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< < < Intro > >

Hi everyone! Welcome to the Christmas issue of Bong!

We are coming to the end of yet another year, a year that has undoubtedly belonged to Depeche Mode.

Martin, Fletch and Dave have returned to the music scene with a new single, double anthology album, video collection and a four-month tour. They have proved, yet again, that the praise and attention attributed to them this past year was well deserved.

We have been flooded with your letters over the past few months, and the general feeling on the Band's activities this year, is very positive. You have shared with us your thoughts on the latest releases, but the majority of letters contained comments on "The Singles Tour 86-98", describing it as an unforgettable experience! We had a lot of fun reading them and as there were so many nice letters, we have decided to dedicate the next issue to the tour - so watch out for Bong 39!

We had a great time at this year's Bong Convention, which was held at the end of October in London. We would like to thank everyone who attended and for making it such a special night. We can't wait to see you all at the next one - no details yet of course!

Some of you have complained that there weren't enough Band photographs in the last issue of Bong, so we have included as many photos as possible in this one. We hope you enjoy the new pictures as well as an interview with Anton Corbijn. Don't forget the Bong calendar for 1999.

Very special thanks go to Anton Corbijn and Lucy Boughton from Mute, for their help with this issue.

Don't forget to write to us if you have any comments, thoughts, ideas or complaints - we look forward to hearing from you!

Wishing you all a fabulous Christmas and a great start to the New Year!

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3

< < Pressed In Black >

Dear Bong,

When I heard the new single "Only When I Lose Myself" as a German premiere on the radio station 'Eins Live,' I had to write this comment about it to you.

It would be a lie if I said the single knocked me off my feet.... All I have to say is that it is a really nice song with great lyrics, but surely not a masterpiece. In my opinion every song from the "Ultra" album is better than this single. Maybe I am just wanting too much from the band.

The good thing about the song: I often ask myself how Martin manages to write songs that always fit into my life situation.... The song helped me very much, I can tell you.

But the other songs from the new single are absolutely fabulous! "Surrender", in my opinion, is even better than the single itself. Really groovy drums also great singing performances by Dave and Martin. One of the best B-sides ever, besides "Sea Of Sin".

"Headstar" reminded me in some way of "Painkiller". A really great instrumental made out of Martin's mastermind. The remixes were pretty disappointing though.... Why doesn't Depeche do the remixes themselves as they did some time ago? It seems as if all of the guys that remix Depeche Mode songs only want to show off their own music style!!

Tim Plachner
Wilnsdorf, Germany

Dear Bong,

I want to tell you how terribly disappointed I am with the organisation of the show at the Patriot Center in Washington, DC on November 11, 1998. Over the past month since finding out about this date, I have called the Patriot Center daily to get details on this show. They did not have any details until Wednesday, September 23rd (five days after the tickets were due to go on sale), at which time they informed me that the tickets would be for ASSIGNED SEATS ONLY. I was so excited not only for myself, a devoted Martin Gore fan, but also for my friends with physical disabilities.

Today, September 26, 1998, prior to the start of ticket sales at 10am, I waited for hours with several other fans hoping to get

great seats. Our hopes were shattered when the Patriot Center at 9am announced that the tickets would be for GENERAL ADMISSION ONLY. I was especially disappointed by this news because now both of my friends, one with multiple sclerosis and the other with severe asthma will not be able to sit near the stage or anywhere on the floor.

General admission is great for the younger fans who have time at their disposal to wait in line for hours. I thought it was great 8 years ago when I saw Depeche Mode at the Birmingham NEC. I stood right in front of Martin for two hours, which was a dream come true! However, now that I am 27, married with a 4-year-old son and have a day job, I find general admission disappointing as I just don't have the time available to stand in line for hours before a show for a good seat. Many of the people I waited with today felt the same way as we have been fans of Depeche Mode for 15-17 years and have grown-up with them. We are still, if not more devoted to Depeche Mode than ever before. Thanks for letting me vent!

A disappointed
Bong Member
USA

Dear Bong,

I need to express my emotions and tell you about my feelings.... I've just returned from St. Petersburg where we celebrated Martin's birthday. It took place on the Dvorzovaya Square and it was an unforgettable experience.

Devotees get together there every Sunday at 4pm, but the first time my friend and myself attended was on May 9th when we celebrated Dave's birthday - a sacred day for every DM fan. It was so exciting and unusual. There was a great atmosphere full of understanding and kindness. Since then we've attended every

Sunday, celebrated the birthdays of Alan, Andy and Martin and had a lot of fun. We sang DM songs, danced, laughed, talked and drank for them. But then when you're drunk and enjoying yourself, a moment comes when you start looking at everyone, realising, that it's not only Depeche Mode you love so dearly, but it's also the people who share the same passion and things that connect you to the beloved band. People can say that Depeche Mode are just a group and all our gatherings are only meetings, but we know that "it's something out of our hands, something we will never understand even though we don't know how it keeps us together". I wonder if Depeche Mode themselves experience the same feeling... Maybe, it is a love...

The 23rd of July was a remarkable day, not only for the fact that we celebrated Martin's birthday, but also for the greatest news of the past 17 years - Depeche Mode



Photo courtesy Sveta

are going to visit Russia!!! We had no words to express our feelings, as it was more than we could ever dream of. We thank them every day and every second for giving us desire to live, believe and love. And now I'd like to thank you, dear Bong, for hearing me out.

Sveta
Russia

Dear Bong,

I'm very happy for being part of Bong and would like to congratulate you for

making this magazine so wonderful. Recently, I had an opportunity to see, in the last issue of Bong, the good news of re-releasing the first singles collection, "The Singles 81>85". Reading this I felt very happy, mainly for the fact that in the new collection there are two bonus tracks added - "Just Can't Get Enough" (Schizo Mix) and "Photographic" (Some Bizzare Mix). Even the wonderful video collection is being re-released, this time under the new title "Some Great Videos 81>85". But what a pain when I saw that the videos for "See You", "The Meaning Of Love" and "Leave In Silence" are yet again absent, as was the case of the first release! I really don't understand why these three early and wonderful videos were not included!?! Try to imagine the happiness of the new and old (like me) fans if they had a chance to see the important evidence of the "A Broken Frame" period. I find this choice very foolish, especially since the songs are present on the CD format. Why was it decided to put two new tracks on the CD and not to include the three videos on the tape?!? Even after the tracklisting had already been decided, I'd like to point out that I (and certainly thousands of other DM fans) see it as an unjust and a foul move.

Stefano Schirinzi
Trieste, Italy

Dear Bong,

I was having a particularly bad week and whilst watching the 'Music Box' on cable TV I could not believe my eyes or ears when Depeche Mode's new single "Only When I Lose Myself" came on and not only made my day but cheered me up no end.

As usual the boys have created another masterpiece and after hearing it for the first time, the new single is instantly likeable. They just keep getting better and better if that is possible!?!

I went out to buy the CD today and I can't wait for the new album and especially to see them live at Wembley Arena on 29th September. They really do give me a reason to go on!!

Angela Cartledge
London, England

Dear Bong,

First of all, thank you very, very much for the great Bong 36 issue. In my opinion, this was the best one since I joined in two years ago. The coverage of the press conference in Cologne was brilliant! Also the contest on the last page was superb.

I really liked the new photo material featured in the magazine, and it's good to see that the guys seem to be in good shape.

I would also like to tell you that I really liked the idea of getting some known bands together to cover Depeche Mode songs as a tribute to their work. And indeed, there are a few great masterpieces on this album. On top of that, the great "NLMDA" by The Smashing Pumpkins and "Master And Servant" by Locust. "Stripped" by Rammstein is also a very good cover, which they even put out as a single! It would be good to know what the Modes themselves think about that record....

Tim Plachner
Wilnsdorf, Germany

Editor's note: Regarding the tribute album "For The Masses", we've already printed a couple of views from Depeche Mode in Bong 37, with more to come in future issues.

Dear Bong,

The album "The Singles 86>98" is as good, if not better, than expected. So too, the video collection - I'm even quite pleased with the new single. The Singles 86>98 Tour (my first for 17 years) is absolutely brilliant, despite my seat being in the far reaches of Wembley Arena.

On the other hand, Bong seems to have missed out on informing the loyal fans, where during "Songs Of Faith And Devotion" and "Ultra" there were postcards to tell us of forthcoming releases and formats, the recent releases have not received the same introduction. This may explain the singles poor showing in the chart. I really looked forward to the postcard, not that I wasn't already aware of the imminent release, but for the opportunity of getting all formats. In Bong's favour is the inclusion of a full list of commercial and promotional releases, even though the majority will never make it in to my collection. Please repeat this with any future issues, and how about a full catalogue of previous releases?

Finally, the listening parties. Why do we only find out about them after the event? I would love to have attended one, but didn't get the chance. I realise that an open door policy would have flooded each venue, so how exactly are potential attendees chosen?

Tom Evison
Buckingham, UK

Editor's note: It is actually Mute, not Bong, who mail out the postcards about forthcoming releases, but since they include Bong members in the mail outs, you should receive anything they send out.

However, this year they only mailed out promo postcards for "Only When I Lose Myself" and "The Singles 81>85". They were A5 postcards with all the usual information. As for "The Singles 86>98" there was a six page concertina card sent out to everyone on the Mute mailing list. We also distributed all the promo cards at this year's Bong Convention, so everyone who attended should now have their own copy to put in their archives.

Regarding the club dates - they were announced in various local papers and on the back of the UK postcard for "OWILM". Although we were more involved in the "Ultra" listening parties, it was "open door" policy this year and the pre-listening of "The Singles 86>98" was only part of normal club nights.

Dear Bong,

I would like to thank you for Bong 37 and share my opinion with you about the latest Depeche Mode releases and the tour.

"Only When I Lose Myself" is a continuation of the style from "Ultra", providing interesting synth links, expressive, deep and vibrating vocals and the strings that can be heard in many of Martin's recent compositions. Subsonic Legacy Remix is a bit darker and its effects remind me of some of the "In Your Room" remixes, featuring a long intro with strange voices, drums, mixed guitar and elements of piano which later develop in Automator Mix. The new video is also very interesting bringing some new components to Depeche Mode image and shows us some of the ideas hidden in the songs (the car hanging in the air over the road!!!). "Surrender" is a slower piece and contains great anxious vocals and guitar. "Headstar", to me, sounds like it's taken out of 'The X-Files' and is full of electronic gadgets, being the most rockiest piece on this single, while Luke Slater Remix seems to be the first Depeche Mode techno track. The sleeve is totally different than the ones used on the other projects. I'm not convinced if it suits the Depeche Mode style, but certainly it is something new. All in all, I like this single a lot, because it has a special atmosphere of an EP, offering us a variety of styles.

I want to say a big 'thank you' to Mart, Dave, Fletch and Christian, Peter, Jordan and Janet for a brilliant concert in Berlin!! The show was absolutely amazing and I am sure I will remember it for a lifetime. Thank you also to the local promoter for great organisation of this event and to all the fans for an unforgettable atmosphere!!

Marek Grzesiak
Poznan, Poland

Dear Bong,

I would like to personally congratulate the lads for doing such a superb job on their latest project, the single "Only When I Lose Myself". Wow! What a way to 'fire' back into the singles world. Being out here in Canada, I find it very hard getting to listen to new DM stuff, although we do have BFBS radio here now. A pat on the back to Dave, Martin and Andy for a very amusing and well thought out video. Well done! I can't wait for the singles album to be released and have recently bought the tickets to see them in November in Montreal. So I wait with baited breath and wish the lads the best of luck on the tour.

