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Table Of Contents >>> >

Intro.....3

Shows In Their Eyes.....4

Everything Counts.....7

Pressed In Black.....9

Andy Fletcher - Personal File.....12

Spreading The News Around The World.....14

I Met That Bloke From Depeche Mode Once.....16

Satellite.....18

Pen Pals.....19

Contacts.....19

Classified.....19

Blasphemous Rumours.....20

B-Sides.....22

Bootlegs & DJ Mixes....23

Master Of Celebration...24

Mega Devotee File.....25

Bong Shop.....26

Ads.....27

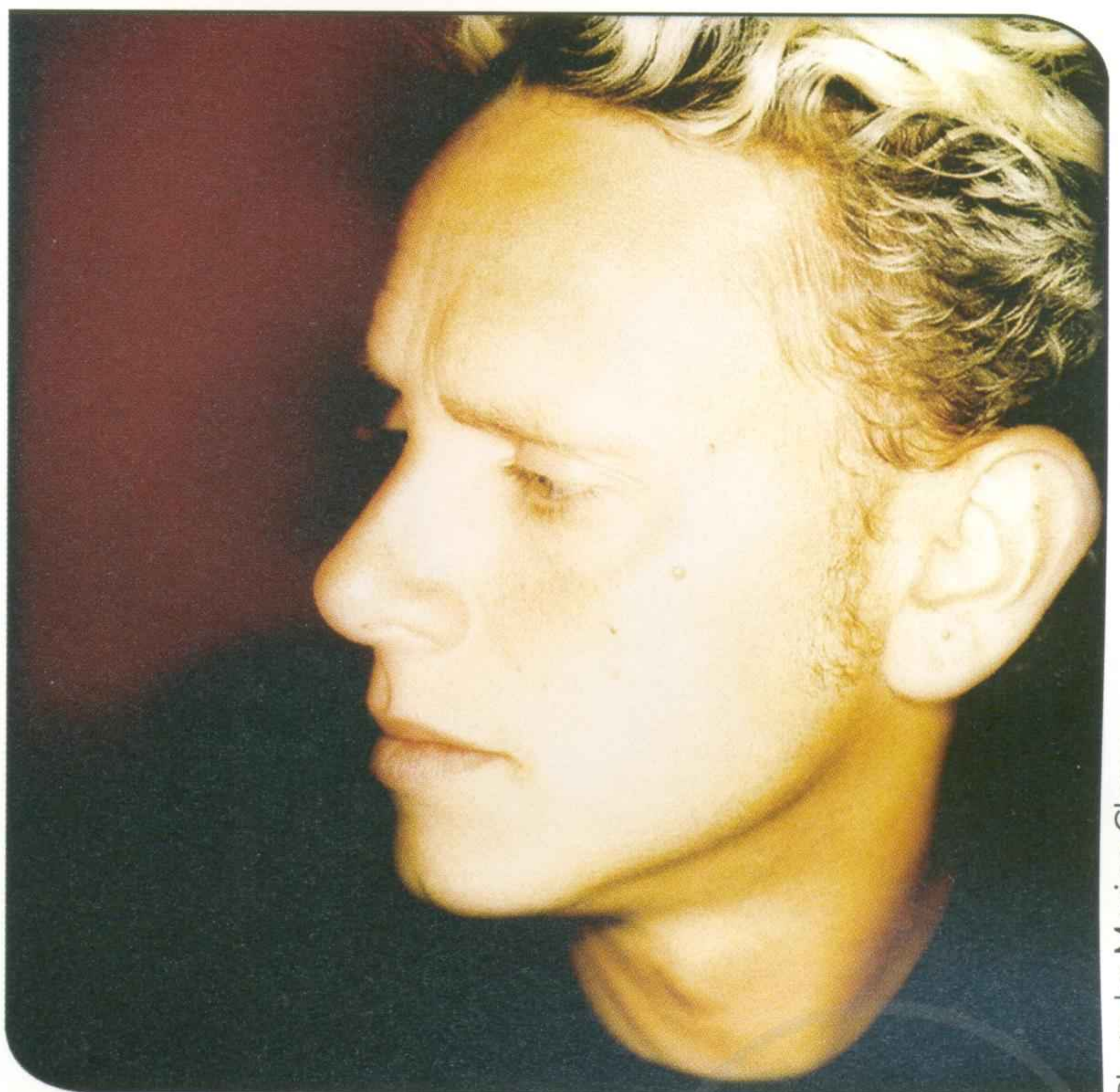


Photo by Marina Chavez

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Cover photo by Marina Chavez. Back cover photo by Anton Corbijn.



< < < **Intro** > >

Hello! It's Bong time again....

As you can see our computer systems haven't been affected by the so-called Millennium Bug, which had everyone so worried. So thankfully, we're pleased to be able to say – welcome to the first BONG of 2000.

When we started putting this edition together at the beginning of January, we were a little bit concerned that we had no fresh news or surprises for you. Especially since the Band haven't been in the studio or on tour for over a year now. But guess what? The Band have told us they are planning to go in to the studio very soon, to work on some new material. So rest assured there will be more news on this in forthcoming issues of Bong.

If you don't think that's a big enough reason to celebrate, we would like to remind you (in case you didn't know) it's been 20 long years since four unknown guys from Basildon formed a band, named themselves Depeche Mode then conquered the World. It's truly amazing that we are, this year, celebrating twenty years of Depeche Mode being an integral and important part of the music industry. Happy Birthday!!

To mark this anniversary, we have compiled a list of the most important moments in the Band's history and the turning points of their career. We hope you find this ride through time enjoyable!

We didn't, of course, forget about the regular features. There are some really interesting comments in the mail section of "Pressed In Black" and a great review of the opening shows of The Singles 86-98 Tour in the States. Last, but not least, there's the second part of the "Personal File" and this time it's Fletch in the hot seat!

Can't wait to see you all in Basildon on April 15 at this year's International Bong Convention!! We are counting days already!!

Until June, keep moding!

PS - Please note, that if you haven't purchased a ticket for the International Bong Convention via Bong you won't be admitted! There will be no tickets on sale on the door as the capacity is strictly limited! Thanks for understanding.

dm/live

SHOWS IN THEIR EYES

Depeche Mode in the opening US shows, October - November 1998

Review by Lloyd Soldatt, NYC, USA
Photos No. 1, 3, 4 by Michaela Olexova
Photo No. 2 by Anton Corbijn

I would like to share my impressions on Depeche Mode performances from the last tour of the US leg taken place in Worcester, MA (27th October), New York City (28th and 29th October) and Philadelphia (1st November) as I haven't, so far, found anybody commenting on these shows. First of all, I had to prepare in detail months and months beforehand to get the concert tickets, hotel reservations and bus tickets to travel all across the state of New York over to Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. I knew from my past tour experiences how important it was to be prepared. At the famous Port Authority station in NYC, I was expecting to meet at least an impressive crowd of people that day heading towards Worcester, but I found myself to be the only one and then I just met a girl from the City who was also a DM fan. That was strange.

Worcester, MA - 27/10/98

We got to the 'strange little town' as described by Daryl at around 6 o'clock and went to the Centrum, a modern gigantic well-equipped sports stadium/concert-hall, right in the centre of the town. When I approached I saw lots of fans gathered at the entrance listening to Depeche songs at full blast. The merchandise distributors were already selling the programs, t-shirts and posters. I took a picture to commemorate this atmosphere and went to check into my hotel right across a small railway road dead-end. When



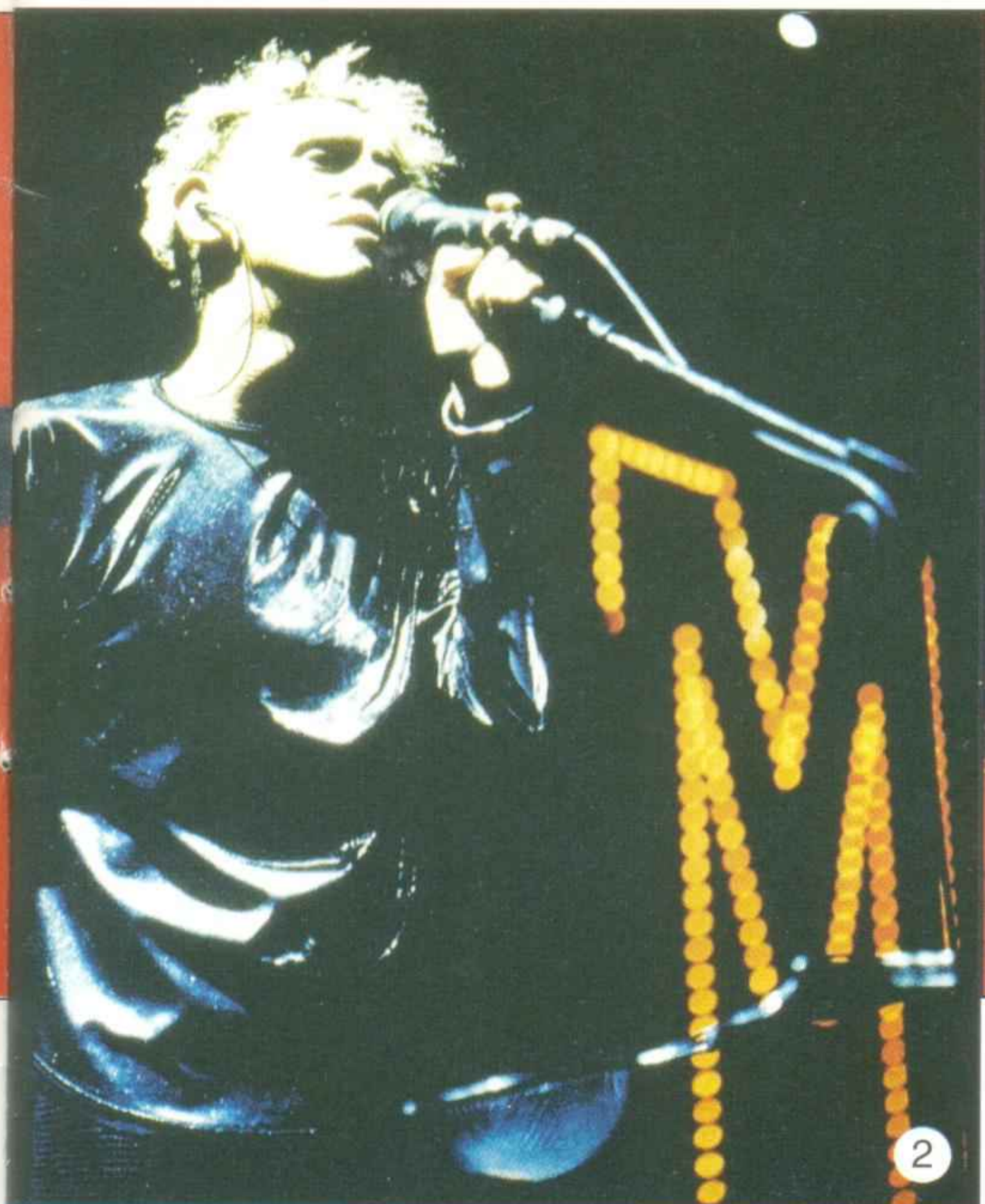
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I was ready, I went back to the Centrum and noticed lots of cars parked in the parking lot nearby. To my relief, there were a lot of New York number plates as well as cars from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and of New England on site - "All in place", I murmured to myself. I started getting worried about the New York fans missing the opening show of the entire American part. I was happy to be proved wrong. I was very excited and savoured the anticipation of the forthcoming show by just sitting in my seat, close to the stage, and looking around. The audience went silent with the first chords of the intro "Headstar". The American leg of the tour did not have the luck of having Tim Simenon DJing for us! Then I saw a very familiar silhouette of Martin Gore himself approaching me and smiling, then Dave and Andy. The light went on at full and the first sounds of "A Question of Time" hit the air. Personally, I think this is a very powerful and impressive song to do live, so I was glad to hear it begin the show. The sound was excellent,

and Dave sounded very crisp, fresh, energetic and excited. His voice commanded an immense power and strength. I think the Centrum was the perfect size venue for the Singles Tour. I was standing so close to Martin that it was almost a surreal experience to feel like part of the history. Different thoughts went through my head, as I was thinking about my last show in 1993 (in the same hall) and the ensuing years of pain and grief, along with some personal reminiscing. The most difficult parts in the set vocally, in my opinion, were "I Feel You", "BOAG" and "In Your Room" and were done brilliantly with an amazing sense of presence. Dave's voice flying round the walls of the concert hall had a mysterious influence on the crowd, a phantom-like spell was cast and put us all into a frenzy. All I wish to say is: "Bravo!" I also remember seeing the ever-present tour manager Mr. Andy Franks, talking to Dave at the podium of the stage and serving some tea to him. This was very real and interesting to see as well. I saw Martin's guitar technician talking

to Mart and smiling. All the familiar faces in one place. I was anticipating Martin's performance of "Home", knowing how intricate and difficult it is for performing live, I suppose, he did it better than it was possible for a human. Bravo, bravo! Then a huge surprise came in the form of a new arrangement of "Somebody". I think it's necessary to mention that Martin's stage costume was superb and his new stage mannerisms were arranged and composed perfectly. I liked the way he sounded on this version of "Somebody" a bit serious and sensual at the same time and most importantly, I wonder if anyone noticed how Martin stressed the words in this version. For instance, one of the accents fell on the word "perverted" I think it was significant and new. Plus he managed to underline some lower notes more differently than ever, which had a tremendous effect. I think the version of "A Question Of Time" was more upbeat and joyous than usual which brought the atmosphere a sense of relaxed elevation to the crowd. In other



words, all was as perfect as perfect can be. I would like to add that this excellent venue was contributory to a perfect show in terms of sound and overall performance.

New York City - 28+29/10/98

I went back to New York the next morning still emotionally exhausted and tired after last night's miracle. But I had to face two shows in a row at Madison Square Garden. I personally think that the Garden, the world-famous concert hall and more, is the sacrifice to the homey atmosphere that a Depeche Mode show brings. Regardless of all the efforts, it is still too commercial for a show like this. Its size and layout, though providing perfect sound and capacity, never make you feel 'in touch' with the stage unless you are by the stage at the edge. But there is no way Depeche Mode could play for the New Yorkers otherwise. Also the weather outside added to my slightly upset state of mind. I would like to say that the band did more than they possibly could at this venue on 28th October and the sound was magnificent. No faults, no delays, all perfect. But it is worth commenting on the audience; I was disappointed to see a lot of the younger crowd playing with laser pointers, while the band were on stage. It was low, ignorant and disrespectful. I suppose this was partly the reason why Dave and Martin were pretty tense in the first part of the performance. The second show on 29th October was warmer and brighter. I had that momentous impression that this show would be a blast. And it was.

