Thing* album, but for the next album we want it to be the whole band again, with Tim Briceno and with Tony James.

Switch: There have been rumours that the break-up of the former **Sisters Of Mercy** which was comprised of Eldritch and Morrison, was tumultuous at best. Can you answer to that, do you know anything of this history?

Bruhn: Yes, I know something about this history, and I would definitely tell you about it when this fight is over because they are still going to court with each other probably.

Transcribed from an Interview aired on **CHRY**.