

ZOMBIE EATERS

Faith No More



Faith No More are a "sensation". Whether they like it or not they are hit-picked and bound for success. They've been voted Band of the Year in British heavy metal bible *Kerrang*, received accolades from critics worldwide and, more importantly, from worldwide crowds. The reason being *The Real Thing*, a monstrous, fresh beast of an album, as diverse as the five weirdos who made it.

The band have been around since the early 80s. Initially as Faith No Man, who booted out their lead singer and evolved into Faith No

More. Nothing like the tight ensemble they are now, they were "more of a performance thing than anything else." Eventually vocalist

Chuck Mosely began singing rather than screaming and they picked up guitarist Jim Martin (not yet Big Sick Ugly Jim) who had been gigging with Metallica's Cliff Burton. They got themselves signed to Mordam Records and released 'We Care A Lot'. Then Slash records released 'Introduce Yourself' in 1987 and things started getting serious. A remixed version of 'We Care A Lot' started scoring big on US college stations and even on European pop charts. But internal strife was messing up the band and Chuck Mosely was dumped on a European tour. Bassist and cool dude Bill Gould explains.

"Chuck was never really a singer, he sort of became one by default. He was a keyboard player that we had sing 'cos he was a friend of ours. We weren't popular then, it was just a fun thing to do. We started becoming popular sort of against our own efforts, we started becoming a real band and one of the pressures that came with that was to play more shows. That turned into making a record and that turned into doing a tour and the more that pressure came on, the less Chuck was cut out for it. It got so I couldn't stand looking at the guy, we couldn't tour with him so we fired him 'cos he wasn't about to quit."

Enter Mike Patton, a vocalist whose voice is as acrobatic as his stage act. Sometime frontman for the brilliantly named Mr Bungle he joined up with the Faith No More circus and the show was on the road again with a new album and some serious touring (including dates with Metallica). Touring seems remarkably important in the scheme of things for a band like FNM and for a band like Metallica, for that matter, or any other non-mainstream act.

"It is important because the record industry is so conservative. It's getting a little easier for a metal band now but in Metallica's day it was impossible, the only way they got anywhere was by touring. Actually, if we wanted to be advertised and marketed as a metal band we wouldn't have to tour so much but we're our own band. We're unique, we don't want to be a metal band. Metal people can like us. We like metal — Slayer, Metallica, Napalm Death — it's great, but we're ourselves, we do what we do and the only way we're going to get across these barriers, this stereotyping and categorisation, is getting in people's faces and having them see us. Because a record company in a country as large as this, selling as many Madonna and Prince records as it does, isn't going to take the time to go through all the different markets and sell us like that. They like to find a category so they can run it like a computer programme. So really it's up to us to tour and build some of our own identity. We play metal shows with Metallica but we do other shows with other types of bands. We have to, it's our own survival we're talking about."

Categorisation is something causing problems with a lot of bands nowadays, especially with metal orientated, hard rock type bands. Long the most blinkered of genres, it's now becoming the most

experimental. For every Skid Row or Guns n' Roses there seems to be ten new bands challenging the status quo, from the Faith No Mores down to the likes of Scatterbrain, Bad Mutha Goose, Underdog and dozens of others who are mixing Parliament with the Black Sabbath, playing hardcore riffs on keyboards or using a string section to achieve a new sound and a new approach. But what happens? A new category — funk metal — is born and the whole thing is in danger of being conveniently pigeonholed and forgotten.

"Yeah, funk metal is a word I keep hearing. I think the reason people do this is conditioning. People have been conditioned to think in categories and there's been some very greedy bands who have just accepted it to further their lives and careers. And the industry on their part have been targeting bands in categories, conditioning people to think that way. It's unfortunate and it makes things difficult for any band that has any kind of individuality about them. But I suppose the good thing is that when a band like us get attention hopefully a door is opening for a lot of other interesting bands to come through."

It seems strange that a band can go from being deemed "alternative metal" and thus unpalatable to being "funk metal" and hugely hip in the eyes of the press and the music establishment.

"Well, as the old saying goes, let 'em call us what they want as long as they call us. It's sort of that any publicity deal, as long as it works in our favour and we can do what we want to do it's fine. Fuck 'em."

Categorisation aside, the term "funk" does spring to mind with Faith No More's sound. There's definite hints of it in the first two albums but on *The Real Thing* it all seems to come together. Largely courtesy of Gould

and drummer Mike Bordin's rhythm section, who lay down the definitive hard funk sound for the rest of the band to work over. It seems like all the elements have finally come together in the three year space between albums.

"I think in the two years of touring we did on the *Introduce Yourself* album we learnt how to play our instruments better and with the progress we made we convinced the record company to give us more budget money which meant we could spend more time in the studio and get more sound out of our instruments. Like we were able to spend a day and a half on the guitar sound whereas before, who has a day and a half to dick around with the guitar sounds?"

For a supposedly left-field outfit, Faith No More have been getting an impressive amount of attention, especially in Europe, and they're damned near cult heroes in England.

"Well, nobody can play music like white trash Americans and although the English are too civilised to be white trash, they seem to like the sound and they respect true white trash when they see it, you know, they appreciate pure scum."