First of all, the crowd was mature, there were lots of old-school fans and the response was amazing. Dave spoke to the crowd and smiled a lot. Martin (surprise-surprise!!!) was wearing armour-like shorts which matched his glittering jacket, for the first time. And Dave presented Martin as "This is Martin Lee Gore!!!" during "Enjoy the Silence". Very endearing and a great sign of love. It is worth remembering the famous hand swaying during "Never Let Me Down Again", which sounded like a hymn for the youth of this century. When the light went sweeping across the crowd, I saw a virtual living field of waving hands all around me. It was difficult to control my emotions... I think we all left on a highly elevated note that night.

Philadelphia - 01/11/98

Philadelphia greeted us with the perfect autumn weather and some sun. The Forum concert hall is located on the edge of the city and is a new well-equipped concert place. It was my first time there and I liked it immensely. I knew it would be a great show to see. At 9 PM sharp the boys were on stage. There were also some people from the VH1 channel filming the performance. Dave re-energized the versions of "I Feel You", "BOAG", "In Your Room" and especially "Useless". In "Useless" he deliberately accentuated the low notes in the main phrase so it sounded like he goes high up and then streaming down. It had a great effect of power and energy, which was delivered to the crowd. "I Feel You" gave me the goose bumps, that is how great it really sounded. Very

ambient, monolithic and captivating. "Somebody" was again not like any other version of this masterpiece ballad, more sensual and touching. To summarise: November 1st showed the superb performance and unity between the band and the audience. Andrew Fletcher deserves a separate 'Bravo' for being a great, devoted friend and leader. He made it all happen behind the curtains of the show and the music. We love you, Andy! Drawing to a close, I would like to mention that my opinion, as an old-school fan, is that my ideal stage instrumentation still remains to be the more electronic set-up of previous tours. And I will explain why: The roots of the band are in a heavily electronic and experimental scene that Depeche Mode pioneered, created and popularised. The Devotional Tour was on the perfect edge of balancing between the introduction of live drums (brilliantly performed by Alan Wilder - this will be covered in my next comments) and the electronic drum lines. The orchestration was superb. I would like to agree with some of my English friends that although we really enjoyed the live drums, we longed for the edgier side of DM as in their traditional arrangement. This traditionalism was the DM hallmark that we all so dearly love. We were bred on this type of music and we preach it to the masses. I personally think that Depeche Mode are ingenious, as they are when they counterpoint the warm, homely and very human voices of Dave and Martin to the soulful, spiritual heights of the unearthly music that is impossible to counterfeit. This is something from a conservative Mode as I consider myself. The last word is "Thank you all".

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Everything Counts >>

Christmas & New Year Celebrations

It seems that Martin was the busiest member of Depeche Mode at the end of last year, as he and his family spent almost three weeks travelling the world. They went to Los Angeles just before Christmas, and on Boxing Day went on a new-year cruise from Miami. On arriving back in Miami on 2nd January, they flew to the Bahamas for a week returning home on 11th January. Dave and Fletch, on the other hand, celebrated Christmas and New Year in a traditional atmosphere - at home with their families. Fletch, however, decided to go for a two-week holiday in Mauritius at the beginning of January.

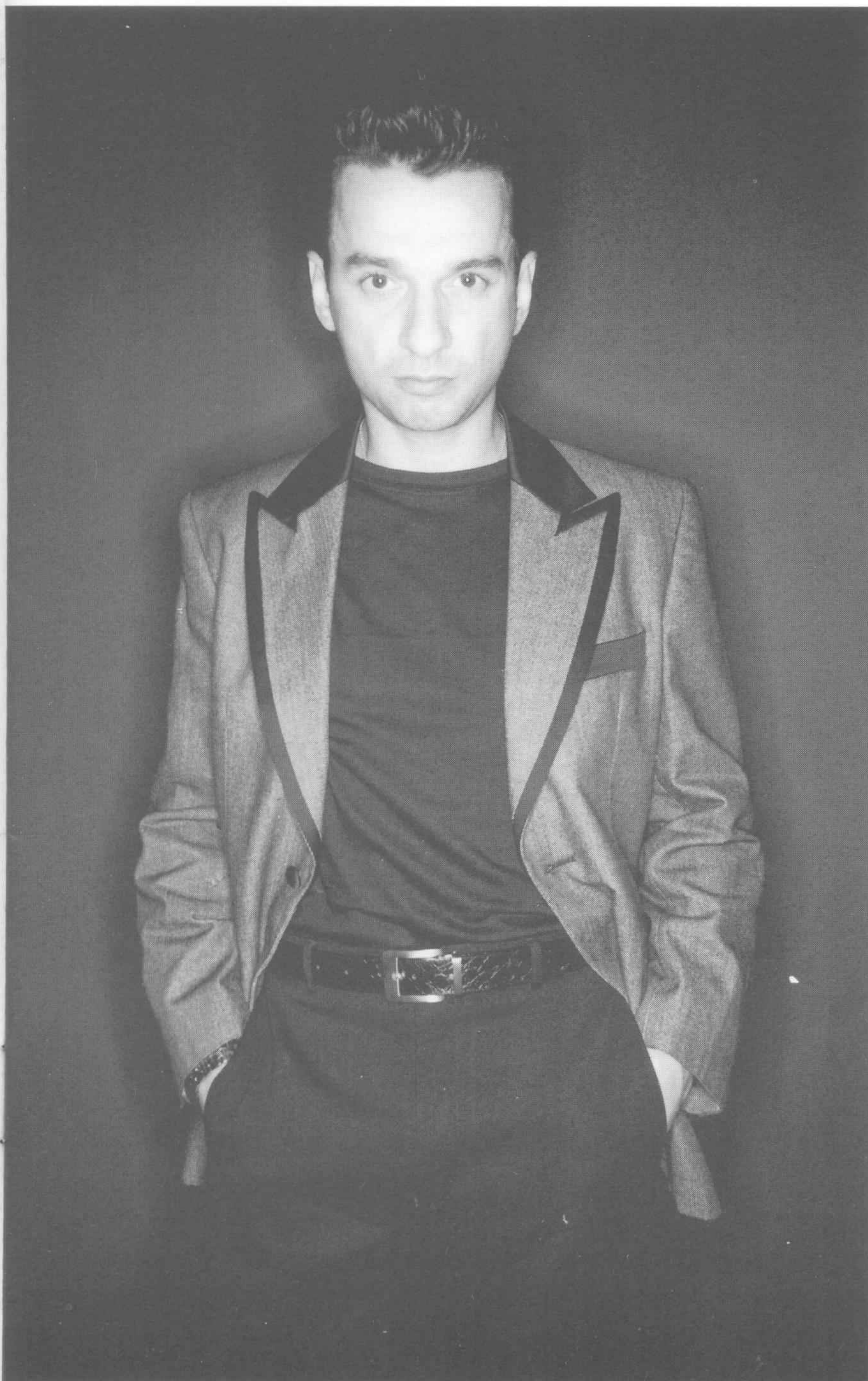


Photo by Marina Chavez

Band News

The great news is that the Band are expected to announce their recording plans soon! Martin is still songwriting, and is currently working at home in his studio with Gareth Jones and Paul Freegard. Gareth has worked with Depeche Mode on several projects in the past, including their last studio album "Ultra", Paul is also known for his collaboration with the Band.

Jonathan Kessler – Boxing Fan?

Jonathan Kessler was in London a few weeks ago, and while he was here, he went up to Manchester and attended the Mike Tyson match. Can you imagine Fletch's surprise when he saw Jonathan in the audience, while he was watching the match on TV? Fletch wasn't the only person who spotted Jonathan. In fact, the first we knew about it was when we received an e-mail from Bong member Michael Rose. Thank you Michael.

The Singles 86>98 DVD

Mute is going to release the DVD version of "The Singles 86>98" video in PAL format on March 6th. It will be packaged in a durable plastic case, and features high quality picture and sound, and easy to use menu options. The content stays intact.

www.depechemode.com

The Official Depeche Mode web site has been recently re-designed and features new navigation that should help you through the site. "Today In Depeche Mode History", a popular feature, is also back - you can now check all the details from the Band's past that refer to each specific date!

Music For The Millennium update - On Wednesday November 10, the UK TV Channel 4 aired 'Music for the Millennium - Best Band Category' and Depeche Mode came 37th - one place above Metallica. This is in addition to David's 29th place in the Best Male Vocalist Category.

The German magazine Musicwoche published a chart of peak album positions for the 90's, and Depeche Mode were number five. (However, Metallica were number one).

On 20th September "Agent Orange" was used as background music in the thriller 'Die Männer Vom K3' (The Men of K3), a television station in Denmark.

A few seconds of a remix of "It's No Good" was featured in an episode of 'Friends' on Danish Television TV2 on Sunday September 19th.

"Pimpf" was used as background music during the programme called 'Sans aucun Doute' on the French TV TF1 on 8th October. The report was about the fostering and adoption of children.

"Just Can't Get Enough" was used as background music in the programme 'MTV Movie Special', dedicated to the actress Drew Barrymore on MTV Europe on October 16.

On October 27, the intro of "Barrel Of A Gun" was used during a news report about a Belgian indoor lifeguard on RING TV, a local Belgium television station.

"Behind The Wheel" was used in a report about the Grand Prix in Japan (F1) in the programme 'Week End Sportif' on RTBF (Belgium National Television) on Sunday 1st November.

On Wednesday, September 20th, the German TV-Stations RTL and SAT1 covered a report on the Super 9 tennis-tournament at the Schleyerhalle in Stuttgart. André Agassi was doing a 20-minute training-session with Steffi Graf who was wearing a white T-shirt featuring the Violator rose between the DM letters.

On November 2, the German TV WDR 3 showed part of the documentary series 'Pop 2000' covering the years from 1982 to 1985. Depeche Mode were mentioned as the outstanding icons and heroes of the synth-pop and wave-era. Snippets of the videos of "People Are People" and "Master And Servant" were shown. It was also said that Depeche Mode are the only band from that era, that has "survived" the last two decades by constantly developing their music and style.

A five-minute mix of "Useless" was used on November 8 on the German TV Channel Pro7 during one episode ('The Deadly Jaguar') of the series 'The Sentinel Yours'.

The German TV channel TM3 broadcast the Champions league football match and played "Only When I Lose Myself" during their report on November 24.

On November 8, David Gahan was mentioned as one of the best performers of all time on VH1's 'The List' in America.

"The Bottom Line" and "Higher Love" were used in a report about The Church Of Scientology in a programme called 'Au nom de la loi' on the Belgian TV RTBF on Wednesday 8th December.

On Thursday December 9, "Surrender" was used in a report about money & football in a programme called 'Envoye Special' on the French TV France 2.

On December 10, a very strange video/mix was shown on MTV's 'SO 90's'. It featured the original video clip of "Barrel Of A Gun", but the music was the Underworld Soft Mix. The mix turned into U2's "Numb" and Madonna's "Nothing Really Matters".

Many thanks to Brian Weihe, Lena Hamborg, Kevin Jee, Marco Leimegger, Claudia Meyer, Daniela Vorndran, Mario Schumann, Michael Lyons, Brian Weihe, Sabine Erdmann, Josephine O'Neal, Lena Harell, Laura Iwanenko, Sophie Pettersson and to anyone else who sent in contributions. Please keep the information coming in and don't forget that Everything Counts!

Everything Counts Plus:

My three lovely dogs are named: Pimpf, Ultra, and Zombie (Ode To The Cranberries). Since I am undoubtedly a modish teacher to-be of English, I keep spreading the devotion around and preaching about Depeche while talking about John Fletcher (the playwright), teaching new words related to Depeche Mode and Mute... And eventually, I must confess that I spread the news around the country on banknotes! I hope you keep it a secret!! The funniest thing is that a while ago I received a "marked" banknote with Depeche Mode (which I treasure). It must have been a response from another devotee. **Yolanda Esanu, Bucharest, Romania**

I used the script of "depeche MODE" from the cover of "Walking In My Shoes" and had a specialist shop to make a large sticker of it. Since that day, I have been driving around with this sticker inside the rear window of my car. Everywhere I go now, Depeche Mode go with me... **Manfred Greisert, Erhrath, Germany**

A chance to win!

You also have a chance to win some DM related prizes for a short story/article and photograph showing how influential Depeche Mode are in our everyday lives. There must be lots of places (restaurants, houses, etc.) or things (car number plates, boats, etc.) and even pets (like in this case) named after our threesome. Let us know about them...we can't wait to see what you can come up with! All contributions should be sent to our usual address or via e-mail to: flexible@tnet.cz

DM T-shirt and a badge go to: Yolanda Esanu from Romania and Manfred Greisert from Germany.



Photo by Manfred Greisert

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< < Pressed In Black >

Dear Bong,

I wrote to you last year when I felt that Depeche Mode were again getting the rough end of the stick by not being given the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Brit Awards 1999. It was given to the Eurythmics, who although had been split for nearly 10 years and were about to reform, at least have made a valid contribution to music. I have just heard who will be receiving the award this year and if this is the case I do not think that Depeche Mode will ever get it. The award this year goes to the Spice Girls. I have now lost all faith in the music industry. And to cap it all the Radio 1 DJ that announced it said and the big question is "Will Geri join them on stage?" I think the big question should just be "WHY?".

Andy Hall
Birmingham, England

Editor's note: What do the rest of you think about Depeche Mode not receiving A Lifetime Achievement Award at the Brit Awards again?

Dear Bong,

I was moved to read Gemma Gannan's letter in Issue 41, and thought I would write and tell you how Dave's troubles affected me too. Recently, I read Depeche Mode's biography (not for the faint-hearted!), and to say I was distraught would be an understatement - catatonic for a week, more like!

After a lot of thinking "Oh God: What could I do?" (and probably moved by the closing lines of "Judas") I got in touch with a drug rehab charity and did a sponsored fast for them. I had done a 24-hour one before, but this one was a 48 hour fast, which was a mad thing to do and slaughtered me! You don't want to hear how much I ate my way through afterwards, but I am very pleased to tell you that I raised £100.

I would like to say to anyone else who has been troubled by hearing about Dave - there are plenty of people out there with exactly the same problems, and we can all make a difference to these people (although going hungry for 48 hours isn't recommended), so do get involved! Hopefully I speak for everyone when I say how proud I am of David for managing to come back from the brink and get his life together.

Sarah Marshall
Liverpool, England

Dear Bong,

Is there any chance in the future that a live and studio rarities could be released? (Preferably unreleased mixes). A lot of bands do this and not all of them do it after they have split up. I'm sure there must be material that has never seen the light of day, which could beat the bootleggers at their own game (e.g. "Everything Counts" from the World Violation Tour, "A Question Of Time" from the Devotional Tour).

Even a couple of remixes from some guests would be a bonus - I for one would like to hear Alan (or even Vince) remix "Barrel Of A Gun" or another track from "Ultra", but I won't hold my breath for that one! Does anyone else have a view on this?