Jason Corbett
Rafu Goose Bay, Canada

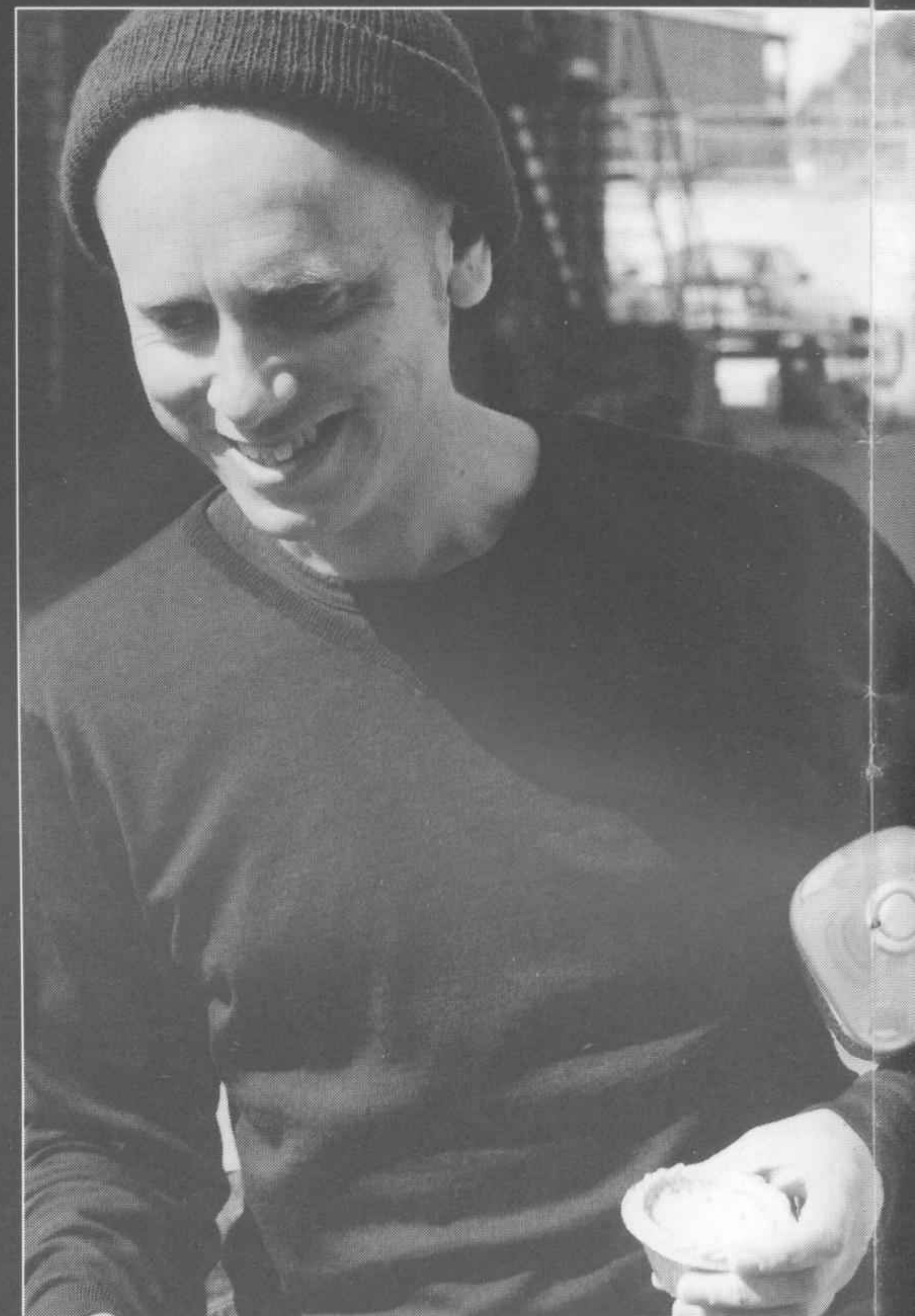
Dear Bong,

I must confess I have completely lost faith in ever seeing Depeche Mode perform in Romania, but the good thing is that the new single is out and I would like to thank Depeche Mode for this screamingly beautiful song, the lyrics touched me utterly.

Yolanda Esanu
Bucharest, Romania

Dear Bong,

I flew all the way from Las Vegas, USA just to see Depeche Mode on The Singles Tour. I had been working extra hours all year and saving to afford to fly to London just to see them for my very first time. Upon my journey to the Nynex Arena, Manchester, I sadly got rear ended in a car accident. My friend Annie from Liverpool was the one who was driving. I went through so much to see them, including airport delays and much more. We were all OK, but we missed the entire concert.....I can't believe the luck that I had! I am totally broke now, I can't afford to even fly to California to see any of the five shows. Why aren't they coming to Las Vegas? I mean, five shows in California!?! I am not going



to lie, I did see them in London, but my seat sucked!! I guess I will never get to see 'up-close' the band I truly love forever.

Melissa Smith
Henderson, USA

Dear Bong,

Firstly a big 'thank you' to Martin, Fletch & Dave for putting on such a fantastic show!! I went to their concerts in London and then Manchester with my DM mate Justine and we had a wonderful time.

I also wanted to write to you about a comment that was made in an article in the November issue of Q Magazine, "...the salvation of Dave Gahan from all manner of nasty indulgences has also robbed rock'n'roll of one of its more colourful characters. After all, when on drugs, he was a figure almost beyond fascination...". Before I start rambling on, may I just say what a bloody ignorant comment!!

Dave is every bit as colourful and wonderful as he has always been, and in my opinion more so now that he has had the strength to come through the last few years. He is looking gorgeous, healthy and fit enough to appreciate and to enjoy what is going on around him! He looked absolutely fantastic at



Photo by Michaela Olexova



Photo by Michaela Olexova

the concerts, as did Martin and Fletch and I'm sure everyone will agree with me that it was a joy to see them looking so good and obviously enjoying the tour. Also Dave and Martin's voices sounded better than ever - Martin, what can I say about your rendition of "Somebody"? WOW!!

I feel incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to see DM in concert again, because like many people I wasn't sure if they would want to carry on after the problems of the last tour. But I am delighted that they have and I hope they continue to enjoy the tour and stay healthy (and not pay attention to any stupid comments made by journalists who talk out of their arses!!). I do wonder if I will ever pick up a magazine and read an article from a journalist who is intelligent enough to fully appreciate DM's music and not simply searching for some reason to run them down. It's interesting that even though Nick Duerden's article was obviously desperately searching for some way to criticise DM he still couldn't avoid rating the concert as excellent.

Dave, Martin & Fletch - be sure there are millions of us who are delighted to see you again and will continue to enjoy your music and support you.

Lisa Dicks
Broadstairs, UK

Dear Bong,

What extremely good news in Bong 36 that Depeche Mode, after five years, are going on tour. I was so excited, having attended two previous concerts, that I had to go, no matter what. The 'what' being that I was six months pregnant, and the baby was due on the 7th September. I thought I would be OK, and booked the tickets.

The 7th September came and went and I started to panic. I could not miss the concert, or wait another five years. I was booked into hospital on September 12th, hoping all was well and I would still be going to the concert. But I had a caesarean section and told my friend Katherine to find someone else to go with, but she didn't want to, because I took her to her first Depeche Mode concert.

Feeling extremely sore and with the concert drawing closer, my heart sank with each day. But with a lot of will and painkillers I made it to the concert. Tears filled my eyes when Dave, Martin and Andy came out on stage. Everyone stood up as one, clapping and screaming to see the one and only Depeche Mode. In true DM style, Dave gave a fantastic performance (mic stand and all), Martin's harmonious affect on the crowd, and Andy producing exquisite sounds. Thank God I went, it made the pain worthwhile. I would not have missed it for the world! See you all again, but don't leave it another five years!

Kirsty
Eastbourne, UK

Dear Bong,

The French fans can't say they are lucky this year, especially in the South of France where I live. I am disappointed that the concert in Marseille, planned for October 13th was called off. Why was it cancelled? The one and only date for whole of France is really not much!!

Anyway, I am looking forward to seeing Depeche Mode in Paris - Bercy, but not all the fans will be able to get there and that really is a shame!! This year, I have no choice but to go to Paris, although I do prefer smaller, and therefore more human, concert halls than Bercy.

Valérie Bosc
Cadalen, France



Photo by Michaela Olexova



Everything Counts >>

Only When I Lose Myself

Since its release at the beginning of September, the latest single "Only When I Lose Myself" successfully entered radio and TV charts all over the world, although it was slow in receiving the airplay it deserved. Thanks to your support, the single managed to climb the international sales charts (see below) resulting in nearly half a million copies sold.

Country/Highest position: Czech Republic/1, Hungary/1, Spain/1, South Africa/18, Denmark/1, Germany/2, Australia/34, USA/61, France/29, Switzerland/16, Austria/10, UK/17, Sweden/4, Poland/6, Finland/4, Greece/12, Holland/89, Belgium/55, Italy/3, Norway/14, Ireland/28.

Following the details of formats and tracklisting featured in the previous issue, here is the cover of "Only When I Lose Myself" XLCD BONG29 and L12 BONG29 which wasn't available at the time Bong 37 went to print. Make sure you get a copy of this, if only for the beautiful version of "Surrender" (Catalan FC Out Of Reach Mix).



The US label Reprise Records has recently released a promotional CD, featuring a new remix of "Only When I Lose Myself", remixed by Josh Abraham. The new CD includes the following two tracks: "Only When I Lose Myself" (The Josh Abraham Remix) and "Only When I Lose Myself" (The Josh Abraham Remix Edit).

In the US there were two different commercial CDs and a double 12" vinyl of the single, as follows:

Only When I Lose Myself (Reprise - cat. number 2-44546)

1. Only When I Lose Myself (Dan The Automator Remix)
2. Headstar
3. Surrender
4. Only When I Lose Myself (Subsonic Legacy Remix)
5. Headstar (Luke Slater Remix)

Only When I Lose Myself (Reprise - cat. number 2-44562)

1. Only When I Lose Myself (Gus Gus Longplay Mix)
2. Painkiller (Kill The Pain Mix - DJ Shadow vs. Depeche Mode)
3. Surrender (Catalan FC Out Of Reach Mix)
4. Only When I Lose Myself (Gus Gus Shortplay Mix)
5. World In My Eyes (Safar Mix)

Only When I Lose Myself - promo double 12" vinyl (Reprise - cat. number PRO-A-9362)

1. Only When I Lose Myself (Dan The Automator Remix)
2. Painkiller (Kill The Pain Mix - DJ Shadow vs. Depeche Mode)
3. Headstar (Luke Slater Remix)
4. Surrender (Catalan FC Out Of Reach Mix)
5. Only When I Lose Myself (Gus Gus Longplay Mix)
6. Headstar (Non-Album Track)
7. Only When I Lose Myself (Subsonic Legacy Remix)
8. Surrender (Non-Album Track)

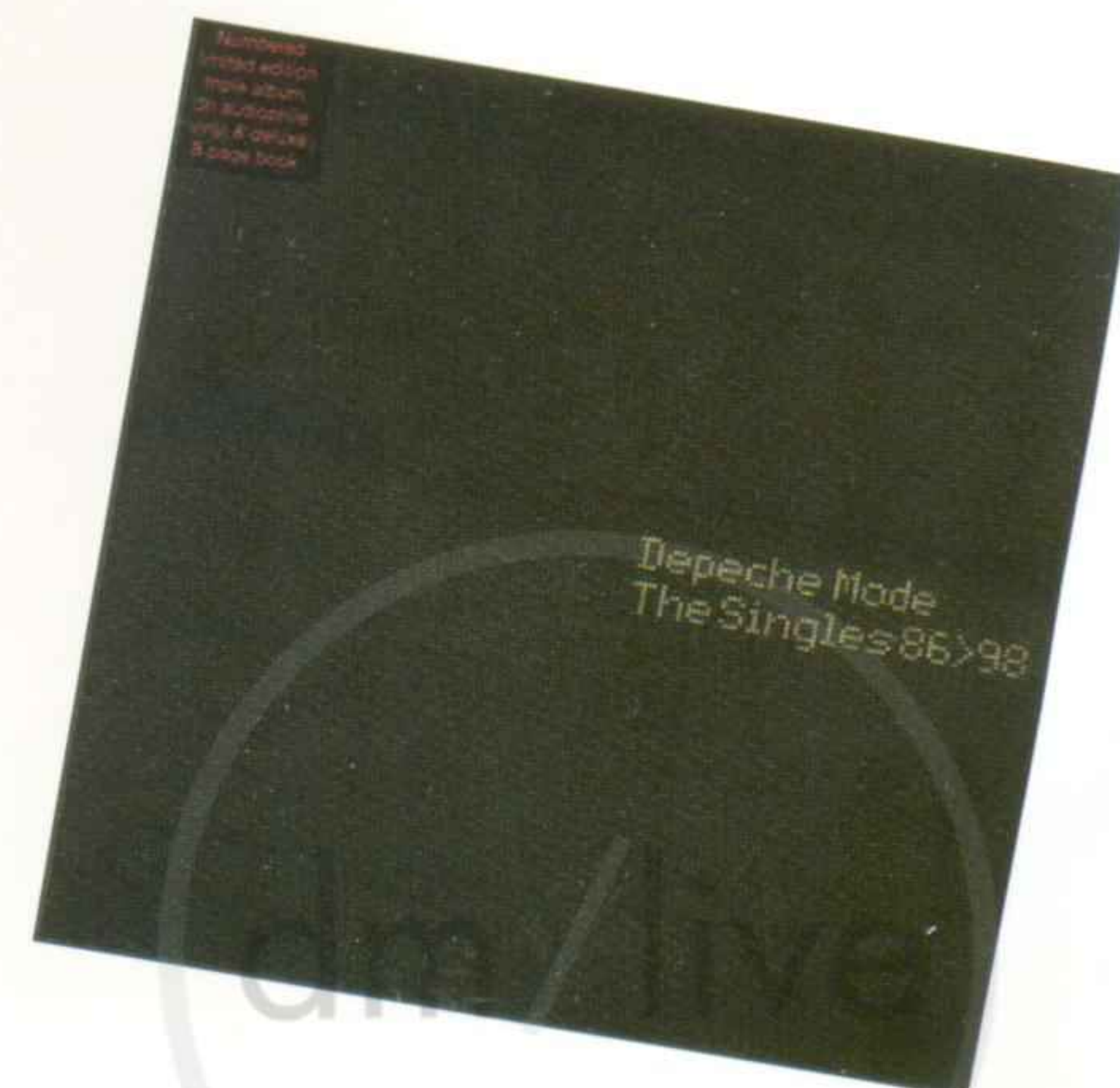
The Singles 86>98

We have already informed you about the release of a numbered limited edition triple vinyl of the latest singles compilation. Consider yourself lucky if you own one of the 15 000 copies, as this deluxe black box has already become a valuable collectors item!

