

# FROZEN GHOST

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"Yeah, going through the lyrics you do get that. I suppose what Arn (who writes the lyrics) is saying in his lyrics is there is a spirituality that exists over and above anything that you may see on TV. Or over and above what may be the kind of things ... like any kind of organized religion.

Literally, the kind of stuff we delve into is stuff that, basically, everyone is concerned with. The kind of things like 'be responsible for your own actions' ... 'fear of death' and this kind of stuff. The whole permeating theme throughout all of that is that they are more like observations; nobody is pointing the finger. It's not a very didactic way of looking at things... they are observations .... with a sense of humour."

Wolf says that about 80% of the letters they got after the release of their first album had some kind of reference to the lyrics.

"It's kind of a neat feeling to know that there are people who actually read the lyrics and try to derive something out of them."

He pointed out that they received letters from soldiers in British Honduras who responded to the lyrics of "Soldiers Cry."

But he feels, too, that the music works by itself and that their songs can be taken on several different levels; as dance music, or as something deeper than that.

"Frozen Ghost," he says, "has a positive, uplifting view of life" and they want to have fun while performing and recording. They perform an internationally flavoured polks/jig/reel (for lack of a better description) consisting of French, Greek, German and Celtic music in honour of the national origins of the members of their backing band. It is fun to listen to, and fun to play.

"It cuts through a lot of the pretense of what a rock and

roll show is supposed to include. It's an absolute riot to play that."

According to Wolf, the new album differs from the first album by the addition of a larger horn section as opposed to a solitary saxophone; there's a different type of production and a different feel to the lyrics.

"It has more of an edge. It's got a bit more toughness to it. It has a bit more of a raw quality. But they're similar because we're the same guys."

He feels that the WEA label has been a great company to Frozen Ghost and he says that they are "unusually lucky" to be able to create when they want to create without intervention and to have the enthusiastic support and backing of WEA.

The recording process begins with Arnold playing around on the piano and tossing around ideas. He and Wolf fine-tune these ideas into songs, which they put on cassette. Then they arrange the songs before they are ready to record them in the studio.

In the studio, they begin by programming the drums. Things have to be jostled around as the bed tracks, the drums and bass, are created and changed.

Then acoustic and rhythm guitars are added, which leads to more jostling of tone and beats. Then come the keyboards and backing vocals.

"And then you go over to England and you mix it," Wolf added in blase tones.

Only, not every band goes to England. The first album was recorded in Arnold's basement. They've since moved their recording studio into a larger "industrial unit."

Frozen Ghost chose not to produce their next record themselves, but decided, instead, to work with Steven Taylor at The Farmyard in England.

"His whole sonic sense is very close to ours. He can put the icing on the cake. He just takes what's there and magically puts them in the right places sonically, and he's very good at it."

While they were in England, they had the pleasure of seeing Ozzy Osborne's gate and driveway, and video taping "some of that spontaneous footage that may end up in a video somewhere." And the chance to feel the excitement of walking on Abbey Road.

"It sounds really weird, but it was incredibly exciting to walk on ... that same Abbey Road. It's weird, a grown man saying that, but I get shivers for some reason."

So after their record was mixed in England, mastered, pressed and sold, the promotion began.

"That's when you get to say to people, 'Buy this album because we worked so hard making it.'"

Frozen Ghost loves touring and they had a chance to be the opening act on the Howard Jones tour in the United States last year.

"It was actually the first time we played live. Sometimes, if you open up for a band, it can be either a really great experience or it can be the absolute pits. In this situation, it was great because Howard Jones is just an amazing guy ... everybody that was affiliated with him were just phenomenal people, and they were really helpful to us."

Frozen Ghost will be playing in the SUB Cafeteria on Sept. 9 as part of Saint Thomas University's Frosh Orientation activities. I'll be there I'll be the one wearing the polka shoes.

## CHSR FM would like to welcome all freshmen to the listening area of alternative radio.

### UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

1) first meeting/coffee house in a "get to know ya" kind of atmosphere. Wednesday Sept. 14 in room 103 of the Student Union Building.

2) general meeting new and old members (as above) are all welcome and are asked to attend. Monday, Sept. 19 in room 103 of the SUB.

We need fresh new people to be programmers, newscasters, sportscasters and SALES PEOPLE (earn money) as well as people in general to help us run the airwaves at 97.9 on your FM dial.

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# chsr fm

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