Greig Thomson
Glasgow, Scotland

Dear Bong,

My name is Judith Rivera, and I live in California. When I first heard about the Depeche Mode Singles Tour, my brother and I waited in front of Ticket Master to buy tickets to the Forum. We didn't get the best seats in the house, but it was good enough for us. We also wanted to go to the Anaheim Pond, but they were sold out, so we were kind of bummed out. One day, as I was listening to X 103.9, a local radio station, they announced a Depeche Mode contest that they were having. The contest was called "What would you do for Depeche Mode tickets?" Knowing that the first place winner would win front row seats to the Anaheim Pond I drove down to the station that morning with

my crazy entry. I stood out in front of the radio station and let my brother pour dog poop all over me, crushing it all over my hair and body, I even let him spell our DM all over my face with the runny poop. Well, it was sick but you know what? Everyone told me that I was a true Depeche Mode fan and won the front row seats! Doing all of this was worth it because I got to see my favourite band in the whole world perform!

Judith Rivera
Colton, CA, USA

Editor's note: Wow!!! Would you be able to do such a thing to win tickets to a show? If so, we would like to hear about it!! Write to us and tell us what lengths you've gone to for a ticket or backstage pass to a Depeche Mode show. Please send your letters to the usual address by the end of April and we will print the best stories. Good luck!!

Dear Bong,

Just wanted to thank you for the excellent Bong 42 magazine. It is super, the colours and the photo's of the band are great!!! Your hard work and efforts are greatly appreciated by this DM fan. The magazine has never been a disappointment, but this one just stands out....thank you!!! I met some of you at the Bong convention in Camden in 1998 - what a great evening....

Anyhow, I have been a DM fan from about 1983 so that says it all, but have only been subscribing to Bong for about three years now.....should have been longer, but I was living in South Africa at the time and it was quite expensive

to subscribe. But now things are different since moving over here to England. Looking forward to the convention in April....it's gonna be a ripper.... I hope the bookings and the tickets are going real well!!!

Anyhow thanx again for the excellent magazine....wicked stuff people!!! I wish you all a super super Year 2000!!!

Greg Mason
England

Editor's note: Pleased to hear that you enjoyed the previous issue of Bong, we were also very happy with the final result. As for this years' convention, the tickets and hotel reservations were sold out some time ago. Thanks.

Dear Bong,

More than a year has passed since I had the chance to see the Modies on stage for the last time and all I can say is that I miss them a lot. I've been to a few gigs lately (Blur, Aerosmith, Duran Duran, Eurythmics and many more), but none of them can create the same magic atmosphere (despite the fact that all those gigs were excellent!). I hope to see my favourite band on the road again soon.

Anyway, I'd like to take this opportunity to comment on a few points recently raised by other fans in the magazine. First of all I'd like to express my complete support to Nik Thierry. I couldn't agree more with him, as I don't like the idea of seeing Bong on line. You've drawn our attention to some advantages this solution might offer, yet you fail to see the problems. Internet is free in the U.S, but it's still quite expensive in

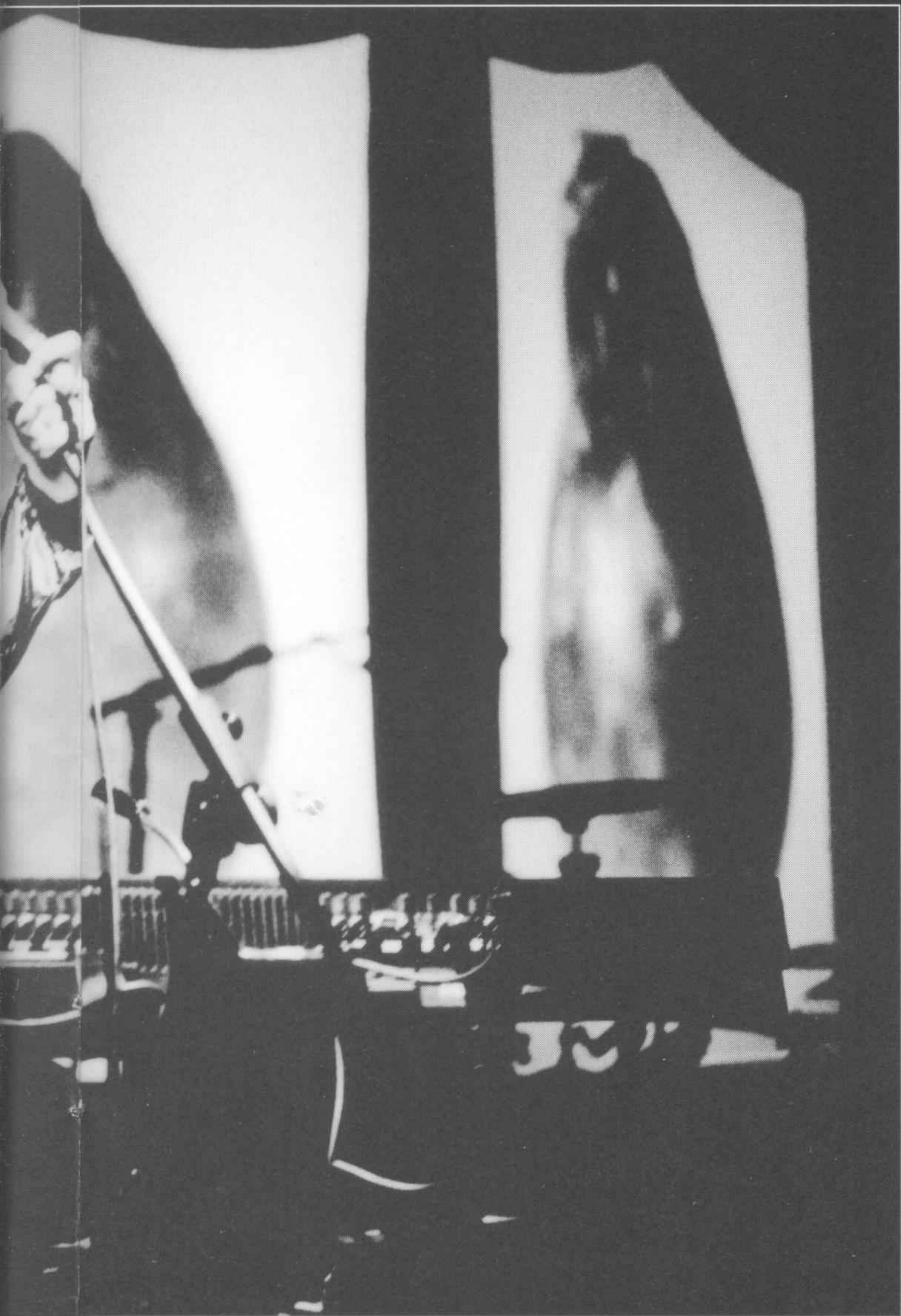
Europe. On top of that, slow connections can make surfing a real pain. How long it's going to take us to read all the paper once on-line? And how much is going to cost us to print what might interests us? Not to mention the fact that many collectors see the hard copy of Bong as a sort of memorabilia! How can we cope without it? On the contrary I'd really like to see the back issues of Bong being placed on the net, especially those are not available anymore. I've been a fan since 1986, yet I joined Bong only in 1995. I bought all the back issues that were available, but most of



Photo by Anton Corbijn

them have remained inaccessible to me. So why not re-print them? I do think many fans would support this.

As for the band, I would really like to see them tour again soon and play tracks such as "Strangelove" and "Behind the Wheel" as I really missed these songs during the last one! The set list was a bit dull and the choice of some songs and to drop others was a bit questionable. I love "Stripped" but this song has always been played since it was released. To be honest I would have loved something different from time to time. I would also appreciate seeing "People Are People" back on the set list (I know the guys hate this song, but I still love it, and I've never had the chance to hear it live). In 1993, I was among the 10,000 lucky fans to see the band perform "Something To Do" in Brussels, and I think it's a great thing to change as many tracks



as possible on the set list especially when the band play two dates in the same city.

It would be also nice to see cheaper memorabilia that goes on sale at gigs. The T-shirts were really expensive this time, and it made it impossible for many fans to buy more than one or two. Even the Italian press commented on it! I know this sort of merchandise helps the band to finance their tours, but please, don't forget that £20 pounds is an extremely high price for a T-shirt! A little effort to reduce those prices would definitely be appreciated.

Last but not least, I was appalled to read Tom Evison's letter where he claimed the bootleg "Lost Myself" might be "a best buy". I would strongly advise anyone against buying this rip-off. Mute has released all these tracks on CDs and vinyls, and buying this piece of cheat means making the guys lose royalties in favour of bootleggers. I have loads of bootlegs CDs and videos, yet buying this sort of recording doesn't prevent me from buying all the official stuff (it's not my fault if the Modies decide not to release any live recordings from the last tour. Maybe Bong, with the support of the band, could buy the copyright of the gig in Cologne to make a 2-CD set available for the fans). But buying something that is usually available over the counter is stealing money from the band and Mute, and I would strongly recommend everyone avoid such pieces of rubbish like the plague!

Giacomo Solazzo
Santeramo, Italy

Editor's note: As we mentioned in Bong 42, you don't have to worry about the hard copy of the magazine disappearing in the near future. It would be interesting to see the early issues of Bong that are no longer available, but reprinting them would be impossible and the expense would be prohibitive. However, we are looking into the possibility of putting some of them on the band's website, and we will keep you updated on this subject. Unfortunately, tour merchandise is always more expensive than merchandise which is sold in shops, or by mail order. Apart from the fact that there is a greatly increased overhead in transporting the stock, and the personnel to oversee vending, most venues take a very large percentage of the proceeds. Regarding a live CD set from Cologne, it just isn't possible to release anything like this in the future, as the quality of the recording was just not good enough, amongst other things.

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andy fletcher

PERSONAL FILE

Full Name	Andrew John Fletcher
Date of birth	8 th July 1961
Place of birth	Nottingham
Star Sign	Cancer
Colour of eyes	Blue
Colour of hair	Strawberry Blonde
Height	6' 3"
Family details	Wife: Grainne, Daughter: Megan, Son: Joseph
Hobbies/Interests	Food, Football
Previous job	Assurance clerk
Previous bands	Composition Of Sound
Favourite cities	New York, London
Favourite country	Britain
Favourite food	Asian
Favourite drink	Italian white wine, Diet Coke, Foster's lager
Favourite part of your body	Legs
Favourite sport	Soccer
Favourite colour	Blue
Favourite perfume	Anything by Jo
Favourite designer	Prada
Favourite film	Dear Hunter, Godfather, Exorcist
Favourite book	The Bible
Favourite TV station	Sky News
Favourite radio station	Capitol Gold
Favourite magazine/papers	The Times & The Sun
Favourite song	New York, New York - Frank Sinatra
Favourite DM song	Home, Stripped, World In My Eyes
Favourite album	Too many to mention
Favourite DM album	Violator
Favourite DM video	Enjoy The Silence
Favourite DM Remix	Home - "Air Around The Golf"
Favourite DM Lyrics	World In My Eyes, Somebody
Favourite singer/band	Elvis
What do you like best about being in the band?	Making great records
What do you like least about being in the band?	Photo shoots
If you could be any famous historical figure, who would it be and why?	Winston Churchill
What one thing would you take if you were stranded on a desert island?	A woman





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ULTRA

Following Alan Wilder's departure and some personal tribulations, Depeche Mode went into the studio with producer Tim Simenon and began work on the latest album. Prior to the release of "Ultra" in April 1997, everyone was hoping that the new album would do as well as "SOFAD" - and it did. With "Barrel Of A Gun" and "It's No Good" holding the charts across Europe, "Ultra" began it's speedy journey to the top. Depeche Mode, with only three men on board, proved yet again that their position in the music industry is well deserved, and it doesn't stop here.

THE SINGLES 86>98

The new single "Only When I Lose Myself" announced the release of the retrospective double CD set, "The Singles 86>98", in October 1998. The Band returned to the music scene to deliver the ultimate anthology of songs we all knew so well. This package, together with the accompanying video set, became an indispensable part of every fan's collection. As the Band celebrated the success of the singles album in the international charts they embarked on "The Singles Tour 86-98", which took them for the first time ever to Russia, Estonia and Latvia, finishing just before Christmas in the USA.

DEVOTIONAL TOUR

Shortly after the release of "Songs Of Faith And Devotion", the band set out on its boldest World tour yet. An extensive 14 month tour was planned which would take them across the globe twice, playing to a total of over 2 million devotees in far off places like South Africa, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Manila and South America.

Some of you may not realise that it will be 20 years in May to take you back in time, giving you some interesting and

SONGS OF FAITH AND DEVOTION

The single "I Feel You" was an impressive start that would launch Depeche Mode's newest studio LP "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" after its release on March 22 1993, right to the top. The new album went straight in at No. 1 on both the American and British charts, and went on to dominate album charts the World over.

THE WHEREHOUSE

On March 20, 1990, Depeche Mode appeared for a promotional autograph signing of their album "Violator" at the music store The Warehouse in West Los Angeles. Over 10,000 fans besieged the store to catch a glimpse of the Band and were simply too much for the security staff to handle. The event made the national news with the headline: "English rock band Depeche Mode stopped the traffic at Beverly!"

ENJOY THE SILENCE

The second single from a monster hit album "Violator", released on February 5 1990, remained one of the band's strongest tracks to date and went on to win Single of the Year in the Brit Awards.

ROSE BOWL

The Music For The Masses Tour in 1987/88 brought the foursome together on stage to deliver their passion and soul. Arriving in Los Angeles for their last stop at the Pasadena Rose Bowl Stadium on June 18, 1988, Depeche Mode performed their best live show of the tour in front of 75,000 fans. The event was recorded and filmed, and was later released as a movie and live album, bearing the name "101".