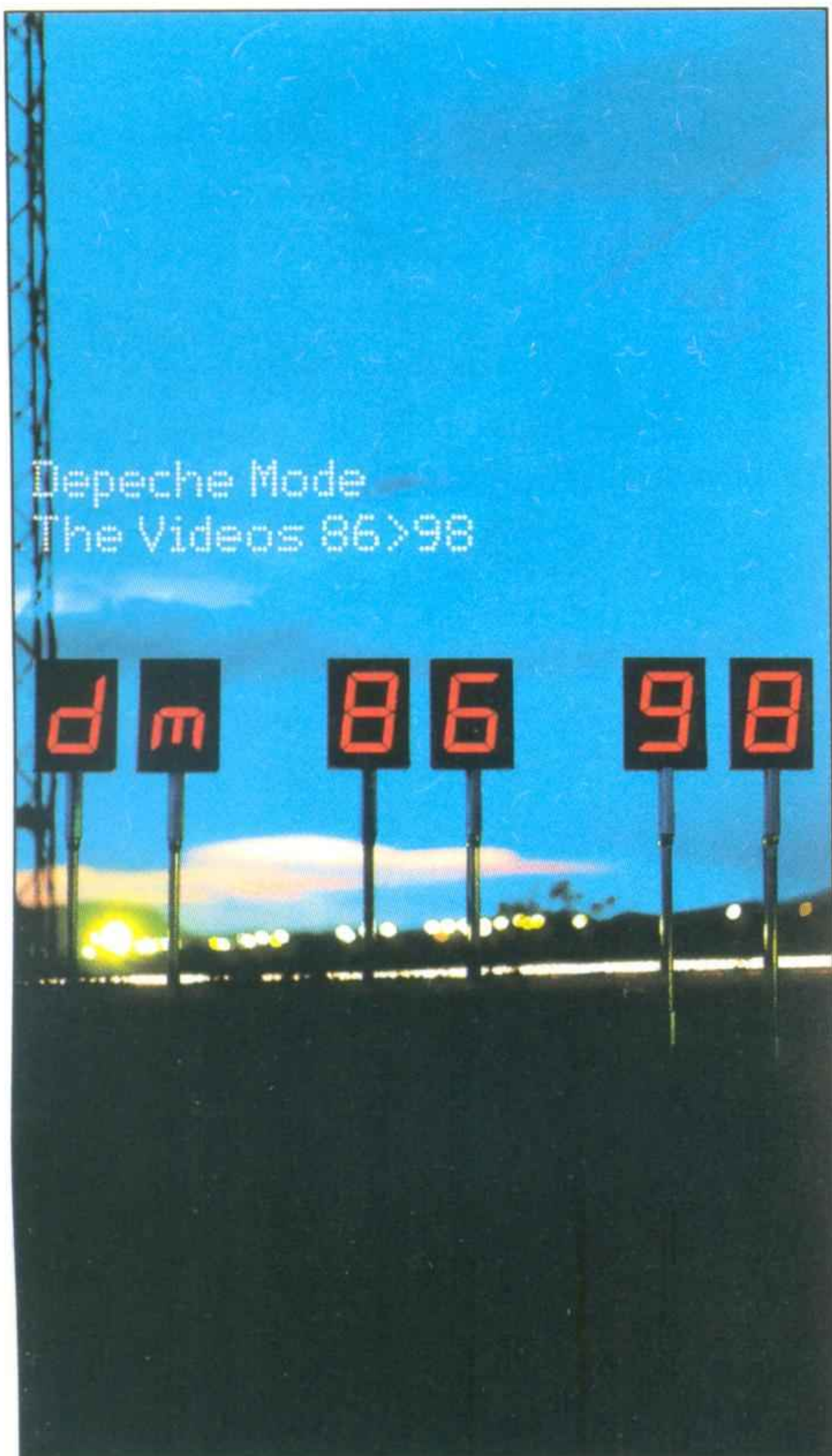
Sales figures of more than 1,5 million copies have already secured "The Singles 86>98" several gold and platinum disc awards across the world. They include gold discs from Germany, France, UK, Spain, Sweden, Portugal and platinum discs from Italy and Belgium.

The interest in the singles compilation was immediately reflected in the international sales charts, placing the double album in the following positions:

Country/Highest position:
France/1, Czech Republic/1,
Singapore/1, Greece/3,
Germany/1, Belgium/5,
Sweden/1, Italy/2, Austria/2,
Hungary/8, Switzerland/3,
Portugal/10, Finland/3,
Denmark/1, Canada/14,
Norway/9, UK/5, Ireland/6,
Holland/34, Australia/42,
USA/38, Korea/6, Spain/8.



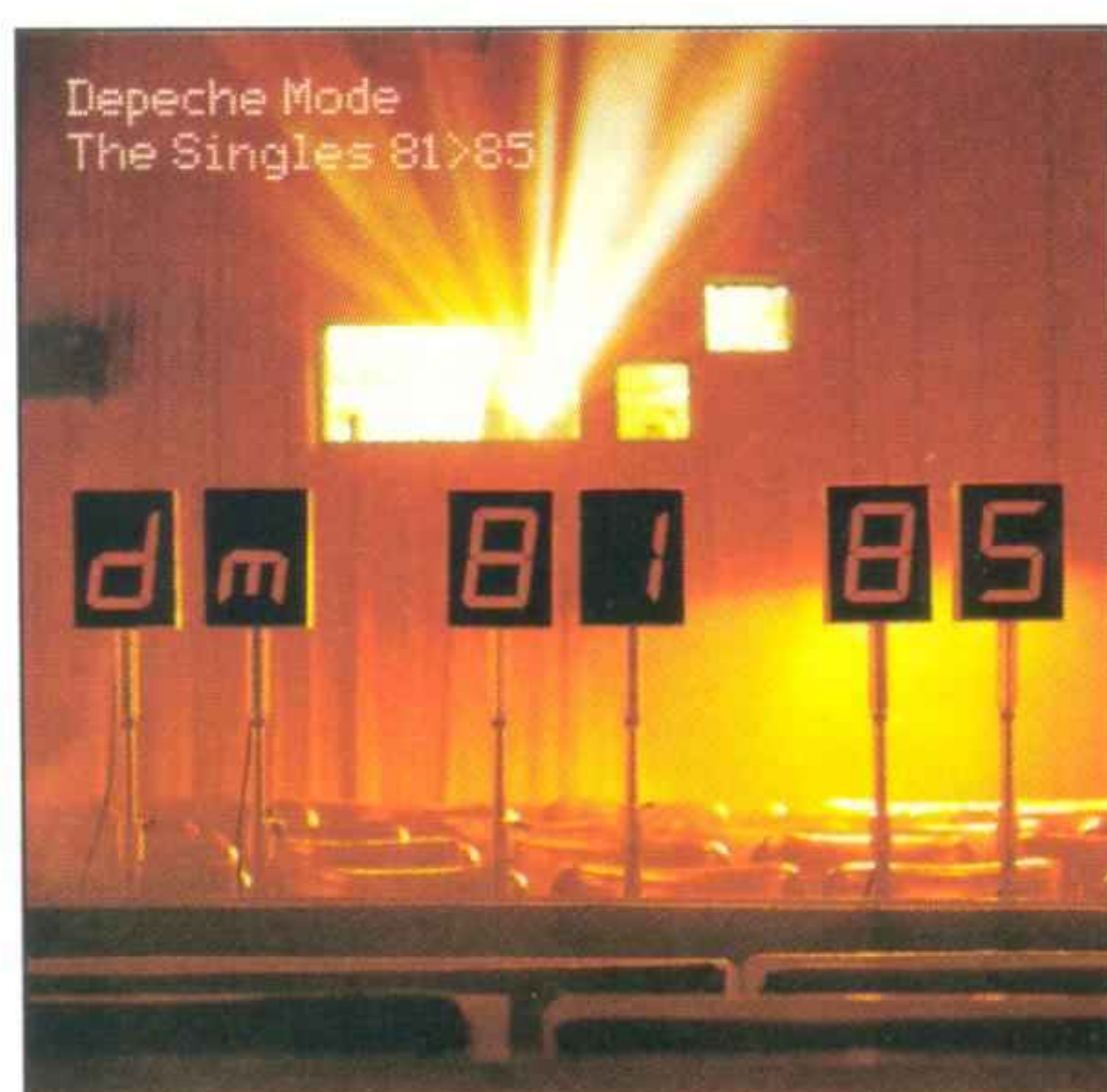
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The Videos 86>98

The new video compilation coincided with the release of "The Singles 86>98" at the end of September. It opens with an intro from the Band and the video director Anton Corbijn discussing their experiences from various video shoots, including some rare video out-takes, followed by clips of all the videos released in the period 1986-98. The video concludes with a short film featuring exclusive interview footage with Depeche Mode, which was used previously only as an electronic press kit, and was never commercially released.

You may have noticed that the video clip for "Condemnation" which was originally shot in Hungary, was replaced by the "Devotional" live version, and "Everything Counts" (live) was taken from the "101" video.



The Singles 81>85

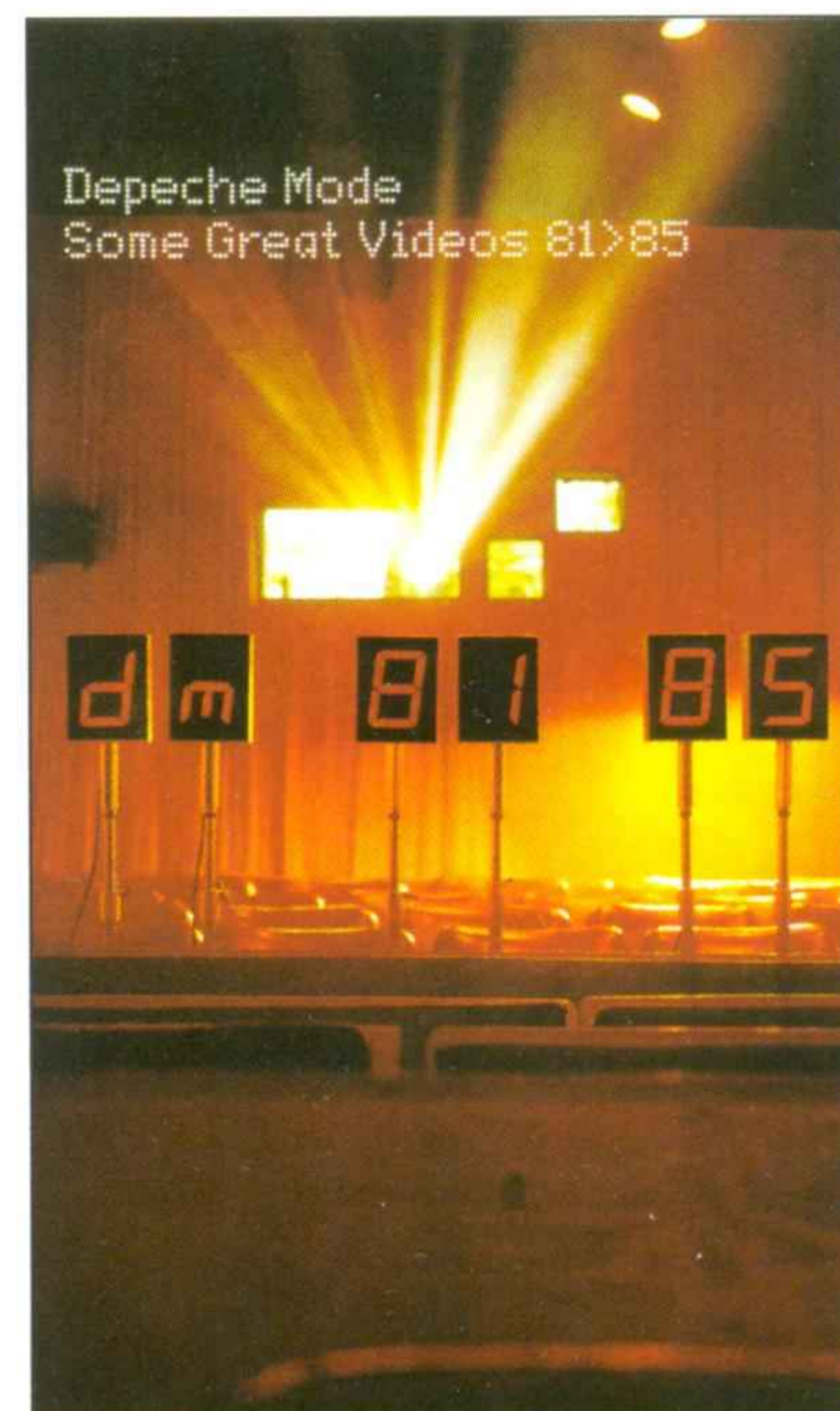
The re-release of the first singles compilation "The Singles 81>85" shouldn't be missing from the collection of any Depeche Mode devotee, as all 17 tracks have been digitally re-mastered and have superb sound quality. It features a completely re-designed booklet, in-keeping with this years image, and the inclusion of two bonus remixes of "Just Can't Get Enough" (Schizo Mix) and "Photographic" (Some Bizzare Mix).