Actually, scum is far too strong a term for Faith No More. Sure, they're not your typical pouf'n cheekbones rockers and they are a little, well, *eclectic* (Bill's a big fan of organised crime and mass murderers. We filled each other in one some good books and he told me some truly gruesome stories. All in good fun, though). But scum or not they've definitely made rock music sound great again. But why take my word for it? They play Auckland July 27 and we should be guaranteed an awesome show, the full crazy Faith No More rock monster unleashed at last. The real thing. KIRK GEE

CDs

The next Chess deluxe CD reissue from MCA will be **Bo Diddley**. The 45 track set will include 9 unreleased tracks and recordings that have not previously appeared on albums.

Two classic **Dr John** albums have been released on CD for the first time, *Gumbo* and *In the Right Place*. There's a bonus CD-only cut on the **George Harrison's** fundraising *Romanian Angel Appeal* album, it's **Ringo Starr** and his All Star Band doing 'With A Little Help from My Friends'.

The classic **Penetration** album *Moving Targets* has been reissued by Virgin on CD with additional singles and

B-sides. Other recent Virgin CD only releases are **Ruts** *The Crack*, **Iggy Pop** *The Idiot*, **Public Image** *Metal Box*, **Roger Eno** *Voices* and **Wilko Johnson** *Solid Senders*.

The first **Cure** album *Three Imaginary Boys* has been released on CD by WEA. EMI has releases the **Pink Floyd** CD boxed set.

Polygram mid-price CD releases include two **Kool & the Gang** compilations *Ballad Collection* and *Dance Collection*, Peter Frampton's 60s pop group, the **Herd** *Paradise Lost*, **Chet Baker** *Best Thing For You*, **Nazareth** *Loud & Proud*, **Savoy Brown** *Shake Down*.

Mid-price CDs from WEA include **Robert Cray** *Who's Been Talkin'*, **Motley Crue** *Shout at the Devil*, **Zapp II & New Zapp** *IV U*, **Bonnie Raitt** *The Glow and Takin' My Time*.

Deejays.
Learn today's
hottest techniques
in digital
mixing/sampling.

Digital sampling is completely revolutionizing DJ and club mixing. Now you can learn the latest techniques and technology in DJ sampling with Numark's new video called "Introduction to DJ Digital Sampling." This 30-minute video explores the newest DJ sampling techniques including looping, stuttering, and double sampling. This is a 'must see' video for deejays looking to add the excitement of digital sampling to produce professional, studio quality mixes.

Numark PPD

For your own copy of this tape send \$18.00 plus \$3.50 postage and handling to:

Oceania Audio Ltd. P.O. Box 41-085, St. Lukes
Ph. (09) 893-114, Fax (09) 893-307

TRY THE COMPETITION

NADY wants you to be sure you've made the right choice.

NADY wireless systems offer the best sounding, quietest, most reliable, drop-out free radio link — and by far the best value for money.

That's why they sell more wireless systems world wide than all the competition combined. They work.

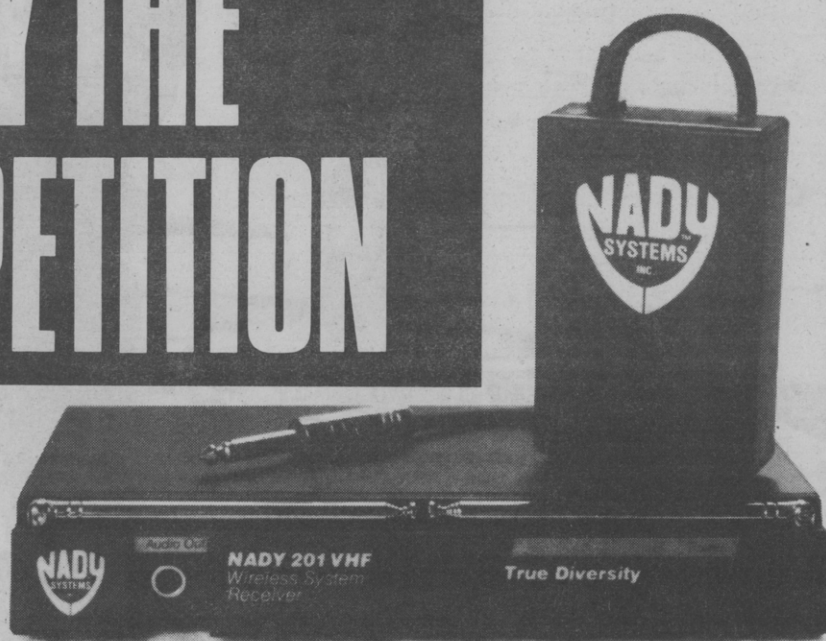
If specs impress you — check these out:

- 25-20,000 Hz ± 3dB
- 120dB dynamic range
- minimum 200 feet (adverse conditions)
- up to 1500 feet (line of sight)
- 170-215MHz carrier frequencies

Compare these to any wireless system by any manufacturer at any price and then let your ears confirm them.

NADY wants you to be sure you've made the right choice.

Try a NADY wireless system at your local musical retailer.



Contact Oceania Audio for your nearest dealer.
Oceania Audio Ltd.
Box 41-085 St Lukes, Auckland
Ph (09) 893-114, Fax (09) 893-307



ALSO AVAILABLE FROM NADY:
Hand held Microphone Systems (including SM58 version)
Lapel Microphone Systems
Head worn Microphone Systems
Video Camera Mic Systems