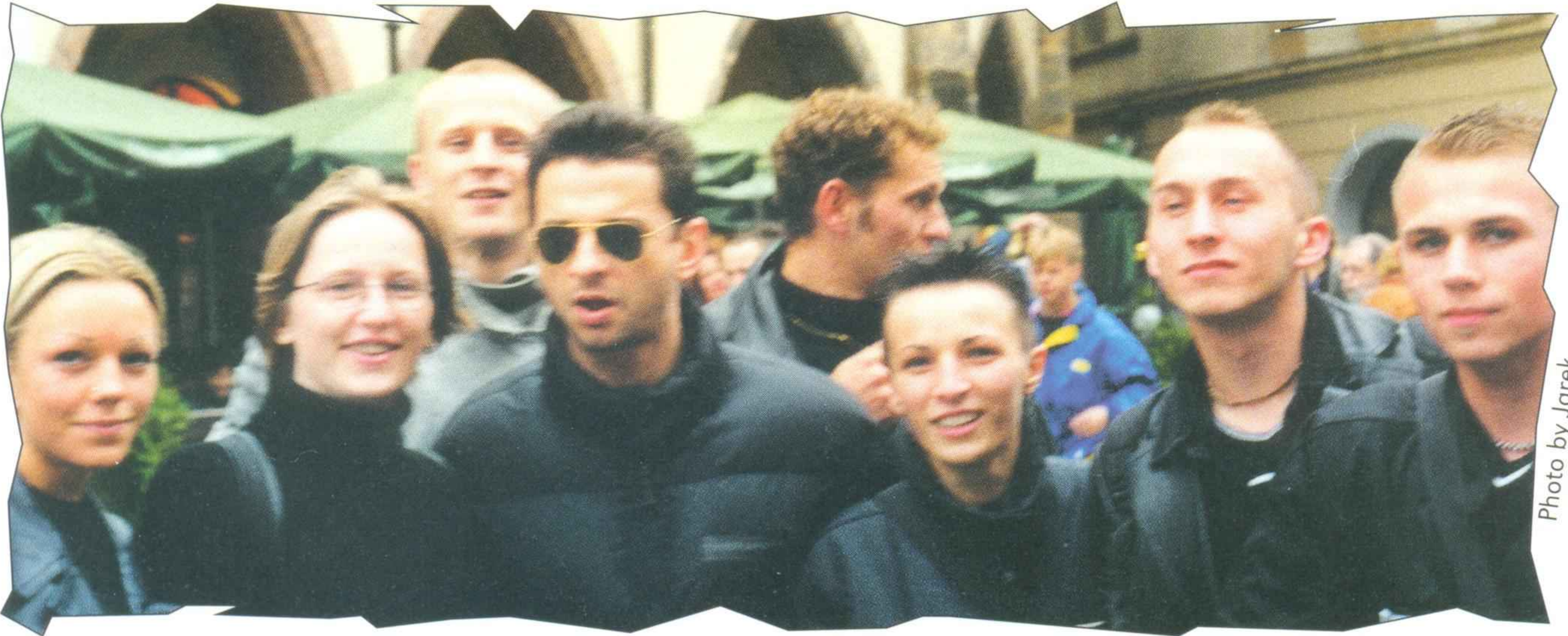


Photo by Jarek

Dave in Prague

The 15th September 1998 was probably the luckiest day of my life. Some of my friends and I went to Prague a day before showday at Prague's Sports Hall. We had a couple of hours to spare before the concert on the 15th and so we went to see some interesting places in Prague. At about 2pm we got to the market place, and suddenly in the crowd, we spotted Dave together with Tim Simenon, Jonathan Kessler and some other people from the crew. At first, I couldn't believe my eyes. But it was really Dave and he was walking just about five metres from me. I thought to myself that I couldn't miss such an opportunity and so I approached Dave and told him that we were Depeche Mode fans and asked if he wouldn't mind having a photo taken with us. He was very nice and agreed at once. I am the girl in glasses standing on Dave's right hand side and my friends are Pauline, Monika, Maniek and Maly. While we were taking photos, some other fans arrived and wanted a photograph with Dave too. There were more and more devotees and the situation began to be a little bit unsafe for Dave. So after a while, Dave thanked us and together with his company went to a car and drove off. A few hours later, we were at the concert at the Sports Hall and it was the best concert I have ever seen. Everything was just perfect - music, Martin's guitar, Dave's voice and movements, and Andy who is always great. The audience was also incredible! Although it's been over a year now, I am still under the impression of that day and

can't believe that I, an ordinary person in the street, had luck to meet Dave and talk to him for a while. Now I know that dreams can come true!

Goska Broda
Walbrzych, Poland

You must have wondered at some time or other what you'd say if you ever met one of your idols. You've no doubt rehearsed questions, recounted incidents and commented on their work. I've always wanted to meet Martin to ask what inspires him to write such moving lyrics, where do the ideas come from? Why are so many songs written about love, the entanglement of passion, lust and belief? How does Dave cope in a post-drug world, and seeing or missing his family life? Does Andy ever feel that his place in the band is over-shadowed by Martin and Dave? What's it really like now that Alan has left? Would they ever consider work with Vince again? That is until you have one of those chance encounters. Saturday 19th June, a back street of Marlow, Buckinghamshire. It's early evening. I'm walking into the town with an old friend, on our way to the funfair and fireworks after the Royal Marlow Regatta. In mid-sentence I stop talking to my friend. A man walking towards me is very familiar. "Andy, how are you?", I almost shout. He shakes my hand and replies as if he knows me like an old friend. (I've only ever met him twice before.) I ask why is he out here in rural Buckinghamshire or if he lives locally. He tells me that he has a house nearby and has been down to

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the Regatta. Our conversation is brief - Andy and his friend are looking for somewhere to get a drink. As I walk away with a grin from ear to ear, I mentally kick myself for not asking how the family are, the rest of the band, about the restaurant, when we can expect some new material, are they in the studio at the moment? Why wasn't I carrying a camera, autograph book (Marlow is home to a number of 'names' - Scary Spice lives to the west of the town), why didn't I sacrifice a £ 5 note for his autograph? If anything, our meeting only goes to show that idols are what we call them, but they like to consider themselves normal with the ability and freedom to enjoy the same pleasures of life. Thanks Andy for giving me a memorable (if brief) meeting. Thanks also to my friend Revelyne for dragging me out to Marlow.

Tom Evison

High Wycombe, England

It is a year now since I went to London with my friend Corinna to do a bit of sightseeing. Generally, we had a great time and what's more we were lucky enough to meet Andy. He was very friendly and so nice to us. We were even happier when he took a little while to chat with us. Now I would like to thank Andy for that moment he shared with us. We'll never forget how nice it was meeting you!

Sabine Lichtenhof

Ingolstadt, Germany



Sabine and Corinna with Fletch

If you met Depeche Mode or one of the band members and would like to share your experiences with the other fans, this is your chance. We are giving you an opportunity to tell us when and where you met the Modes and under what circumstances. You can send us full stories or simple details, whatever you prefer. We would also appreciate any photographs you have that we could print as it always makes the page more interesting and will prove to everyone that you were really there! Please, be assured that we will take a good care of your photos and return them to you on your request. Don't forget to mark everything with your name and address.

It was October 1991, I just finished school and went to London with a friend. On a Friday night, we went to a party where we met some DM fans. They told us to go to a nightclub called Gossips on Wednesday where we could see members of DM. They said that it was Martin's favourite place to have fun. We didn't really believe that, but we checked in Time Out magazine what kind of party it was and it sounded pretty cool. EBM and industrial night playing Nitzer Ebb, Front 242, Skinny Puppy.... So we went there and started to drink our pints (they were half price before 11.30 pm) and at 12.30, we couldn't believe our eyes, Martin and Andy entered the small, but lovely night-club together with some friends and a bodyguard. They were hanging at the bar and a lot of female tourists from Japan went to them and asked for signatures. On one hand I thought that they should have their privacy, but on the other I said to myself that it is probably the only possibility in life to talk to the guys I have loved for years. So I took all my courage went to Martin and asked him if he remembered his last concert in Zurich. He answered it was brilliant, in fact it was the best on their World Violation Tour and while saying that he started to smile and told me that out of a hundred of concerts he couldn't point out one particular. But he said that he loves to come to Switzerland because the people are so friendly there and a little bit shy to go to them asking for signatures. We had a laugh and I left him alone with his pint. Later on, he went on the dance-floor and started to dance to some Nitzer Ebb tunes, but after some other songs, the DJ put on "Enjoy the Silence" and Martin shook his head pointing out that he wouldn't dance to that kind of music. It was big fun being in the same nightclub with Depeche Mode and I will never forget it. I didn't take any pictures or asked for signatures (I left them their privacy), but it will always stay in my mind!

Michael Oesch

Adliswil, Switzerland

dm/live

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Satellite <<

The addresses below are printed for your information only. These fan clubs are unofficial and therefore BONG takes no responsibility for their activities. If there is a fan club in your area, a DM party or convention being organised we'd like to hear about it. Please, send us all the details to the BONG address.

DMF
Apartado de Correos 42064
Madrid 28080
Spain

The Hungarian DM FC
Budapest
Petöfi Csarnok
1146 Zichy M.U.14
Hungary

Mode Evolution
3 Marne Avenue
Walton
Peterborough
PE4 6AJ
England

Devotees - DM FC
Rua Manuel Mendes, 21-3A
1800 Lisboa
Portugal

DM fans in Riga
E-mail: roman@parks.lv
http://www.parks.lv/home/roman

DM Club
Linda Andreasson
Norrskensq. 21
37151 Karlskrona
Sweden

Devotee MODE
42, Rue Armand Carrel
62970 Courcelles-Les-Lens
France

WorkHard
apdo. correos 12.283
46020 Valencia
Spain

DM Devotees
A.D. 1154
Vilnius 1
2001
Lithuania

A la Mode
E-mail: pcyopick@titan.tcn.net
http://www.tcn.net/~pcyopick/alamode

Danish DM FC
Boys Say Go!
Brian Valentin
Ryttervaenget 16 I.th
6400 Sonderborg
Denmark

Faith And Devotion
Uilenstede 160.1144
1183 AN Amstelveen
The Netherlands

Hot Wire
German fanzine
c/o Andy Drabek
Allendestr. 66
08062 Zwickau
Germany
E-mail: HOT-WIRE@t-online.de

Empty World 2
Paltholmterrasserne 78 F
3520 Farum
Denmark

Devotion
Apartado 5265
47080 Valladolid
Spain

De.Mo.
Poltavskaya st. 2-45
603024 Nizhny Novgorod
Russia

Depeche Mode Friends
P.O. Box 239
160 41 Praha 6
Czech Republic
E-mail: info@dmfriends-silence.cz
http://www.dmfriends-silence.cz

Shake The Disease
Stefan Bülter
Paul-Grasse-Str. 23
D-10409 Berlin
Germany

DM Fan Club BCN
Apartado de correos 3004
08080 Barcelona
Spain
E-mail: dmfcbcn@aiind.upv.es

Club For The Masses
Suipacha 463 (6-B)
(1008) - Capital Federal
Bs.As. - Argentina
E-mail: dm_arg@hotmail.com

Ultra DM FC
c/o Giovanna Siragusa
C.da Conte, Coop Conte
sc.2 int. 1
98168 Messina
Italy

Movement Of Faith
Atenen, 8, 1°
08720 Vilafranca Del Penedes
(Barcelona)
Spain

Satellite - Canadian FC
P.O. Box 63527, RPO Capilano
North Vancouver, B.C.
V6V-1J4
Canada

Musings For The Masses
UK fanzine
c/o Red
159 Whiteacre Rd
Ashton-under-Lyne
Lancashire OL6 9PS
England

The Estonian Depeche Mode Fan Club
P.O. Box 26, 72202 Turi
Estonia
http://edmfk.cafe.ee

Black Day
c/o Szymon Derucki
ul. Wegierska 18/21
65-638 Zielona Gora
Poland

The Estonian Depeche Mode Web
www.depechemode.ee
ilja@depechemode.ee
Ilja Judeikin
P.O. Box 6016
Tallinn 13 502
Estonia

If You Want
Depeche Mode
P.O. Box 23
678 01 Blansko
Czech Republic
E-mail: kysa@renegade.cz

DM fans in Czech Republic
E-mail: marekf@depechemode.cz
http://www.depechemode.cz

Winners of B O N G P O L L

Per Hedahl from Denmark, Markus Bings from Germany and Claudia Meyer from Germany were picked at random from the hundreds of poll entries in BONG 42, and will each receive a gift from our office for their contributions. Congratulations!

Moding Chicago

We have organized a Depeche Mode fan party here in Chicago over the week of July 4th. Basically, we have people coming in from Florida, New York, all over the US midwest, and other places to join us all in the celebration of Depeche Mode! We had one last year with a smaller turnout, but this year we expect more people. We're calling it the 2nd Annual Depeche Mode Route 66 Week in Chicago. It is mainly just a way for a bunch of fans to get together and meet each other. We're also planning on having a band perform from New York who do some DM covers and are heavily DM-influenced. Most of us that are attending know each other thanks to a Depeche Mode messageboard online. However, some of us also know each other just through e-mail but because of Depeche Mode. If anyone is interested, please contact me via e-mail at: <modeche@aol.com> I would be more than happy to fill anyone in on more details of this Depeche Mode party in Chicago.

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>> Pen Pals >>

Chris Thompson
90 Uffington Drive
Harmanswater
Bracknell, Berks
RG12 9JD
England

It's only when I lose myself with someone else that I find myself so please write to me. I am a 27 year old bloke, life long devotee but have nobody to share my devotion with. Please write soon as I am going crazy with boredom.

Kay Reese
P.O. Box 35
Greenlawn, NY 11740
USA

Hello to Depeche Mode, Bong and DM fans everywhere! I am a 30 year old female from New York City, USA, and have been into Depeche Mode for about 16 years! I design toys for a living (a very fun job) and I enjoy listening to music (electronic, new wave, punk and goth),

reading (all kinds of stuff), going to nightclubs (dressing up is great fun), and being active. I would like to correspond with Depeche Mode fans from all over, but especially those in the US and the UK. Can't wait to hear from you guys! Devotion to all... (especially Dave).

Josephine O'Neal
6141 S. Belvedere 17
Tucson, Az. 85706
USA

I am 19 year old girl totally devoted to Depeche Mode, especially Dave. I am looking to get in touch with all devoted DM fans. Can't wait to hear from you. Everything Counts!

Madeleine Seekircher
Am Warberg 496
388 35 Osterwieck
Germany

Hi Devotees! I am a 20 years old DM girl. If you want to speak about The World We

Live In And Live In General, write me a letter. Why? Because you also are looking for DM fans from all over the world and love Dave & Co. as much as me. So, don't wait any longer and write to me! Keep moding!

Slick would like to meet Depeche Mode girlies of any age for more than a party and black celebrations. Also various DM gossip to exchange, so if you are bored and would like to know more e-mail me on: <depeche38@hotmail.com>. East Anglia, Midlands or Lincolnshire! Cheers slick.

If you'd like to correspond with other Depeche Mode fans, send us a postcard with your name, address and a brief description of yourself and your interests. Please, mark your envelope "Pen Pals".

Contacts <<<

Australian Devotees where are you all? I've seen your names in the last two issue's of Bong and now know that you do exist! Contact me at: frictontim@hotmail.com and lets spread the news to all the boys & girls.