The Remixes 81>85

Mute has released a promotional CD and vinyl, featuring four remixes of the early songs: "Just Can't Get Enough" (Schizo Mix), "Get The Balance Right" (Combination Mix), "Master And Servant" (Slavery Whip Mix) and "Everything Counts" (In Large Amounts). The catalogue numbers of these have changed from the ones printed in Bong 37 to PLCDMUTEL1 for CD and P12LMUTEL1 for vinyl.

Some Great Videos 81>85

The re-release of "Some Great Videos" features the same tracklisting, but new title, new cover and image.



The Singles Tour 86-98

As expected, more show dates were added to the Band's itinerary at the last minute, so please update your tour list (US leg) shown in the last issue of Bong, with the following dates:

October 1998

Thu 29.....New York City, NY.....Madison Square Garden

November 1998

Sun 22.....New Orleans, LA.....U.N.O. Lakefront Arena

Wed 25.....Chicago, ILRosemont Horizon

December 1998

Wed 2Boise, IDIdaho Center

Sat 19Inglewood, CAThe Forum

Sun 20.....Anaheim, CAThe Pond

Tue 22.....Anaheim, CAThe Pond

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Promotion

During the European leg of the tour, Depeche Mode held four press conferences in Barcelona, Paris, Copenhagen and Berlin. All were very well received by international journalists, and by the other media people who attended these events.

Upon arrival in the US, the Band were invited on to the David Letterman show where they performed "In Your Room". The show was broadcast in the US on CBS on November 2nd.

Depeche Mode were approached by MTV to do a special programme called '120 Minutes'. Apparently, it was a lot of fun to do and the show was broadcast on November 8.

The music station MTV Europe aired a half an hour special on November 16 featuring a live performance by Depeche Mode, which was recorded in Cologne on October 5. It featured "A Question Of Time", "Only When I Lose Myself", "Enjoy The Silence" and "Personal Jesus". The full hour version of Depeche Mode Live was scheduled for November 26.

'Depeche Mode - Behind The Music' is the title of VH-1's special, produced by Patrick Jager, and featuring interviews with Dave, Martin and Fletch as well as the Band's manager Jonathan Kessler and tour manager Andy Franks. It should also include some live shots from US dates at the beginning of November - so watch out for the date of broadcast!

Anton Corbijn shot some live pictures of the Band during their performances in Stockholm and Manchester, and you can see the result inside this issue.

Depeche Mode were presented with a gold disc award in Riga, Latvia on September 3 to commemorate the sale of "Ultra", the best selling album in Latvia in 1997.

A two page spread on the Band in Helsinki (Sep 9) appeared in the October issue of Q magazine, featuring some brilliant live shots and a short interview with the guys. NME published a whole page on Oct 3, taking an inside look at the DM show in Berlin. The October issue of specialist magazine Record Collector featured a six page spread on Depeche Mode and an extensive list of their commercial and promotional releases, rarities and other memorabilia.

On Tuesday 24th November, Depeche Mode participated in a live video chat on the Internet, from backstage at The Rosemont Horizon in Chicago. This was presented by Jam TV/Rolling Stone Network, in association with Electric Artists, Reprise Records and Mute Records. We would love to hear from anyone who was able to connect to this.

General

The German sports channel DSF proved once again that there must be a big Depeche Mode fan in their crew. Several excerpts from "It's No Good" were featured in a report about the making and producing of DSF's show 'Doppelpass' where German football experts discussed the game and the background of Bundesliga.

"It's No Good" was used on October 9th (UK Channel 4) in an episode of "Friends" when Monica and Phoebe take Chandler to a strip club with lap dancers, in an attempt to cheer him up!

The intro of "Barrel Of A Gun" was used in a trailer for 'Panorama' on October 12th (UK BBC 1). The report was about animal cruelty, serial killers and their links with animals.

"Uselink" was used during a report about cloning on the UK channel Granada in October.

Depeche Mode appeared on the German TV station SAT 1 in a programme called 'Blitz' on Sunday September 20. The programme covered the press conference in Berlin, using various comments from Andy, Martin and Dave. They also played the video of "Barrel Of A Gun" and used some live excerpts from "World In My Eyes". The report concluded with confirmation that all the German shows were completely sold out!!!

NRJ, a French radio station, organised a special weekend (Oct 3-4) dedicated entirely to Depeche Mode. It included new songs, interviews and competitions etc.

"It's No Good" was used on the TV channel TF1 during the French comedy show called 'Combien 'a coute?' which reported about forgery (money, music, paintings...) on October 28.

On November 1, the Norwegian channel TV2 used the intros of "Barrel Of A Gun" and "The Love Thieves" as background music in a programme called 'Gutta pa tur', which means 'Boys on tour'. The program was about boys visiting the Norwegian Navy.

On October 7, the French TV channel TFI broadcast an interview with Dave in a programme called 'Exclusif'. It was recorded only two days before the DM gig in Paris and Dave was talking about his problems with drugs and his new life.

The French TV channel M6 dedicated one hour to DM video-clips on October 1. The same channel also used "Flexible" as background music in a sport report called 'Sport 6' on October 4.

On October 4th the French TV channel TF1's news broadcast a special report featuring live footage and DM interviews.

On September 5th, "Enjoy The Silence" was used in a mix during the evening session with Judge Joules on UK Radio 1.

Depeche Mode were previewed in a programme called 'Buzz' (UK BBC 2) on Sunday 6th September. The report was only brief but covered their career from the very beginning, right up to "Only When I Lose Myself".

On June 28, at the NYC Gay Pride Parade, a Fast Club Mix of "It's No Good" was played in its entirety, which was very well received.

On May 18th, "Uselink" and "It's No Good" were used in a scientific show called 'Les Ecrans du Savoir' on the French TV Channel 5.

Belgian TV channel RTBF is using the United Mix of "Barrel Of A Gun" every day to advertise the movie of the day.

"Waiting For The Night" was used as background music in a programme about a person waiting for a heart transplant. It was featured on the German TV station NDR on August 23.

The whole of "The Love Thieves" was used in 'La Femme Nikita', an extremely fascinating Canadian series based on Luc Besson's successful film, in an episode where the love Nikita yearned for was stolen. It was really touching as the song played while the character went through a difficult time.

Many thanks to Tim Plachner, Tom Evison, Paul Burns, Brian Weihe, Kevin Jee, Torhild Kjeldsen, Letitia Nougues, Sarah Schaschke, Phil Clarke, Celeste Ramos, Valerie Bosc, Brian Weihe, Yolanda Esanu and to anyone else who sent in contributions. Please, keep the information coming in and don't forget that Everything Counts!

★ ★ ★

Depeche Mode Info Line

Bong has its own information line, regularly updated to provide you with any new information as soon as it happens, i.e. latest DM news and forthcoming Bong activities.

To find out more, please dial 0171-486 9044 but please note there is only one line, so if the number is busy keep trying - don't give up! The maximum price for any individual call to this line should not be more than 25p.

dm/live

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SCREENING MR. CORBIN

by Michaela Olexova

It's not always easy to catch up with Anton Corbijn - one of the World's busiest people, especially when you want him to give you some details on one of his latest projects, the stage set and video projection he was once again asked to design for Depeche Mode's tour. We sat down and

It's No Good

It is a recycling of old videos and putting them together. I think it's OK, because it's 'the greatest hits' tour, isn't it? It's only the videos that I've made, there are of course a few others, but they are not in there. As the video screens are upright and as all the old videos are made horizontally because of the TV, that's the only time when the images are a bit small.

Walking In My Shoes

The idea was that people, at many points in their lives, have to make decisions and can also be influenced by things that are important in their life. So, for instance, you have people who in their teenage years want to be Gary Glitter or David Bowie, and that's what the band show. It's on the catwalk so it looks like a show... I think Fletch's Elvis is great! Then there are other things, some trivial, some important, that you decide about - knife, fork, wedding dress, army helmet, etc.

A Question Of Lust

The faces of the band morph into each other and morph into a female body and then back into the faces of the band again. It's a very slow video. It's nice that everything morphs, which is a technical process.

Enjoy The Silence

I took some of the elements from the original video, which are the deck-chair and the crown. They gradually become graphics and like in a club, they are pulsing on the beat. I think that's really good part of the show.

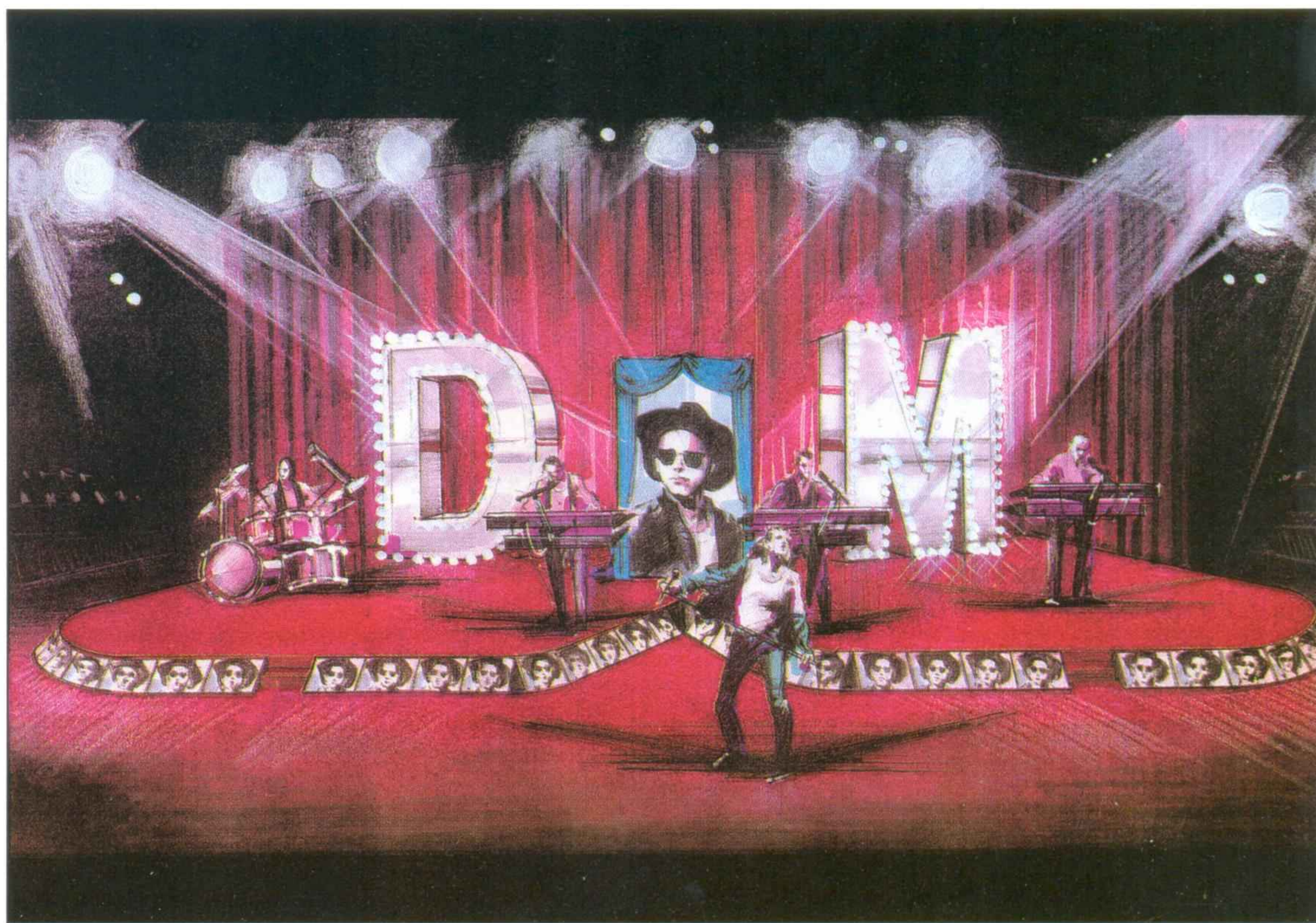
Barrel Of A Gun

It is a re-edited version of all the stuff of Dave in Morocco. It's very manic and I think it's a brilliant edit, myself. You really get that vibe of someone who is possessed, and obsessed. This video is shown with the mirror ball above it.

Stripped

Here the sexuality is brought into fruits or half cut fruits. It's very simple but it looks very beautiful.

talked about his ideas and intentions during the last week of August - just before "The Singles Tour" hit the road.....



