

Q&A Interview: Glass Tiger

by Scott Neily

Glass Tiger came to town on New Year's Eve, played at the Crazy Horse to great response and left. Although I didn't get a chance to talk to the band when they were in town this time, I did manage to chat with guitarist Al Connolly last summer:

Question: From the rumours I've heard, your summer tour and the later dates went quite well. But, I haven't heard anything about the big European tour, the one you did with Tina Turner.

Answer: That tour was a big break for us in Europe. Our album was an international deal and we were very lucky to get over as early as we did, as well as get on a monster tour with Tina. We did several dates in places we hadn't seen before, and all the exposure with Tina helped us a lot.

Q: Supposedly, there are a lot of contrasts between this album and

the last one. The biggest comment I've heard is that it is more mature. Is that accurate?

A: Yeah, I guess it's a natural process. All the touring we did, with Journey in the States and Tina in Europe, sorta helped us refine our craft. We had been on the road for about two years before taking time off and then going into the studio to make *Diamond Sun*. I guess the travelling and touring made us feel more comfortable in the studio the second time around than we'd been when we did the first album.

Q: The worst comment I've heard about this album is that it's somewhat depressing.

A: Yeah, that's a good analysis. Some of the songs are reflections of things that we've seen on our travels. For example, there's one song "Watching Worlds Crumble" which originally was called "... Walls Crumble" and is about the Berlin Wall, which Alan

(Frew) saw when we were on tour with Tina, and it had a big impact on him. Certain songs are a reflection of Alan and some speak for all of us. Some are a little more ambiguous and don't deal with very serious subjects.

Q: There's one really nice track on the album called "This Island Earth" that is a real expression of creativity for Glass Tiger. Why is this one special?

A: It came close to our hearts. It's one of those album tracks that won't get played on an AM radio station or a top 40 station, but it was a must for us. It was a tune that Michael Hanson and Alan had worked closely on from the beginning. As we developed it, we brought in Lisa Dalbello for some great background vocals and I managed to work a good solo in. It gave all of us a chance to play around and get involved with the songwriting process. It's the most up to date track for the

band and it shows a different direction for us.

Q: "Diamond Sun" is one of the best songs on the album. Where did this tune have its beginnings?

A: The title of the track was actually "African Sun" but Alan decided, and the rest of the band agreed, that it would be too much to presume that a place like South Africa should have all this focus on it, when we really should look in our own backyard first before pointing any fingers at our neighbours. It's really a look at the idea of all of us being under one sun and we should co-operate for a better world. Y'know, "We came to this land..."; now it's up to us what we should do with the land now that we're here.

Q: Jim Vallance was back doing production duties on this album. Was he responsible for any particular sound this time around?

A: Not in a specific sense, but generally, had added a little punch to this album that you might not have heard on the first. The first album kinda drained him and he didn't think he was gonna do this again. But, once we started getting a few songs together for the second LP he sorta stepped in. It

felt comfortable and we sorta picked up from where we left off last time.

Q: Why was there so much secrecy and promotional build up for this album?

A: I wasn't so much secrecy, at least not intentionally. The band and the record company both thought that the public was sick of Glass Tiger, so we decided to slip out of sight for a while and concentrate on the new album. We had toured extensively and we needed time to get back into ourselves and relax a bit. That's basically it.

Q: Looking into the crystal CD of the future, what is coming up for Glass Tiger?

A: Oh, possibly a song on a movie soundtrack, we're looking into stuff like that now, or touring and... who knows? We'll find out when we get there.

And so ended my conversation with Al. On an end note, as most fans already know, GT's drummer Michael Hanson has left the band to pursue his songwriting career. How this will effect the quality of Glass Tiger's future albums is anybody's guess.



We were late this week and last because our machine went kablooy, but we're okay now.

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