...to my "Devoted Sister" New Life - Schwesterherz, hab Dich lieb *very special knuddel Dichtot* ...to "Wolfskind" Tanya - Ich hoffe, Silvester zeigen wir's der Welt Party on with Wolfsheim ...to Elvis - Keep things going, Super-DJ !!! ...to Debi, Paul, Emma & Scott - Hope to see you guys again next year! ...to our pals at Bong - I love your work, keep doing it! ...to the proud members of BLU - Love you boys - let's hope, Gary finishes his new album in the NU-year ...to Miri - Meld Dich mal wieder ...to Patty - XXX ...to Mirko - Hoffe, wir sehen uns heut' abend ...to Joerg - Marilyn's the man ...to Ingo, Carsten & Dirk - Sehe Euch am Montag vollgefressen wieder ...all greeting from Claudia

Big kisses for Tina in Slovakia (no, I didn't get your last letter). Excuses to everybody. I haven't written any letters for ages. Forgive me. Greetings to everybody I know. Lots of Love from Katja, Germany.

Let's celebrate the fact that we've seen the back of another black Millennium!! 101 passionate hugs & ULTRA wishes are sent to the very best MODE friends I call mine: my holy one Schmitti, crazy Tessi, my "hot stag" André, Gahan - sisters Patty, Kathleen, Isabel & Maren, party - people David, Karin, Michael....and Rinaldo (...words are very unnecessary!!) If it wasn't for you don't know what I'd do...so NEVER let me down!! MODE till death!! Yours all, Gahan - horny creep Denise.

Hello Nieselschatzi! Here comes lots of knuddels and knutschis and greetings only and especially for YOU! I'll never let you down and I just can't get enough from our telephone-terror. Your Michi-Me Mode-Demotessi!

If you're sending a contact message, please make sure the person you are contacting is a member of BONG. Please, mark your envelope "Contacts".

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I am interested in swapping CDs with live recordings and rarities. Please contact: Jan Kimmel, Charbinska 169, 460 08 Liberec, Czech Republic or e-mail: vera@bds.cz

Bong issues for sale: No. 16, 17, 19, 23, 25-31. I am also selling the Official DM Calendars by Danilo from 1993-1995. Please contact: Kai Muench, Stephanusstrasse 13, 30449 Hannover, Germany or e-mail: kaimuench@gmx.de

If you'd like to place an advert in this section, send us postcard with your name, address and brief description of what you want to buy, sell or swap. Please note we CAN NOT accept any advertisements for bootleg records, CDs, tapes, videos, etc.

>> Blasphemous Rumours

Considering the fact that not everyone can get hold of all the newspapers and magazines with DM interviews, reviews and gossip, here are some of the most interesting bits that were published on DM not just in the press but also on TV and radio. If you would like to take part and help us, then send us copies of any relevant articles you may find in the newspapers of your country together with an English translation to the usual Bong address. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Anton Corbijn

"I think we needed somebody who had a very strong identity and a strong image to try and turn around all these years of negative pop pictures that we'd been presenting, and Anton just seemed like the right person because he has a great way of capturing people and his photographs and his videos have a certain seriousness to them, which I think was very important to us."

Martin Gore (1998)

Depeche Mode Live At Wembley 98

"Girls look on with mild embarrassment as boyfriends attempt to dance in the rubber-necked fashion of their idol. Up they get, shaking their leather-clad butts to the sequenced thrill of 'A Question Of Time', down they sit, lighters aloft while Martin Gore (still looking like the unlikely offspring of Shirley Temple and the Marquis De Sade) croons his way through melancholic treats like 'Home' and 'A Question Of Lust'."

Paul Tierney, Top, UK

(November 1998)

Only When I Lose Myself

"The original merchants of doom and gloom and pop angst return to regale us yet again with some clever synth and lyric work. For 80's style angst fans this is your musical heaven!"

Sound Check Magazine, Derby, UK (October 1998)

The Singles 86>98

"The tinny light-industrialism of their early sound was made over into a relentless post-techno grind (nothing like a bit of circularity). And if their harsher lyrical makeover ('Let me see you stripped down to the bone') often smacked of Sunday Schoolers in Satanic clothing, the occasional ludicrousness was more than compensated for by moments of pop genius."

Jockey Slut, UK (October/November 1998)

The Singles 86 > 98

"Gahan's sulky vocals and Gore's dark writing always shone brightest in seven-inch form, from the best, 'Personal Jesus', to the latest, 'Only When I Lose Myself'. Their journey from shiny electro poppers to scary arena mega-stars is charted in this 21-track double CD."

Andy Robson, Maxim, UK (November 1998)

The Singles 86>98 Ltd. Box Set

"We wanted to create the feel of the aftermath of an alien invasion, places that were 'de-peopled' as if an alien power had wiped us all out."

Mat Cook (art director), Creative Review, UK (November 1998)

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The Singles 86>98

"Ultimately it's easy to underestimate Depeche Mode; they don't have the same force of personality that most stadium bands have - even Gahan himself once said that he was happier stacking supermarket shelves in his youth than strutting across stages - and yet they've managed to stay in the major league of pop longer than anyone could possibly have imagined. As this compilation proves: 'twas the songs wot done it."

**Nick Kelly, Hot Press, UK
(14th October 1998)**

The Singles 86>98

"On a musical level, though, the band had never sounded healthier. Songwriter Martin Gore channelled all the angst, the depravity, the paranoia, and last but not least, the temptations of the rock lifestyle into the music, creating dark, claustrophobic synth-noir that, far from papering over the cracks, sign-posted them with an almost unsavoury glee. This double CD, then, is an excellent if rather downbeat overview of the latter part of a career that is still up and running."

**Nick Kelly, Hot Press, UK
(14th October 1998)**

Depeche Mode

Live At Wembley 98

"Gone are the pseudo-grunge trimmings that never quite matched his angelic features, replaced with a youthful short back and sides, silky cabaret sleeves and a waistcoat last seen on Ray Reardon. Slim of hip and light of foot, the nimble frontman wastes no time in ploughing through the hits."

**Paul Tierney, Top, UK
(November 1998)**

Depeche Mode

"Whether or not you buy the theory that Depeche sowed the seeds of Detroit techno-and hence rank alongside Kraftwerk as one of the most important bands of the last 20 years - is immaterial. Either way, they've consistently produced incredibly effective pop music that has as sharp an appreciation of its demographic as any hyper-calculated boy band."

**Melody Maker, UK
(21st November 1998)**

Barrel Of A Gun

"'Barrel Of A Gun' must be the shortest script for a pop video in history. The basic scripts were: Here are your flights to Morocco, you're leaving tomorrow at 2 o'clock. That's the only script we ever got from Anton, it was just go out there and do it from scratch."

**Andy Fletcher
(1998)**

Pleasure, Little Treasure

Written by Martin L. Gore

© 1987 Grabbing Hands Music Ltd/EMI Music Publishing Ltd

Everybody's looking for someone to follow
Finding the whole thing hard to swallow
Everybody's looking for a reason to live
If you're looking for a reason I've a reason to give
Pleasure, little treasure

Everybody's looking for a new sensation
Everybody's talking about the state of the nation
Everybody's searching for a promised land
Everybody's failing to understand
Pleasure, little treasure

Everybody's looking for a reason to live
If you're looking for a reason I've a reason to give
Pleasure, little treasure

Maternity frocks and paternity suits
If that's what you want they're waiting for you
Everybody needs some reason or other
You'll find a reason when you discover
Pleasure, little treasure

Everybody's looking for a reason to live
If you're looking for a reason I've a reason to give
Pleasure, little treasure

Route 66

Written by Robert Troup

© 1946 Burke & Van Heusen Inc. assigned to Edwin J. Morris & Co. Chappel Morris Ltd.

Well if you ever plan to motor west
Travel my way, take the highway that's the best
Get your kicks on
Route 66

Well it winds from Chicago to LA
More than two thousand miles all the way
Get your kicks on
Route 66

Well it goes to St. Louis
Down to Missouri
Oklahoma City looks oh so pretty

You'll see Amarillo
Gallup, New Mexico
Flagstaff, Arizona
Don't forget Wynonna
Kingman, Barstow, San Bernardino

Won't you get hip to this kindly tip
And go take that California trip

Get your kicks
On Route 66
Get your kicks on
Route 66
Get your kicks on
Route 66

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>>> Bootlegs & DJ Mixes <

Singles In Hanover

Format: 2CD

Origin: Germany

This is a recording of the show on 9th October 1998 at Messe Halle in Hanover. The tracklisting is identical with the song set but the sound quality is not as good. The recording is quite interesting, especially because of Dave's humour. You can also hear the fans singing along with Depeche Mode. The cover features a black & white photo of the Band from 1998.

Jarek Pawlik

Jelenia Gora, Poland

Songs Of Faith And Devotion - Strange Versions

Format: CD

Origin: Unknown

Yet, another version of "Songs Of Faith And Devotion", following in the footsteps of the original and live versions. This time unofficial, but nonetheless worth while. Ten tracks reworked, in particular "In Your Room" (Whispered Sex Version), "Condemnation" (Arpeggitor Version), "Get Right With Mi" (Blast Da Loopda Loop Version) and "Rush" (Red & Blue Acido). Unfortunately, the compilers have confused "In Your Room" with "Judas". But then again, there are plenty of remixes of "In Your Room" elsewhere already. Instead two versions of "Walking In My Shoes" are included. Some may find these remixes have potential, but don't quite deliver. It's worth nothing than the good tracks, really are good, and the others.....Don't be fooled by what sounds like CD-stutter. The whole tracklisting includes: "I Feel You" (Turkish Slaughter Version), "Walking In My Shoes" (Roger G's Ritual Of Life Version), "Walking In My Shoes" (Mouth & Ziska Marriage Version), "Condemnation" (Arpeggitor Version), "Mercy In You" (Roger G's Old School Version), "In Your Room" (Whispered Sex Version), "Get Right With Mi" (Blast Da Loopda Loop Version), "Rush" (Red

Thanks to everyone for sending us your contributions for our "Bootlegs & DJ Mixes" section. We appreciate it as much as the fans. Having reviews of bootlegs is an invaluable help and can save a lot of mistakes and money when buying. We look forward to receiving more of your Bootleg reviews.

& Blue Acido), "One Caress" (R. Mouth On The Search For 16 Tel Version) and "Higher Love" (Roger G. Double-speedbeat Version). The cover is identical to that of the original in design, but the colour has been changed from purple to red. The inside pictures have also been lifted directly from the original. I paid £10 for this bootleg and rate it 8 out of 10.

Tom Evison

High Wycombe, England

Wonderworld

Format: CD

Origin: Italy

This CD includes twelve tracks recorded live during the Some Great Reward Tour in 1984. The sound is good. It then features six additional live songs from Paradiso Club in Amsterdam that were recorded on 29th June 1981. The sound quality is quite OK.

London 1982

Format: CD

Origin: Italy

This CD was recorded live in London during the 1982 UK Tour. The sound is good.

Some Great Reward Remixes

Format: CD

Origin: Germany

The tracks featured on this CD include various well known mixes such as: "Master And Servant" (Slavery Whip Mix), "Something To Do" (Metal Mix), "People Are People" (Different Mix), "In Your Memory" (Slick Mix), "Somebody" (Remix), "Remotivate Me" (Release Mix), "Master And Servant" (Voxless), "People Are People" (On-U-Sound Mix), "Master And Servant" (On-U-Sound Mix), "In Your Memory" (Original Version),

"Remotivate Me" (Original Version), "It Doesn't Matter Two" (Instrumental), "I Love, You Love, Me Love" (Martin Gore - Demo) and "Down In The Boom Docks" (Martin Gore - Demo). The reference is DEMO 5005. The sound is almost as good as the studio CD.

The World We Live In

Format: double vinyl

Origin: Europe

The music on this double vinyl is identical with the recording on the video tape of the same name from 1984. It is a numbered vinyl. The sound quality is OK.

Violation 15 The Bogus Brothers

Format: 12"

Origin: UK

This is a remix of "Little 15" by the Bogus Brothers who added rhythm and melody. The version is good and in my opinion a unique remix of this track.

Mega-Mix Part 1&2 On-U-Sound

Format: 12"

Origin: USA

This recording includes two mega mixes with a pretty good sound. The first one covers the period from "Just Can't Get Enough" to "Master And Servant" and the second one goes from "Strangelove" to "Policy Of Truth".

Servant & Master Mix

Format: 12"

Origin: UK

The first side contains a mega mix featuring 90% of Depeche Mode. The rest is the new wave music. The second side contains a mega mix of 80's club music.

Marie Regis

Gauchy, France

dm/live
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Master of Celebration

Marek Grzesiak, Poznan, Poland

Following the release of the Russian tribute album, this is yet another CD compilation where a number of various artists, this time from Poland, got together to pay tribute to Depeche Mode, the Band that have during years influenced them all. You can hear that all the songs are full of passion and the participating musicians brought into them a wide variety of styles. Really worth listening to! "Personal Jesus" by Agressiva 69 - very strong performance which occasionally reminds me of Telephone Stomp Mix. Too much heavy guitar and electronic elements mixed together. "A Question Of Time" by Blenders - it is something between funk, rap and jazz. Definitely much softer version with only few electronic elements. "People Are People" by Jesus Chrysler Suicide - hard rock with an influence of Rammstein. Absolutely surprising interpretation. "Somebody" by Soyka - defeat. "Clean" by Fading Colour - features the nowadays popular oriental sounds. Personally, I don't like the colour of vocalist's voice but it suits this version perfectly. Great! "Strangelove" by Ziyó - too much guitar, the sound is rockier but commercial. "Stripped" by Hedone - this cover is probably the most interesting on this compilation as it issues absolutely new and jazzy interpretation of this song. "It's No Good" by Drimsztajn - definitely harder and much rockier version, which occasionally evokes some of Metallica's stuff. "Enjoy The Silence" by Moonlight - sung and played with a great passion and devotion. It is a bit faster and rockier than the original and gives this piece a new face, equally interesting as eg. Harmonium Version. Probably the biggest task on this tribute album because of the origin's invincible magic. Great! "Personal Jesus" by 9 Walking Trees - somewhat worse interpretation than Agressiva's. "Home" by Justyna Kabala - the female vocal makes this an interesting piece. "Master And Servant" by Malenczuk Und Tuta - this track reminds me of some of Leftfield's stuff mixed with Prodigy. It is spiced up by the vocalist who is showing off a little. "Halo" by Mimofoni - something between Jamiroquai, Gus Gus and Underworld. "The Things You Said" by God's Bow - it sounds as if this song was written especially for the vocalist of this band. Absolutely unique atmosphere, great arrangement and sense for author's intentions. The best and most beautiful piece of this compilation. Just brilliant! "Never Let Me Down Again" by Warthegan - I would be very grateful if someone explained to me what this is about!!? "Love In Itself" by IMTM - another jazzy version. "A Question Of Time" by Milion Bulgarow - quite interesting interpretation and a bit similar to "World In My Eyes" (Mode To Joy Mix) but slower.

dm/live

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Name

Robert Paul Simpkins

Age

24

Address

Burton-On-Trent, Staffordshire, England

How long have you been a devotee?

11 years

How long have you been a member of Bong?

9 years

Your first Depeche Mode record?