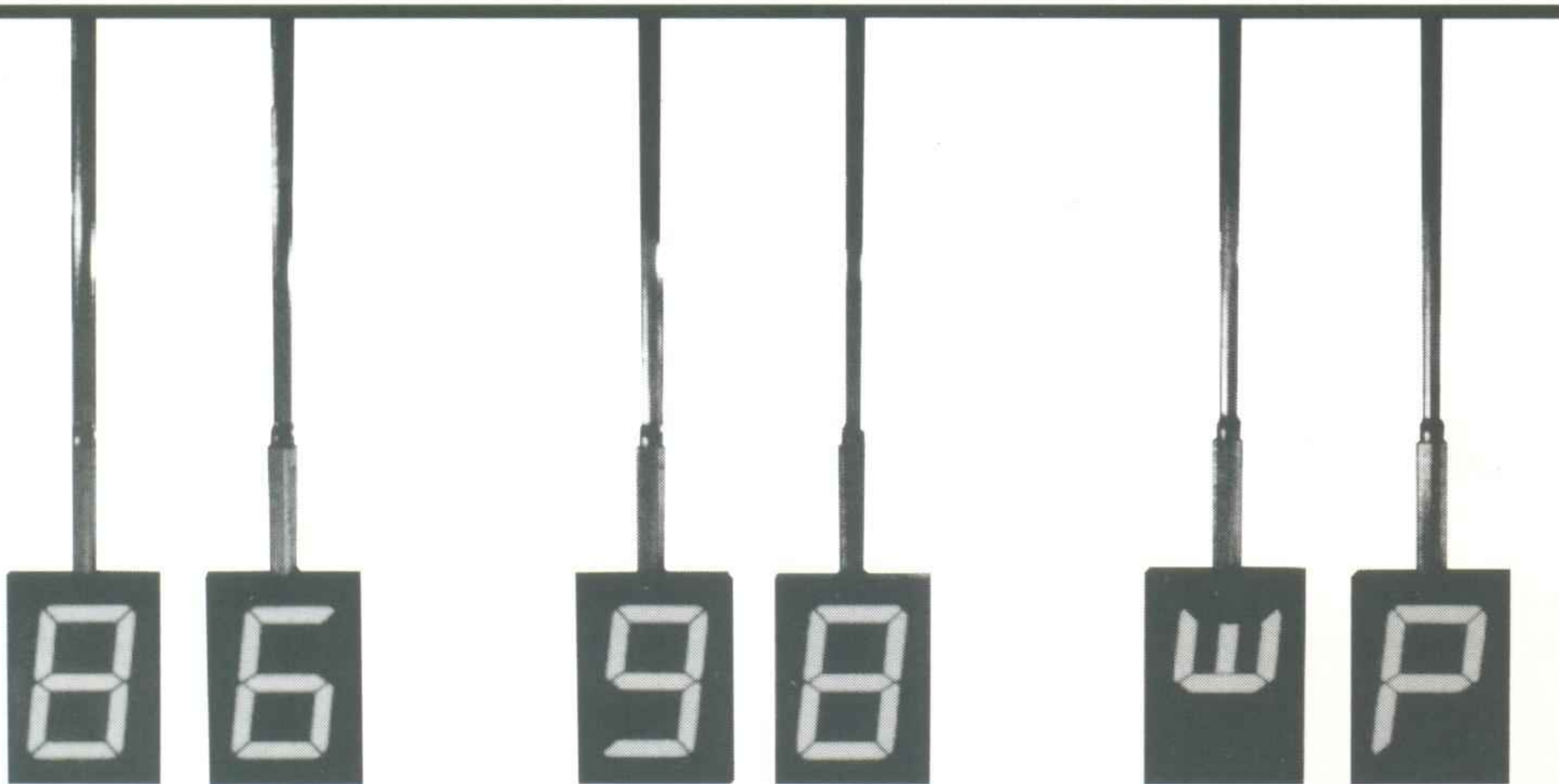
Stage-concept © Anton Corbijn 1998

The stage design is what you call low-tech and the stage itself is a bit of an idea that resembles a peep-show, a sexclub or a nightclub, so it's quite intimate and a bit kitschy. Therefore there's a lot of red velvet used on stage to get this vibe. The band is quite close together, only Dave has some space around him and there are some video-screens (like a peepshow) in the middle of the stage. They are not massive screens, and are actually the same height as the lower screens on the last tour. We only use three of them now so people from all the sides can see it and there's the same image on every screen. The images are usually quite clear, but I don't mind if not everybody can see it on this time. It's more of an idea that there is something, it's more of a concept thing. The visuals last time were the show, whereas now it's more part of the whole concept.



In the last issue of Bong, we encouraged you to select one of your favourite songs from "The Singles 86>98" sharing with us what it reminds you of or inspires you. The following is what we have received so far, but if there are any of you who still wish to contribute then mail us now!!

The Singles 86>98



Stripped > This single reminds me of 1986 and the "Black Celebration" period. When the tour dates were announced you can imagine my delight when Bristol's Hippodrome was one of those venues. It was a Saturday morning and I was on the bus stop bright and early to get into the centre of Bristol to eagerly await the opening of the Hippodrome. As I got there, the fans already awaited the ticket office opening. A couple of hours later, to my delight, at last the doors opened and we were in!! I purchased my two tickets for row B (row A sold out already, how I don't know!?!). Very, very excited I left with my tickets safely in my pocket, and went into the shopping centre. I can remember buying a DM T-shirt. All this I can remember so clearly, and as soon as I hear "Stripped", it takes me back to that Saturday.

A. Lawrence, UK

A Question of Lust > This is one of the songs I used to sing to my brother as lullabies. I was singing them almost every night for five or more times until he fell asleep. I was, of course, switching 'she' for 'he' where necessary. **Anna Avekova, Moscow, Russia**

A Question Of Time > The inevitable loss of innocence caused by puberty and the vulnerability that can lead to under age sex provides an underlying element of danger throughout the song, while still retaining some warmth as it is told through the fears and concerns of an understanding adult. **Lisa Davenport, UK**

Strangelove > This song reminds me of the band's concert during the "Music For The Masses Tour" when Depeche came to Prague in 1988. The Czech Republic was still struggling with the communist régime and Depeche Mode were one of the very first bands from the western part of the World to come and

perform in our country. I remember the interest in this concert was overwhelming and there were thousands of people coming from abroad. The capacity of the venue was 16,000 but there were about 90,000 plus requests for the tickets!!! I also recall that the atmosphere on the night was amazing, although there were many state police officers to calm the crowd down, in order to prevent possible riots?! To remember this special day, the DM fans started to gather on the date of the show in front of the venue for their black celebrations.... **Michaela Olexova - Bong**

Never Let Me Down Again > My favourite track from the singles collection is "Never Let Me Down Again"...because I love its mood. I listen to it when I am down and sing it when I am happy (especially in my shower). I remember missing school just to buy the 12" single only to find out that it wasn't on sale on that day yet. Great memories. **Kwok Kah Mun, Singapore**

Behind The Wheel > This must be one of the most beautiful songs ever. I already knew Depeche Mode before this single was released, but one evening I was just lying in the dark listening to a radio, and it was when I heard that song, that music and those incredible sounds.... I sat down on my bed and the only thought in my head was "that's it! that's my song!". It was "Behind The Wheel" (remix) and it was for the first time ever I have felt music so close to my mind and heart. Its mood and atmosphere just surrounded me. It was the reason for me to fall in love with Depeche Mode. For good.... **Jurga Raskauskaite, Alytus, Lithuania**

Personal Jesus > Although people associate this track with religion, your own Personal Jesus can be anything - sex, love, music almost anything that gives you pleasure - reach out and touch whatever moves you. **Andrea Matthews, UK**

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Enjoy The Silence > It's one of the best Depeche Mode songs. I love it very much for the power that gives me when the world around me goes crazy. I listen to this song and vision myself on the top of the mountains, in the country, near the sea and hope that nobody will ever come and break the silence....

Patricia Sellin, Concarneau, France

Policy Of Truth > I have become a real devotee with this song and fell in love with it the very first time I heard it, and it hasn't changed so far. It brings deep feelings inside of me and I consider it to be the most powerful song Martin has ever written. The melody captivates my senses completely and it has often helped me in low times. A great thrill and one of the immortal songs! The song of my life, indeed! **Vanina Moreillon, Sion, Switzerland**

World In My Eyes > I remember when this song was released as a single and I thought to myself - that's it - the sound, music and lyrics just opened my eyes!! Since then I have become a huge devotee of the band, and although I have liked Depeche Mode ever since 1981, the year 1990 made my life liveable!! **Manfred Greisert, Erkrath, Germany**

I Feel You > The first time I saw the video for this song I was shocked. Was this my beloved Depeche Mode? They looked and sounded like a hard rock band. The band were yet again changing any preconceptions people had about them. The song has such a powerful and positive energy and whenever I play it, it always inspires me. **John Bretherton, Warrington, UK**

Walking In My Shoes > I can never listen to this song without being reminded of Anton's really dark video with all the strange people and images of the group in it. I consider it to be one of the best videos Anton has ever done for the band. **John Bretherton, Warrington, UK**

Condemnation > The track has the basic meaning - they again deal with what other people think of us, but they do so from different emotional standpoints. You beg "Why do you think that of me? How can you judge me?" mixed with a longing for the accuser to have some understanding. **Lisa Davenport, UK**

In Your Room > I really like "In Your Room", especially Zephyr Mix. We were listening to this song together with my girlfriend all night long in one room three years ago and I had the words in my head all that night. We are still together and she is still my little girl.... Sorry Martin. **Patrik Kardoheli, Presov, Slovakia**

Barrel Of A Gun > A great comeback single. Really hard sounding keyboards and Dave's sneering distorted vocals. A really challenging song with confrontational lyrics by Martin that remind me of the great pain and torture Dave has suffered over the last few years. Yet against all the odds he and the rest of the band have managed to pull through, even though they were staring down the barrel of a gun. **John Bretherton, Warrington, UK**

It's No Good > Destiny and belonging to someone, they know, you know, everybody knows - perfect. No reading horoscopes here!! **Andrea Matthews, UK**

Home > Oozes with the warmth and security a loving relationship provides. Home isn't a place - it's a state of mind, inner calm, contentment and a sense of belonging tinged with an element of surprise that anyone could make you feel that way. **Lisa Davenport, UK**

Useless > I remember showing the "Useless" video for the first time at The International Bong Convention, which we held in Prague in October 1997. Since it was only a few days after it was released no one in the venue had seen it before, and so we were really fortunate to have the first run of this video on that night. I loved it so much myself I couldn't wait till I press the play button and the video projection lights up. When the time arrived I could see all the 600 plus fans waiting in anxiety, turning their eyes towards the massive screen. It was all so exciting and as soon as the first tones of "Useless" began and the yellow car appeared on the screen everyone went completely mad! The crowd turned into the one I know from the live shows and it almost seemed as if the Band were actually on stage. Loud screaming and applause followed every movement in the video; needless to say what went on after a close-up on Martin with his fresh hair cut. It was so emotional and moving seeing the smile and happiness in every single face.... We, of course, had to show the video a few more times later on. **Michaela Olexova - Bong**

Only When I Lose Myself > The lyrics, the vocals make this such a wonderful song for me, I lost count of how many times I cried when I first listened to it. **Andrea Matthews, UK**

Little 15 > I remember the first time I heard this song on "Music For The Masses" album. It felt so weird. I was sad and happy at the same time and the melody haunted me for a long time. I found it quite strange when it was released as a single. As Martin said in Bong 37, it was not a hit, but it was played regularly on the radio. I remember listening to a radio programme once where the listeners were supposed to phone in and vote for one of the two songs and "Little 15" won with more than 400 votes which apparently was a quite high score! **Rozenn Leborgne, London, UK**

Everything Counts (Live) > Whenever I listen to this song, whether it's an album or a live version, it reminds me of this one night when I was drawing a picture of Dave. I had put my CD player on 'repeat' so the song would just keep playing over and over and over again. As I drew the picture, I just kept listening to "Everything Counts". I was drawing the picture for about an hour, so during that whole time, all that was playing was "Everything Counts". I have no idea as to exactly how many times in a row I listened to the song that night, but I'll never forget it. And now, whenever I hear that song, I am constantly reminded of that one night. I must say though that although I listened to on repeat so many times for an hour, I never got sick of it. That is the beauty of Depeche Mode songs - I never seem to get sick of them. **Laura Iwanenko, Hickory Hills, USA**

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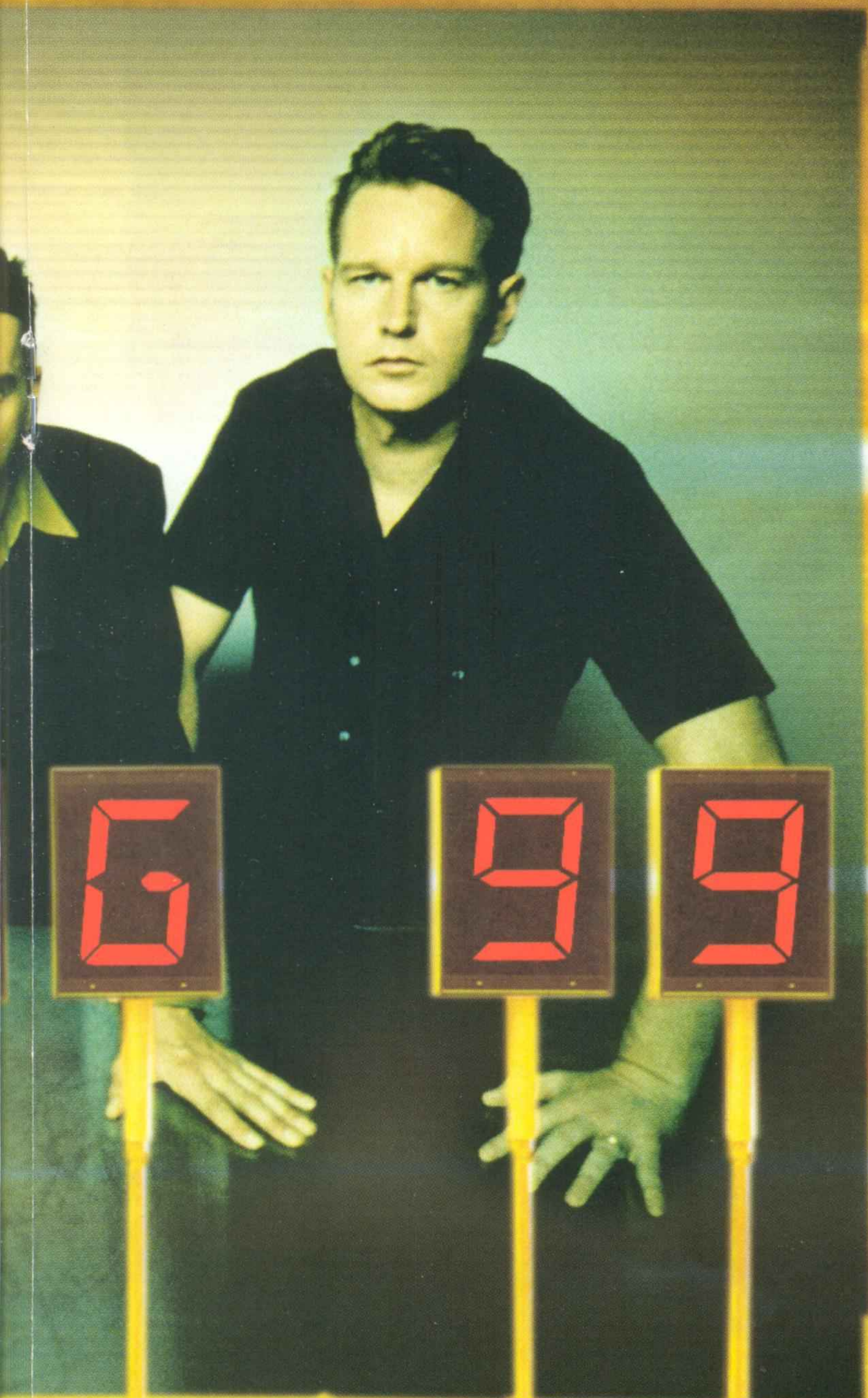
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Scan by Maudy

> / Met That Blake From Depeche Mode Once >

It was on June 21, 1993 in Munich, when a friend of mine and I met Depeche Mode. They came to the town for one of their brilliant 'Devotional' concerts. By chance I knew the hotel where the band was staying, and so we went there in the early afternoon and took a seat near the reception. We ordered a drink and waited to see if we could get a glimpse of the band. Then it happened.... Alan was the first one who appeared. He was on his way out and so we quickly moved over and approached him in order to ask for his autograph. After a while we saw Martin and Andy coming down to the lobby. There was a car waiting for them outside the hotel, and of course quite a few fans. We later assumed that they had gone to the venue for the sound-check as they returned in about an hour. Upon their return, they were again patiently signing our stuff, but unfortunately there was no chance of speaking to them, as there were too many fans around. Nevertheless, it was a great experience just standing next to them, realising they are 'normal human beings'. Dave, we didn't see whole afternoon and we had to wait long hours to meet him at last. We were getting more and more nervous and it was at 7,30pm when he finally came down from his room, followed by his bodyguard. He immediately went outside to his car, but was stopped by a group of fans who asked him for an autograph. He then left for the concert, together with Alan.

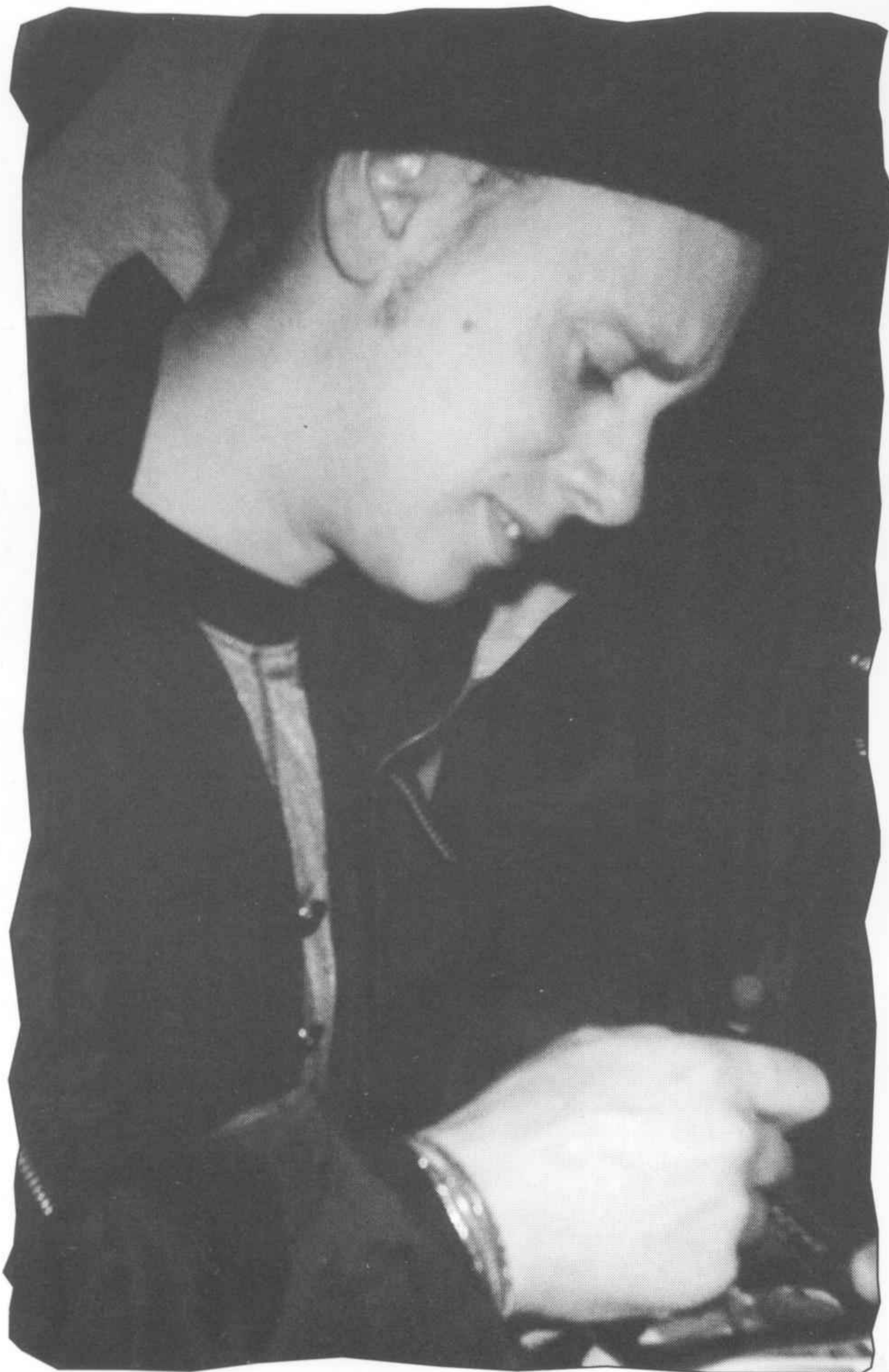
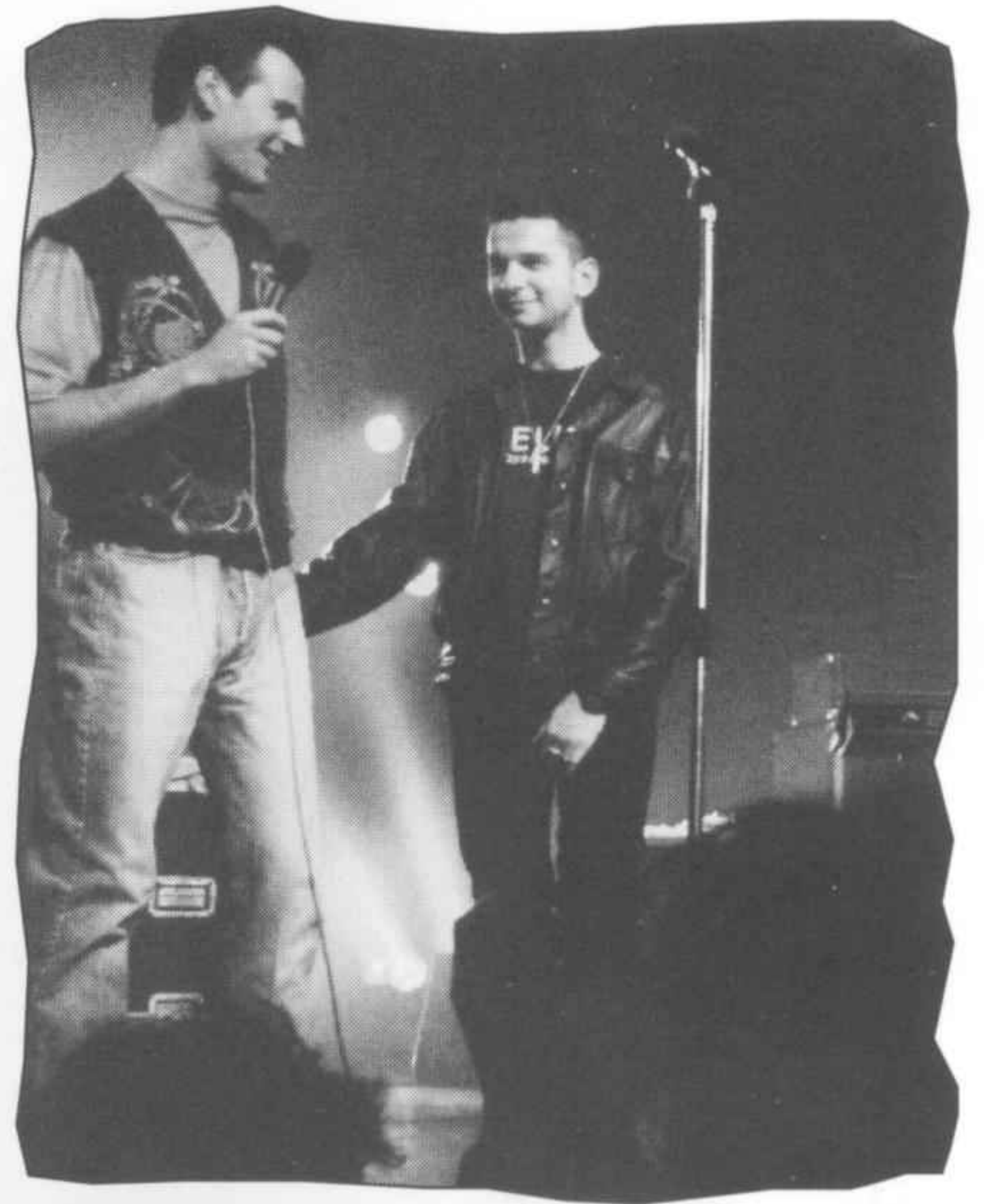


Photo courtesy Tobias Schulze



Meanwhile, Andy and Martin came down to the lobby, sat at a table and really didn't look like they were to play a concert. They left soon after, and we tried to follow them in a taxi but lost them in traffic on the way. But we were lucky, because when we stopped at the crossroads, we spotted them in front of us again. From then on, we were right behind them up to the Olympic Hall. The support band was nearly over when we entered the venue, but it really didn't matter after what we had experienced that afternoon.... and the show was an excellent one!!!