"The Singles 81>85"

What type of memorabilia makes up your DM collection?

7", 12", LPs, CD singles and albums, posters, T-shirts, postcards, newspaper and magazine articles, videos, box sets, etc.

How many items (approx.) make up your DM collection?

250+

Favourite items in your collection

"The Singles 86>98"

LP Box Set, import singles, import albums

Top three songs

"Enjoy The Silence", "It's No Good", "Everything Counts"

Top three albums

"Violator", "Ultra", "Songs Of Faith And Devotion"

Top three videos

"101", "The Videos 86>98", "Strange Too"

What's your favourite tour?

World Violation

How many DM shows have you seen?

Three

What made you become a devotee?

The first live performance seen in 1990 in Birmingham NEC

Have you seen the Band or their members in person (when/where/how)?

No

Your message to Depeche Mode

Thanks for all the great albums and tours that you have made and performed since the early 80's. Here's to more of the same.

This is a new regular feature in Bong, which is called "Mega Devotee File". We would like to encourage everyone who has found love and passion in Depeche Mode, collected memorabilia, and followed them throughout their career. Basically, we would like to hear from anyone who wants to share their devotion with the rest of us with words and photographs. Here are the categories to fill, but please don't forget to send us a photograph of yourself, including some snaps of your memorabilia collection. Please note that this is not a contest where we try to find the biggest DM fan, it would simply not be possible. The idea is to give everyone, who feels they are a mega devotee, some recognition. So speak up and each contribution printed in this section will receive a surprise gift from our office!

Mega Devotee File



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BONG shop



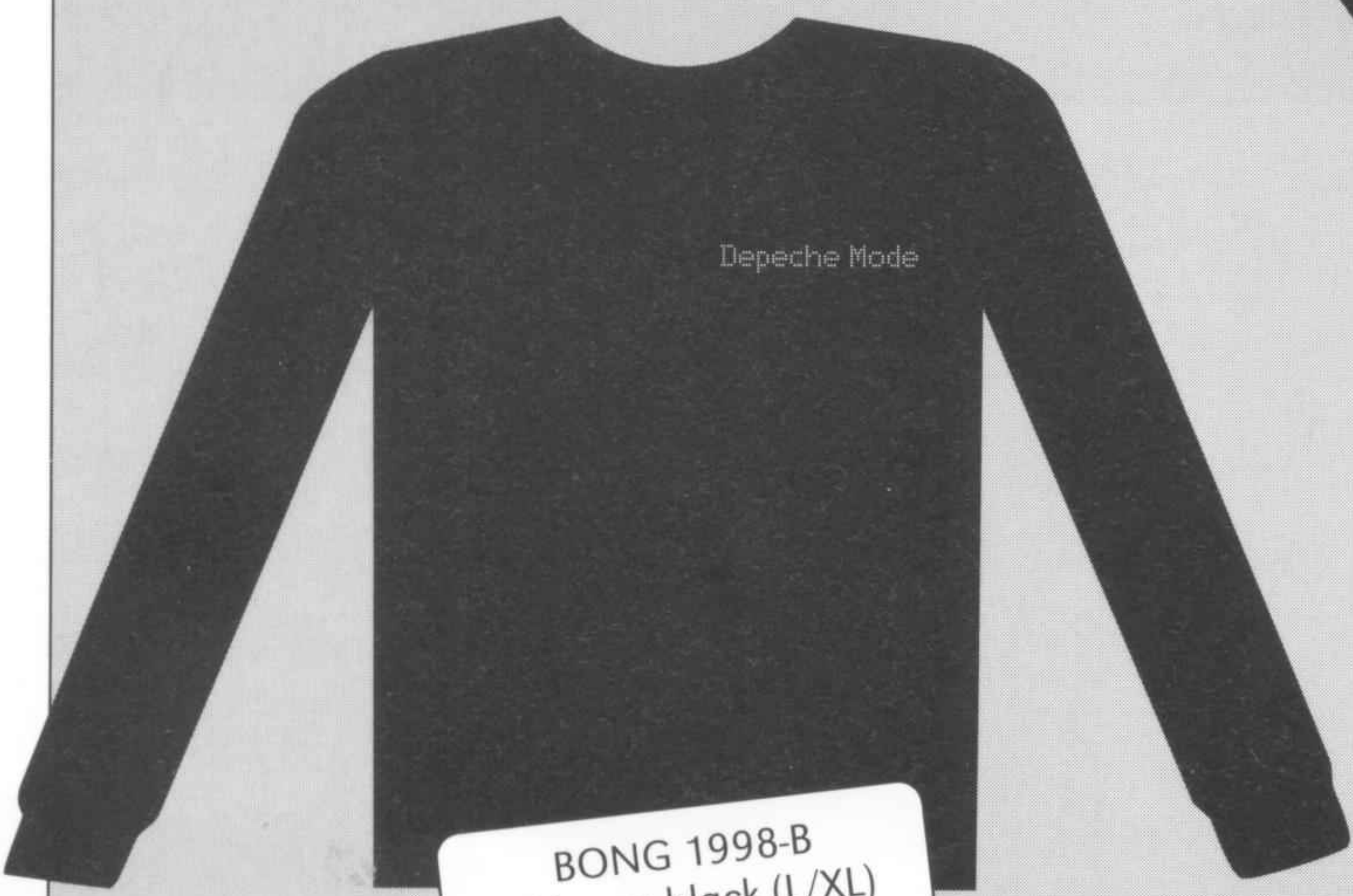
BONG 1994
(purple on grey)



BONG 1995
(white on black)



BONG 1998-A
red on black (L/XL)
red on navy blue (XL)

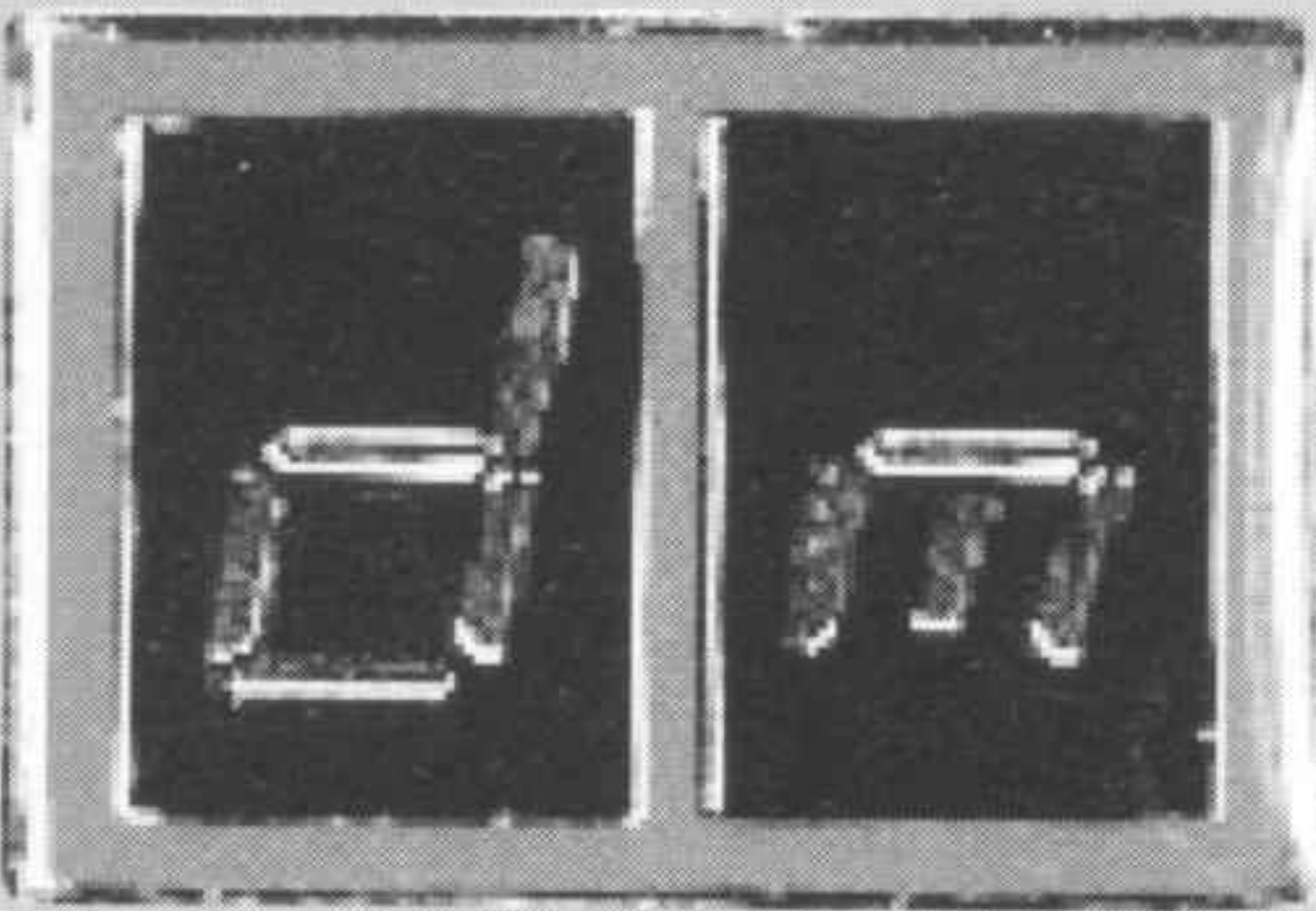


BONG 1998-B
white on black (L/XL)

EXCLUSIVE TO BONG



DM watch
Limited edition



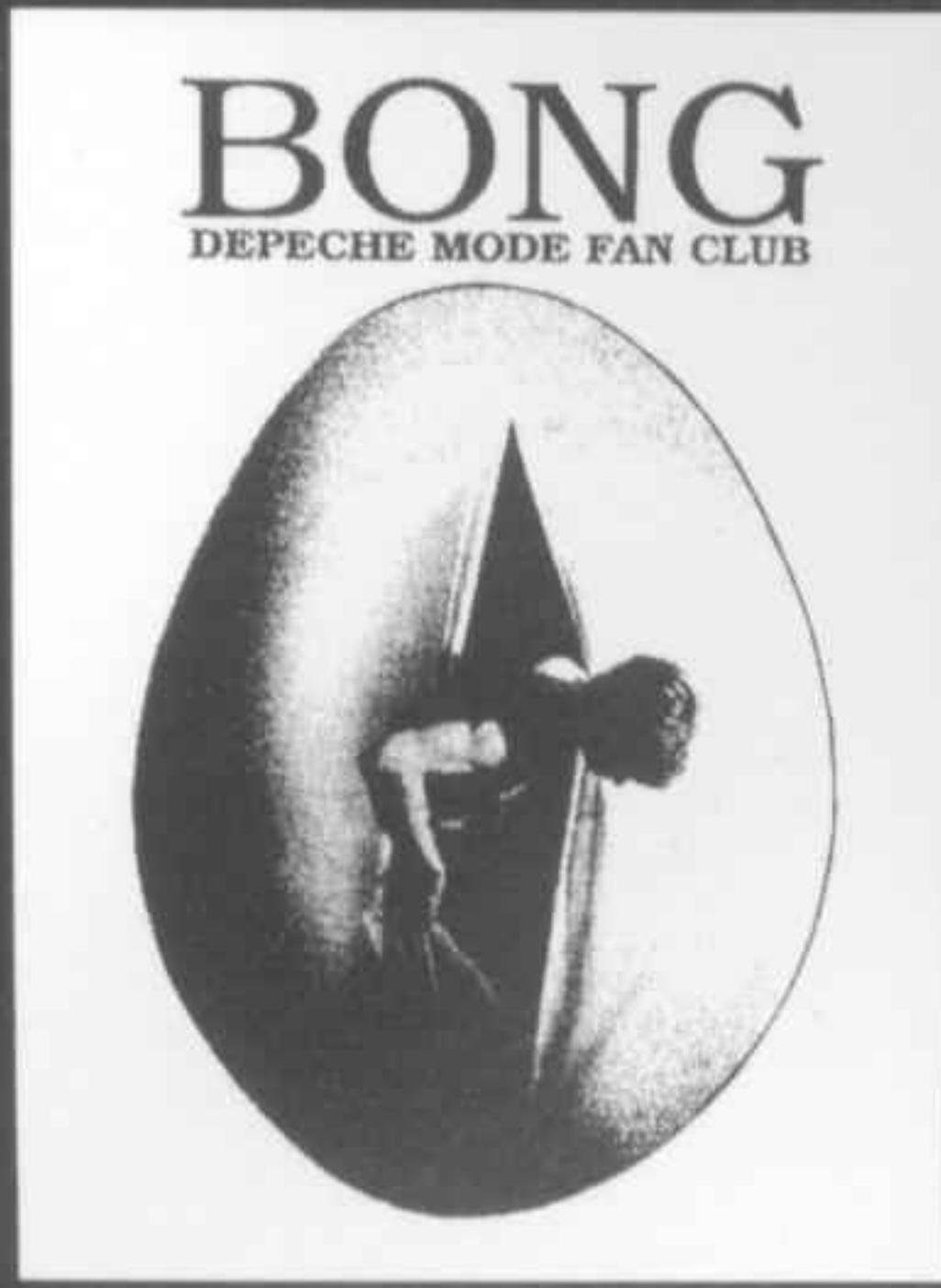
Black DM badge

This item can also be purchased
in the DM store on our web site:
www.depechemode.com