Tobias Schulze
Schöneck, Germany

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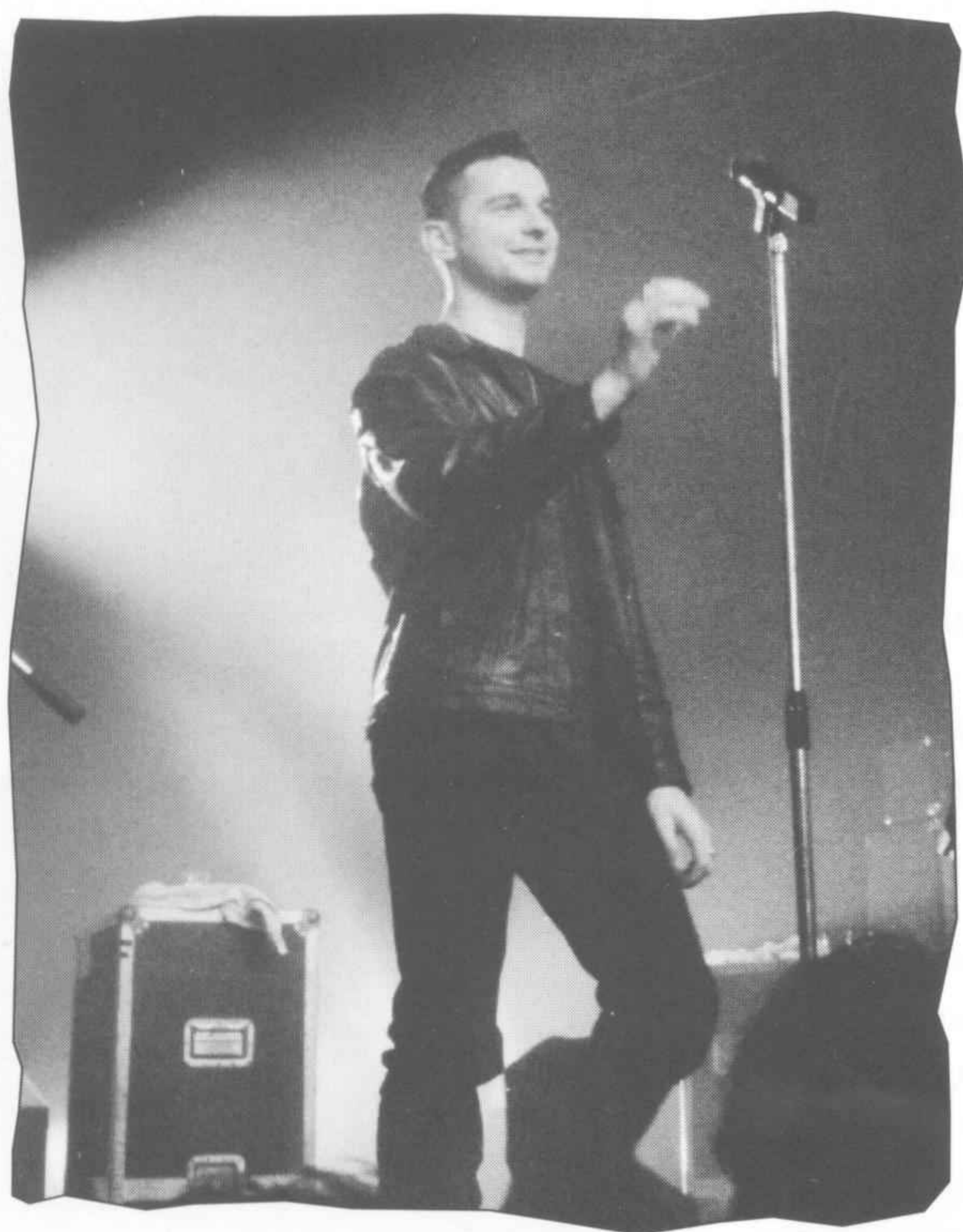


Photo courtesy (5x) Gea de Roo

It's the evening of Monday 19th February 1990 and I have my ex-boyfriend on the phone telling me that the next day Depeche Mode are going to be in a Dutch studio for a programme called "Countdown". I have to decide very quickly whether I go or not as this is an opportunity you don't get that often. So I call my penpal from Haarlem and make some arrangements. The next day I call my school to tell them that I am sick and have to stay in bed (?!). First, I get the train to Utrecht to meet my friends and then we all go to Naarden-Bussum where the studios are. On our way there, we talk about Depeche Mode and what we're going to say or do if we have a chance to meet them face to face. When we arrive we notice two limousines and think they must be Depeche Mode's. There are a lot of fans waiting outside already but they don't look anything like DM fans. Suddenly, they start screaming and we realise it's for the band Wet Wet Wet. When the doors open we are unsure of whether we are allowed to go in or not as you usually have to make a reservation, but after a while we are asked to go in. The studio looks great, but it isn't as large as we expected. Soon the show starts and we are 'forced' to watch the Wet Wet Wet performance twice, as the first one isn't good enough. This also makes me decide never to buy a record of this band. Then we are told to be silent and to enjoy the silence. It means Depeche Mode are on!! They, of course, perform "Enjoy The Silence" and what a brilliant performance!! After the band are off the stage, we hurry outside and wait to get a glimpse of them on their way out. Dave is the first one to appear, followed by Alan, Martin, Andy, manager and bodyguards; we quickly ask them for their autographs and to take some pictures. They are all very nice but it's all going really fast and when I went to approach Andy he was in the car already. They are gone in a minute and we have a train to catch. On the way back, we chat about the band and the event we've just experienced. Funny, we never got what we planned on the way to the studios.... The following day I take my film to a photo-shop to have the photos with the band developed and it's a long time waiting (one-hour service). When I get my photos and see the proof of yesterday's events I still can't believe that this has happened to me. The very same day, the programme with the Depeche Mode performance is broadcast, reminding me of the unforgettable experience. I, personally think that I will never get such an opportunity again, but you never know what the future might bring....

Gea de Roo

Emmen, The Netherlands

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THEINTERNATIONALBONGCONVENTION1998

THECAMDENPALACELONDON

SUNDAY25THOCTOBER

Hi Bongsters,

Like so many times before, we chose the Camden Palace in London as the venue for this year's Bong Convention. Weeks of preparation preceded the doors opening on Sunday 25th October at 4,30 pm. Unlike in previous years, we decided to move the event forward slightly by beginning earlier so we can spend some extra time with our devotional friends. Boy, was I wrong!!! Right in the middle of the night, I realised I wouldn't be able to dance or to have a chat with anyone apart from the DJ. I was constantly running around, introducing the contests to the audience from the stage, selecting the prizes, taking pictures.... trying to catch a breath when possible. What a shame the clock couldn't be stopped for a minute as I had looked forward to meeting up with the devotees and practising my dance routine!!

Saying that, I hope that I was not the only one who really enjoyed myself - my only complaint being the low attendance of the fans and the quickness of time, although we had over six hours of DM madness!! I must say that I am really sorry for those of you who couldn't make it this year for one reason or another. You missed the first opportunity to buy a brand new long sleeve DM T-shirt (please see the ad section for purchasing) and the mastery of our new DJ Rich (who did a brilliant job - big thanks go to you, Rich!). Also a superb live performance by Monochrome, our exclusive Bong video documentary from the tour, a variety of competitions (Best Jacket/T-shirt Design, DM look-a-likes, Raffle and Mastermind), and a chance to win many of the superb prizes supplied by DM office, Mute Records and Gareth Jones (DM gold disc awards!!!) Well, there is always next time, isn't there?!?

The competitions alone were a lot of fun and it seemed to me that all the contestants had a great time, especially when receiving a prize for their extraordinary abilities. The first was a contest for the best design of DM jacket or DM t-shirt (hand made!) which was won by Martina Oriskova (received: "The Singles 86 98" promo box and signed photo), followed by Greg Mason (tour programme and promo T-shirt) and Marion Klewin ("Ultra" promo box). Not many of the fans answered correctly all ten questions in this year's mastermind, but there were enough to pick an overall winner and two runners up. They were Angie Trafford (received: "Black Celebration" gold disc), Debi Gentry ("The Singles 86 98" promo box) and Antony Mew (tour t-shirt). Instead of having Karaoke as in previous years, we decided to run DM look-a-like and what a change it was, especially seeing all the female Martin Gore-a-likes?!? Finally, the audience chose their own Depeche Mode for the night and picked Paul "Dave" McMillan, Sara "Martin" Morel and Mario "Fletch" Vella who each received a gold disc from the archives of Gareth Jones. Towards the end of the evening, we picked ten winners in the Raffle and gave away some interesting memorabilia, including three grand prizes which went to Rebecca Oliver (received: gold disc and signed "Ultra" cover), Davina Roseblade ("The Singles 86 98" promo box) and Sarah Schaschke (tour t-shirt and signed "Ultra" cover).

We had just enough time to throw all the give-aways that we had brought along to the Camden Palace, into the crowd and dance to the very last track of the night before we were cut off at 11pm. Time to go home - as they said. But we will be back!!!

Thanks for coming, all of you.

Best,

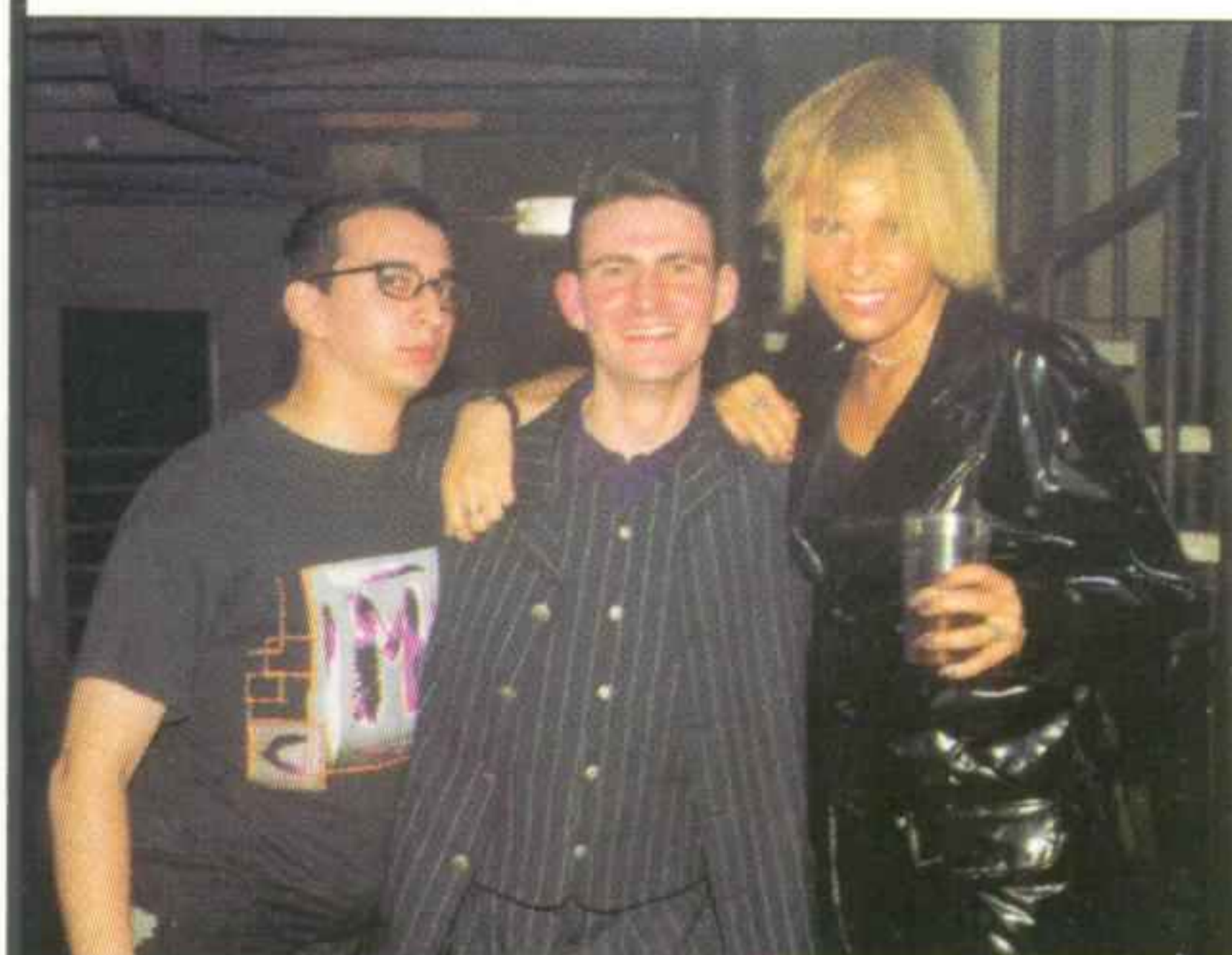
Michael



Martina, Greg and Marion



Angie, Debi and Antony



Paul, Mario and Sara



Rebecca, Davina and Sarah

Here is what the attendees had to say:

We thought we would go closer to home this time.... The Camden Palace convention was very different to Prague. It was great to see and speak to English DM fans and exchange addresses so we could keep in touch. However we were a bit disappointed with the amount of people there. Where were you all?!? You missed a great night, great music, video footage from the concerts and backstage, mastermind, look-a-likes and raffle with extremely good prizes - CDs, box sets, T-shirts, signed pictures and best of all gold discs. Unfortunately we did not win these but did get free CD singles, promotional cards and a fantastic night out. Thanks to Bong and also a big 'thank you' to Paul Harris and Darren from Birmingham for the lift home to Eastbourne. We would have missed our train if we stayed for the raffles, so they made it possible for us to stay to the end. Thank you!!

Kirsty & Katherine
Eastbourne, UK

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thanks to the Bong crew for organising the recent Bong convention. As it was my first Depeche Mode convention I have been to I thought it was brilliant and to meet some of the friends I met on the trip to Berlin was also great. I certainly will make every effort to attend next year's convention!!

Ian Miller
Rugby, UK

I felt compelled to write and thank you, and the many passionate devotees I met, for a brilliant time I had at the DM Convention'98. Not only was this my first convention, but the first time I met two of my DM crazy penpals! We had a very entertaining and amazing night and were really impressed with the look-a-like competition. We've never seen anything like it! And it was definitely worth the entrance fee! Congratulations to everyone who won one of the many prizes - I'm so jealous. But, although, I wasn't one of the lucky winners, I am proud of my promo CD of "Only When I Lose Myself" that was handed to me. Thank you Bong! I will definitely be at the next one and thank you Dave, Martin and Fletch for continuing to make exceptional music which really touches the mind, body and soul of so many people around the world, especially me.