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BONG 14



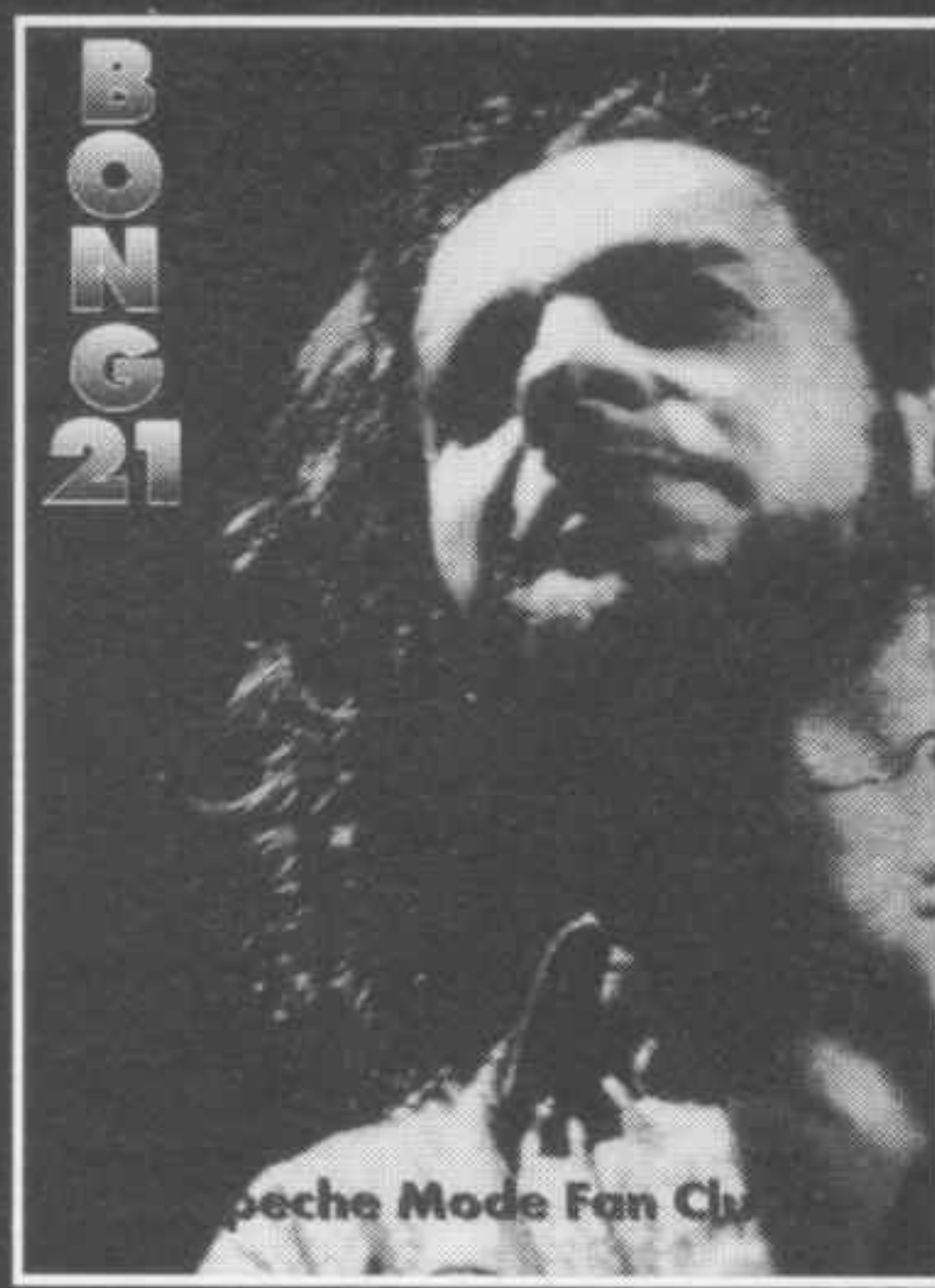
A4, b/w

BONG 20



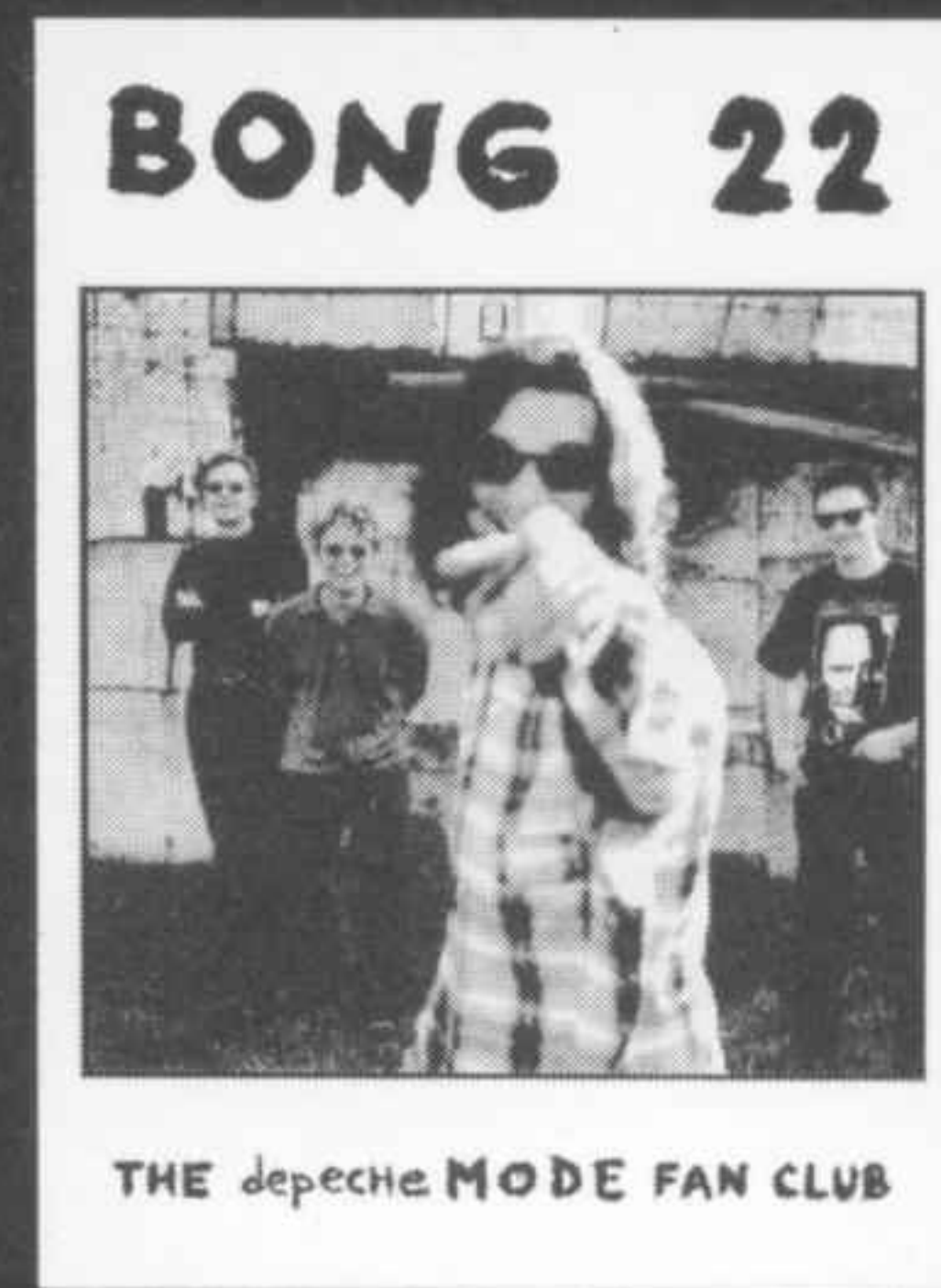
A4, colour

BONG 21



A4, colour

BONG 22



A4, colour

BONG 32



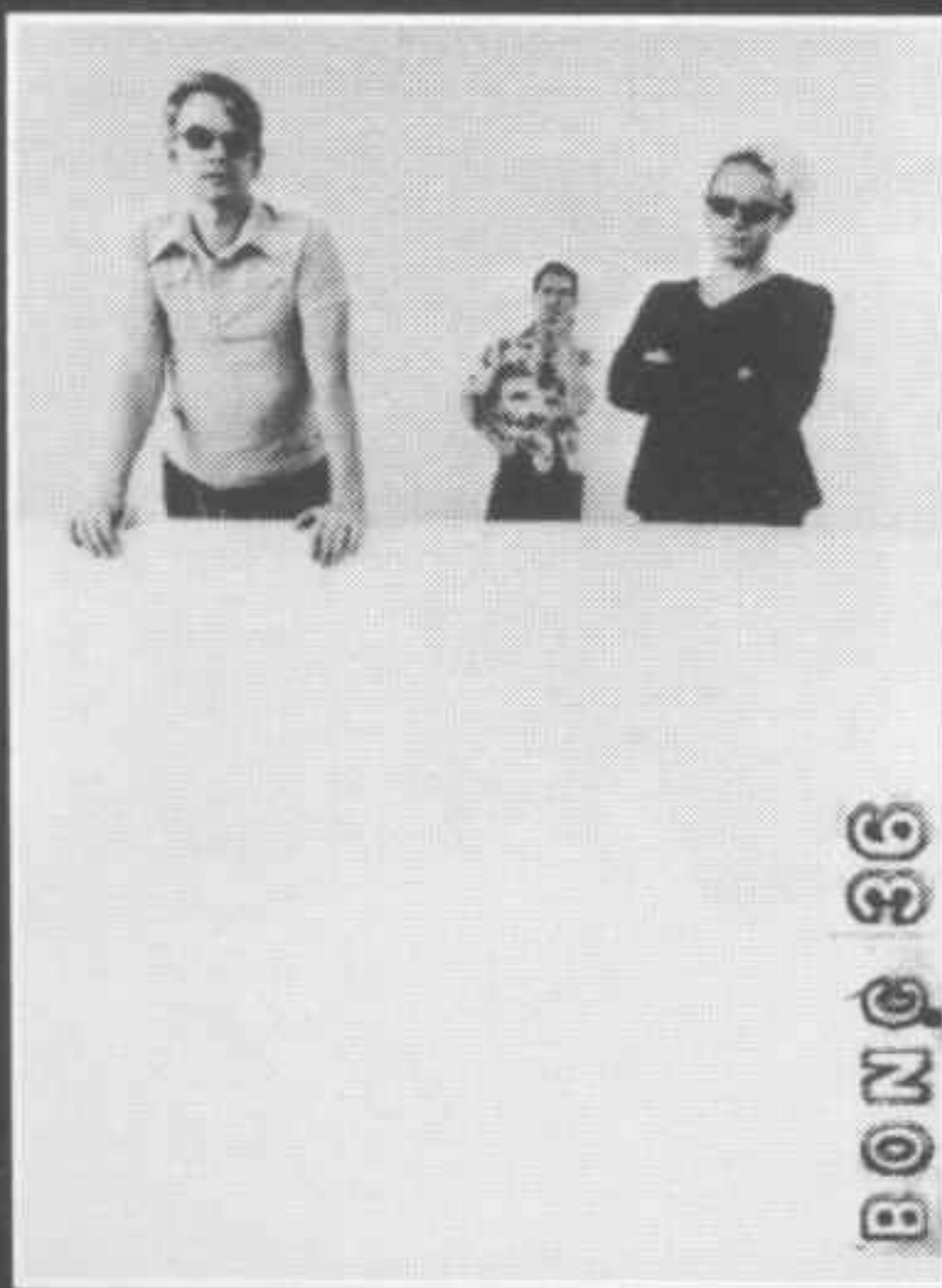
A4, colour

BONG 35



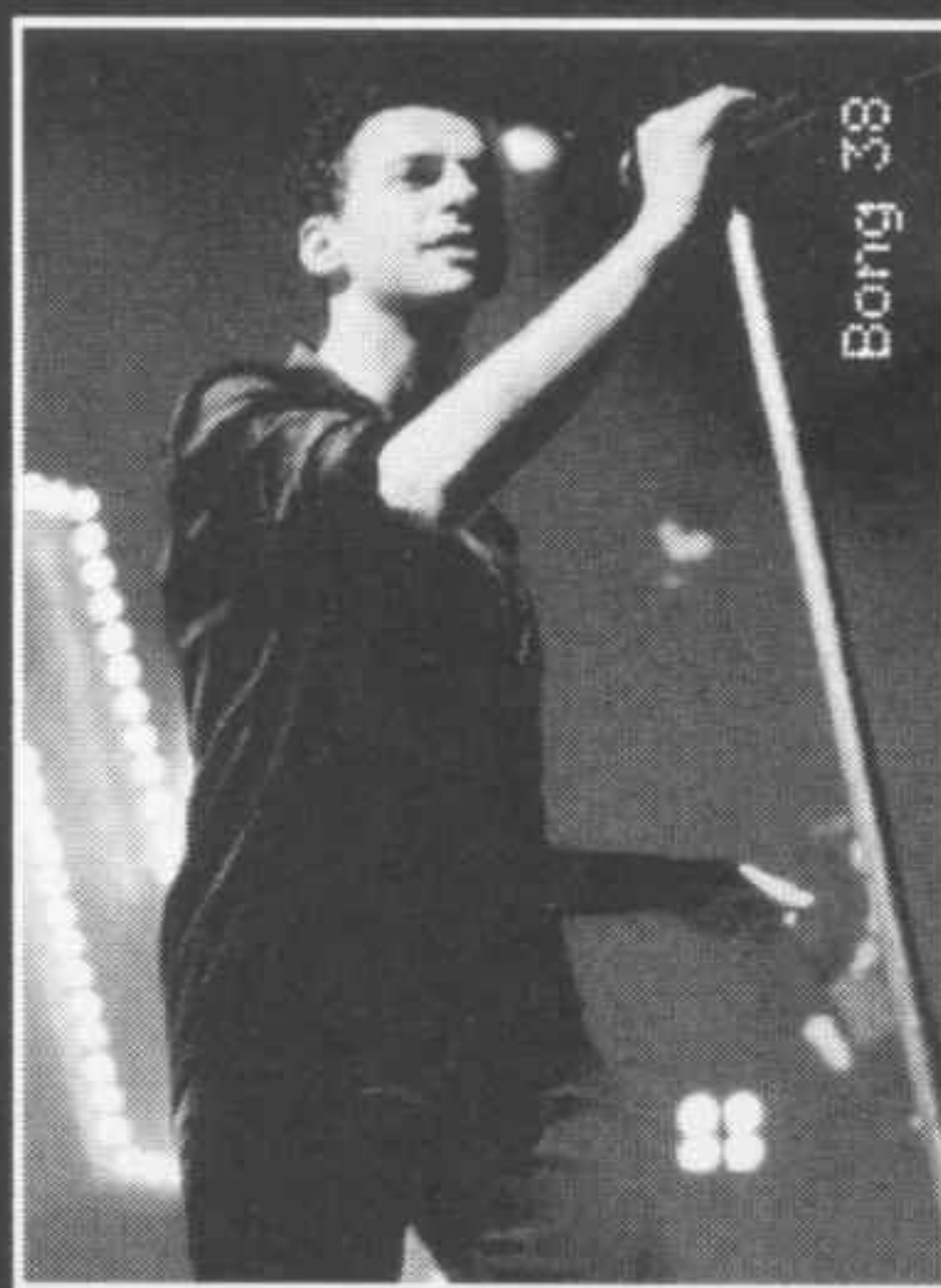
A4, colour

BONG 36



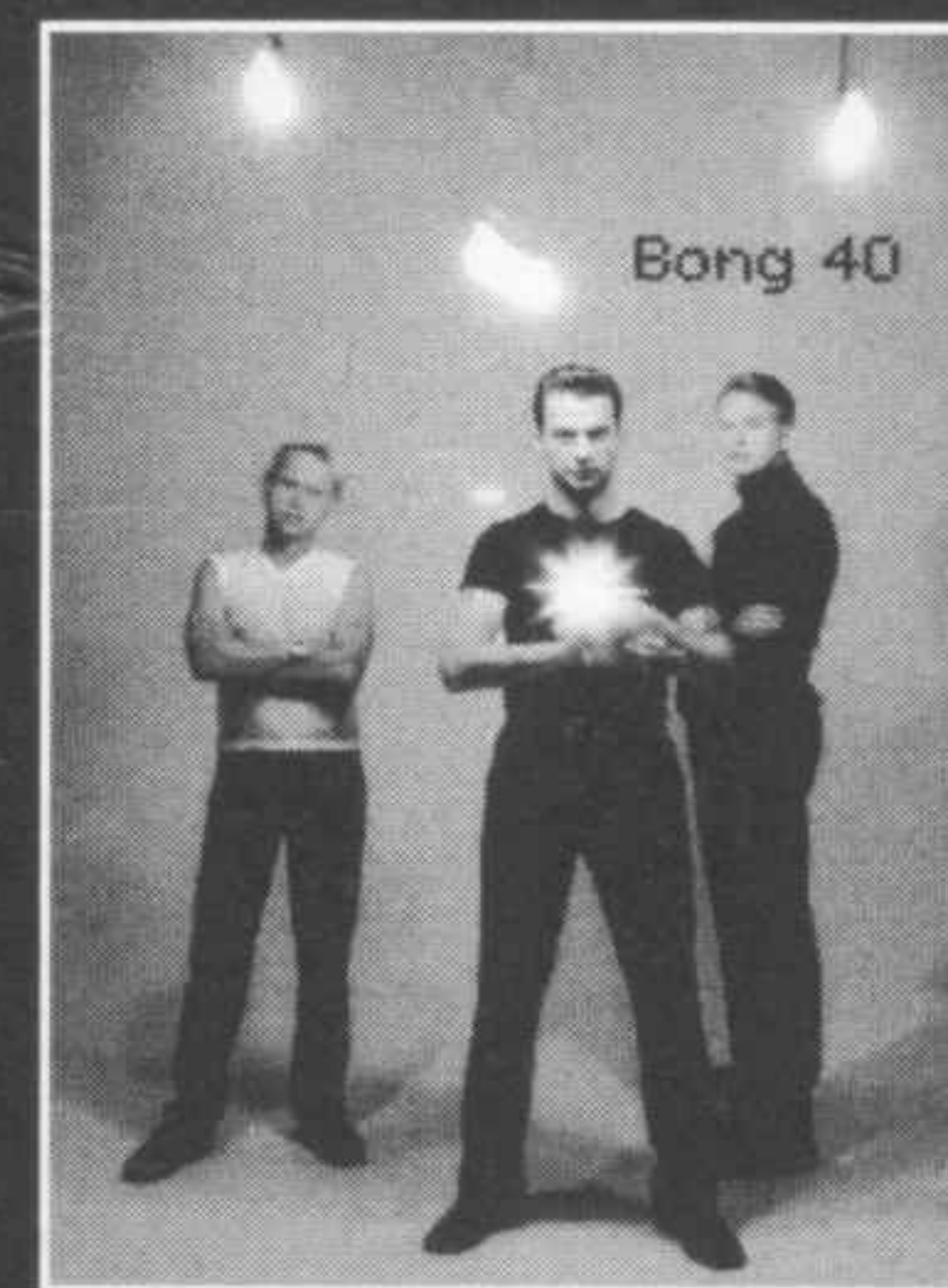
A4, colour

BONG 38



A4, colour

BONG 40



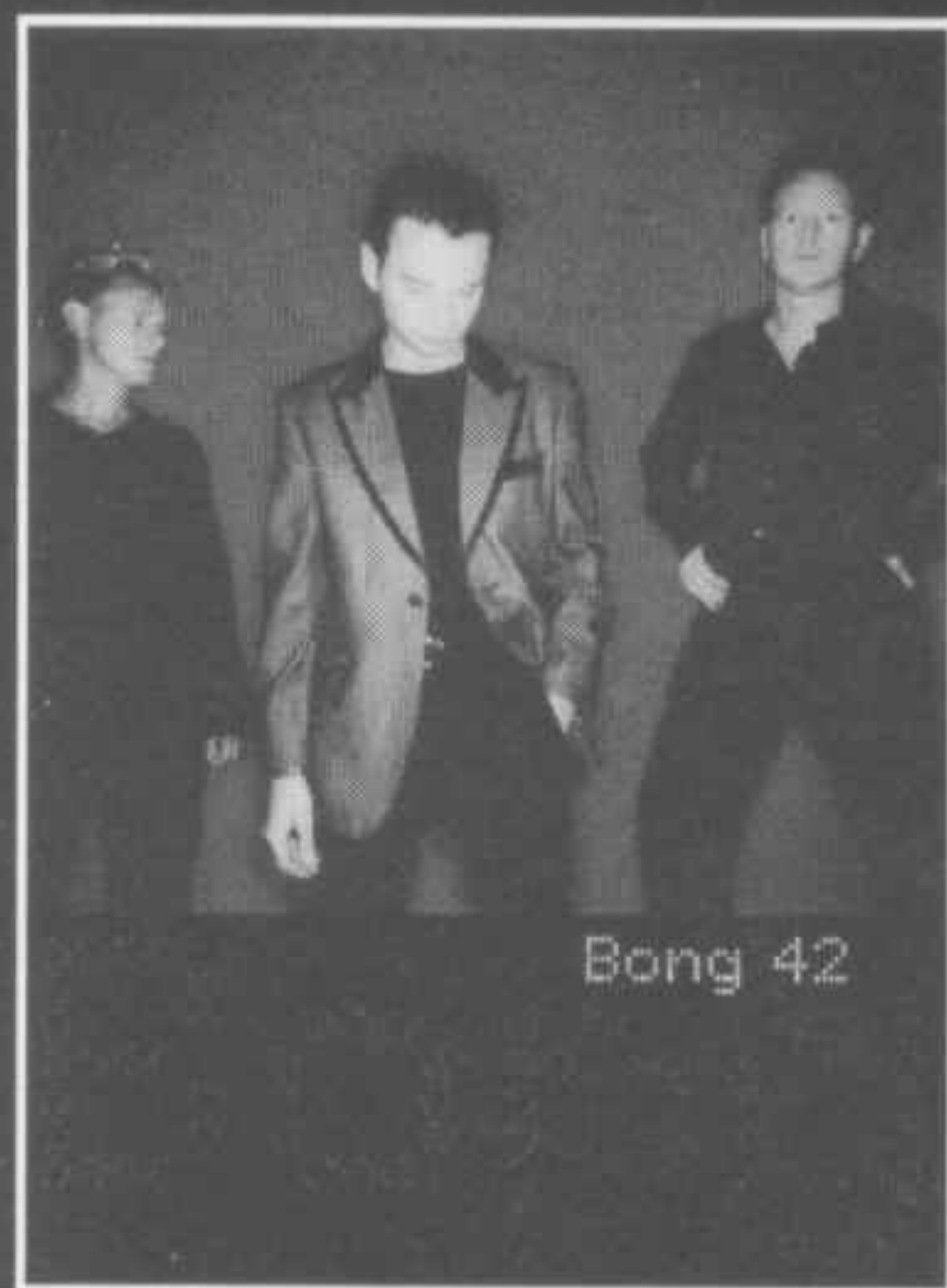
A4, colour

BONG 41



A4, colour

BONG 42



A4, colour

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Bong T-shirt 1998-B (L/XL)		£15.00	£19.00	£24.00/US\$41.00	
Black DM badge		£4.00	£5.00/US\$8.00	£6.00/US\$9.50	
DM watch		£19.00	£23.00/US\$39.00	£27.00/US\$46.00	
				Total	

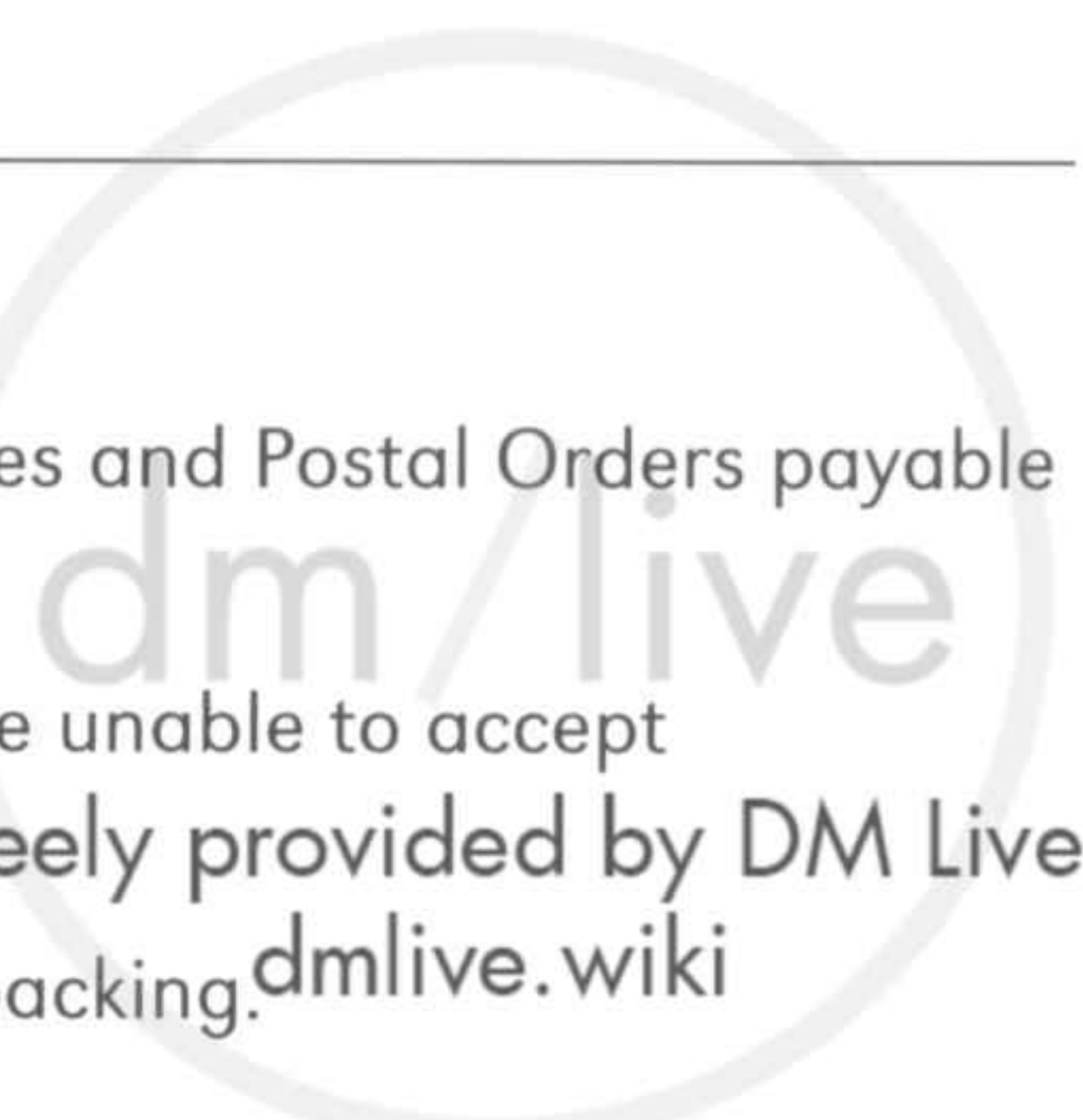
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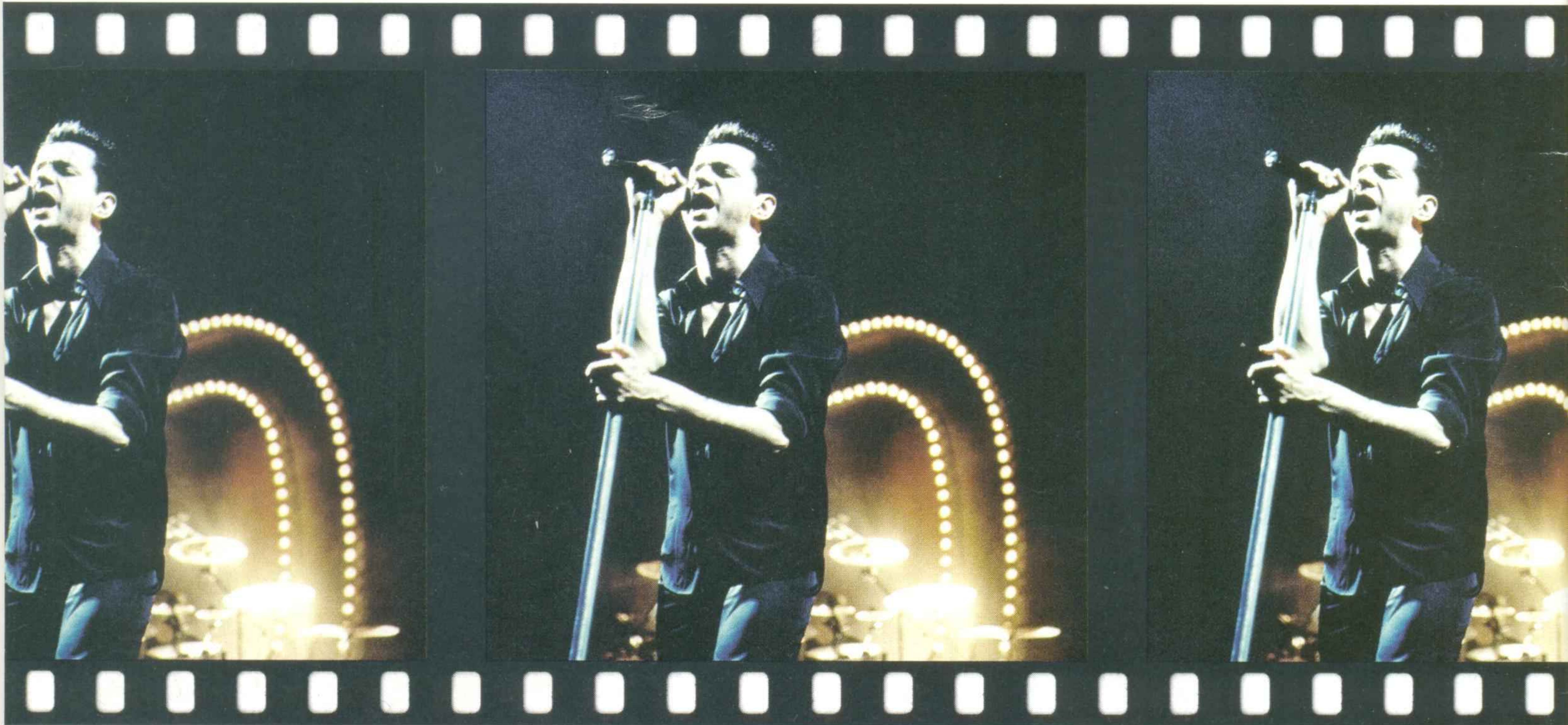
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