Nadine McKenzie
London, UK



Steve Heath of Monochrome



Pete and Tom - two of our lovely crew

Dreaming Of Depeche Mode

In issues 36 and 37 of Bong we ran a two-part competition giving you the chance to win a 'meet & greet' with Depeche Mode during their current tour. We have already announced the winners from the European part of the competition in Bong 36, and the lucky winners for the US part, who were all picked at random, are as follows:

5 pairs of "backstage passes" went to: Joel Jacobs, Cindy Lammin, Jordan Dormer, Scott Shawcross, Barbra Le Fevré

10 "Ultra" T-shirts and a copy of "OWILM" promo radio CD went to: Tara Sirlin, Steve Constantinou, Jerry Goldstein, Barny Elmore, Claudia Huth, Carol Mathena, Sarah Rexroat, Derrin John, Emily Cornwall, Terry Dermott

Many of you have written to us for the correct answers to the questions in Bong 36 and 37. So to put you out of your misery and find out where you went wrong (or right), the correct answers to both parts of the competition are as follows:

Dreaming Of Depeche Mode (Bong 36): 1/ March 29, Oxford, Apollo Theatre, 2/ World Violation, 3/ seven, 4/ World In My Eyes, 5/ Higher Love, 6/ WDRE Radio, 7/ April 4, 1994, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 8/ Bridgehouse, 9/ The Forum, Milan, 10/ Primal Scream

Dreaming Of Depeche Mode (Bong 37): 1/ Clive Richardson, 2/ Birmingham, N.E.C., UK - November 27, 1990, 3/ Songs Of Faith And Devotion, 4/ World In My Eyes, 5/ France, USA, Spain, UK, Denmark, Italy, 6/ Uselink, 7/ Robert William Troup Jnr., 8/ Dub Syndicate, Marxman, Sisters Of Mercy, 9/ Everything Counts, 10/ Home

For The Masses

Copies of the DM tribute album "For The Masses" were sent to Valeria Cantillano (Chile), W. Maten (Netherlands), Judi James (UK), Pete Barreau (Belgium), Svetlana Gorodova (Russia), Norbert Gotz (Slovakia), Perry Feilding (USA), Christian Schmidt (Germany), Bella Dellore (USA) and Ray Marshall (UK) who were picked at random from those who answered correctly all three questions in our "For The Masses" contest from Bong 37. The answers we were looking for were: 1/ 16 songs, 2/ Personal Jesus, 3/ Stripped. Congratulations to all ten winners!!

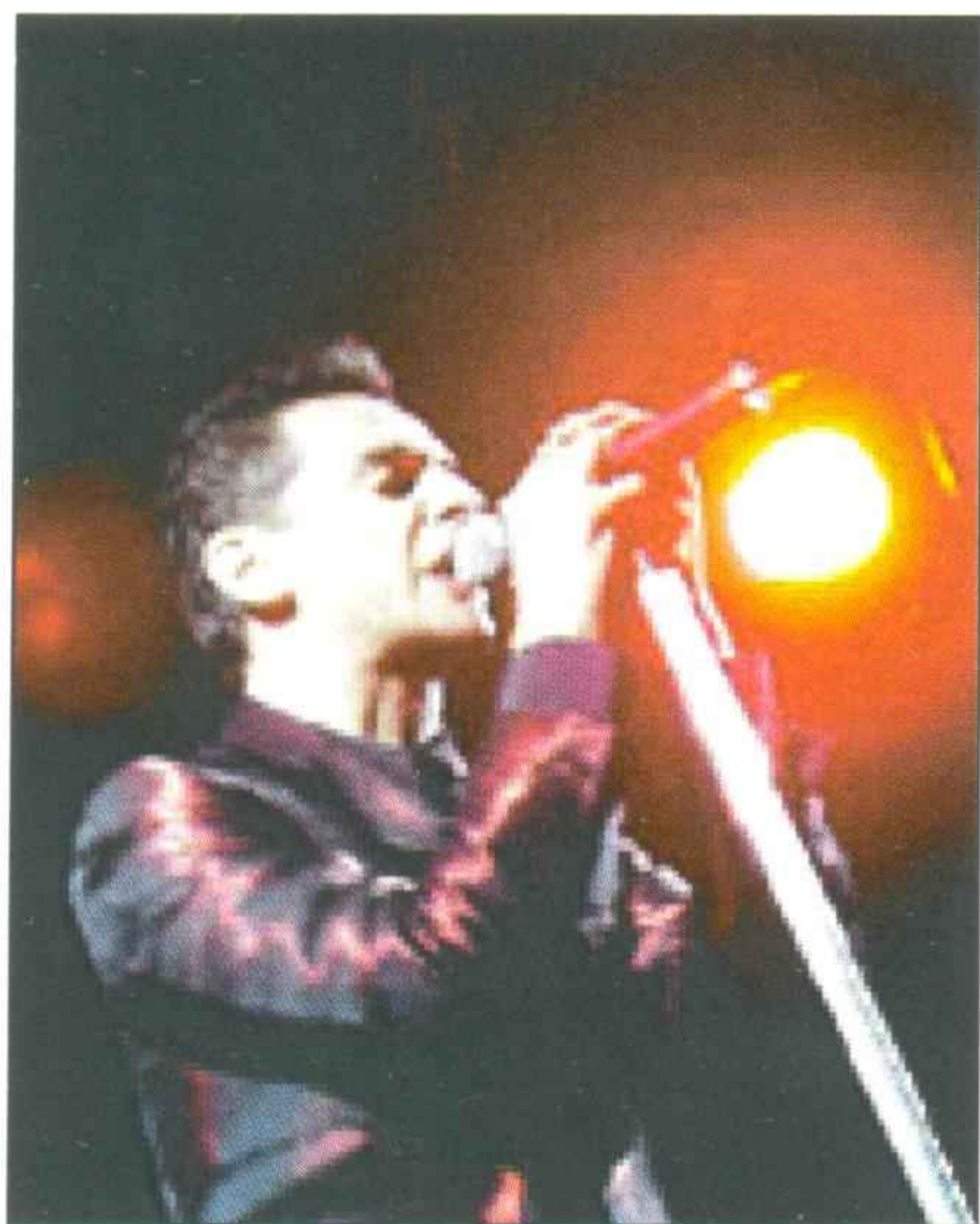
dm/live

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We've been waiting for Depeche Mode for many many years to come over here and finally our dream came true in September of this year.....

When, on May 5th, I got a letter from the UK with information about the possibility of DM playing in Estonia early in September, I just couldn't believe my own eyes. In about an hour I told everyone I knew the wonderful news, but nobody would believe me - it sounded almost unreal that DM should start their European tour in Estonia, a country they've never played before. We were to wait for the official announcement of the tour dates, then suddenly the schedule changed and Helsinki was the first gig, not Estonia. Our hopes disappeared.... So the same day every single fan here started to think about a trip to Finland. It was close to Estonia and a great chance to see DM (the first time for some fans.) Days were passing by and tickets were already bought for Helsinki and other shows when we heard the news. I still can't forget that evening when I received an official e-mail from Mute saying that the very first gig of "The Singles



RUSSIA à la MODE

by Ilja Judeikin, Tallinn, Estonia <ilja@starline.ee>

Tour" will take place in a small university town Tartu on September 2nd. I can't describe what I felt - I was excessively happy! The next morning every fan knew about this e-mail, and it was the happiest day in the history of DM fans in Estonia! The second happiest day became September 2nd - the day of the show - the first show in the past four years and the first one in Estonia ever! It was to be the very first chance to see the band live for a lot of fans in this part of the World! And that day came!!!



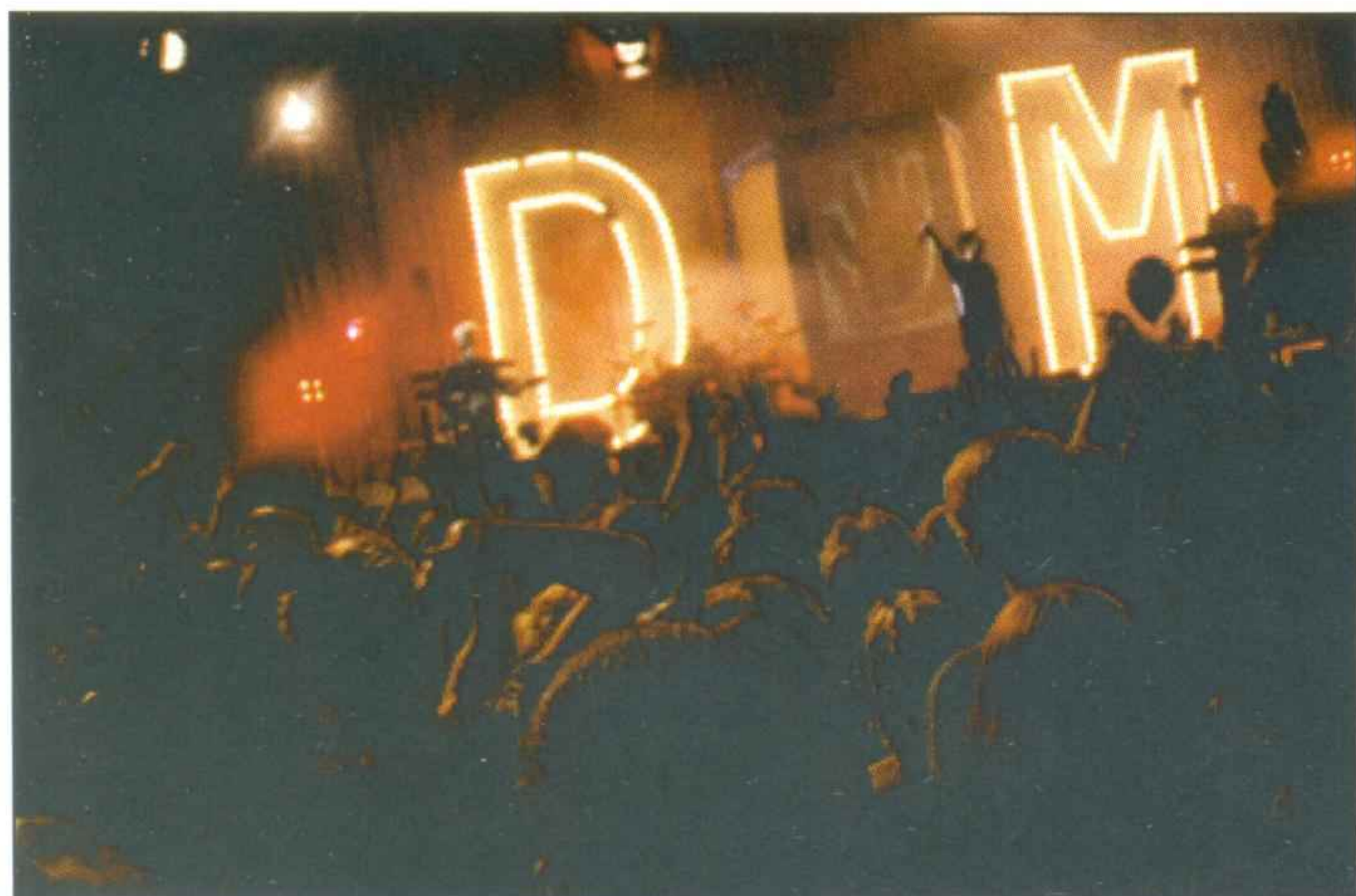
Tartu

The show was going to take the place at Tartu Festival Ground, which is a very nice open-air venue in a beautiful green park. The arena was built a few years ago and its capacity is about 14000 - 16000 people. There were around 14 000 tickets released for this particular show.

We arrived in Tartu at about 11am. We had a bit of walk around the venue, had a meal and then went to the airport to see the arrival of Depeche Mode. We came to the airfield just two minutes before their plane landed. There were about 30-40 fans from Estonian, Latvia, Russia, Sweden, and even Mexico waiting at the airport for this historical moment. The plane landed and the fans went insane - everyone started to scream, yelp, jump etc. The first person who came out of the plane was Andy Franks, followed by Tony (security) and Jonathan Kessler. It went quiet for a while...then suddenly Andy Fletcher appeared at the plane's exit, together with Tim Simenon, Martin, and finally Dave.

Every member of the band took one car and they all went to the venue. We followed them all the way from airport to Tartu Arena.

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It was very funny to see six cars with DM and the crew on board, and eight cars with fans in hot pursuit! We reached the entrance of the venue car by car, but were soon split from DM by local security.

After a while we heard Depeche sound-checking "In Your Room" (twice), "World In My Eyes", "Useless", "Home", "A Question of Time" and "Somebody". By that time a lot of fans had already arrived by cars and buses - I noticed three buses from Latvia, one from Lithuania, I also met fans from Germany, UK, Russia, Sweden, Finland and even from the USA! Many of the Estonian fans arrived on a special train called "Johanna" which took people to the concert in Tartu directly from Tallinn. The Estonian Depeche Mode Fan Club (<http://edmfk.cafe.ee>) had especially decorated it, and there were lots of DM music and videos played during the journey. While everyone was waiting for the gates to open, we explored the "Singles Tour" merchandise. The gates finally opened at 6,30pm and the arena started to fill. All we could see at that moment was an empty stage with three huge boards covered in blue curtains, plus another red one in the background.

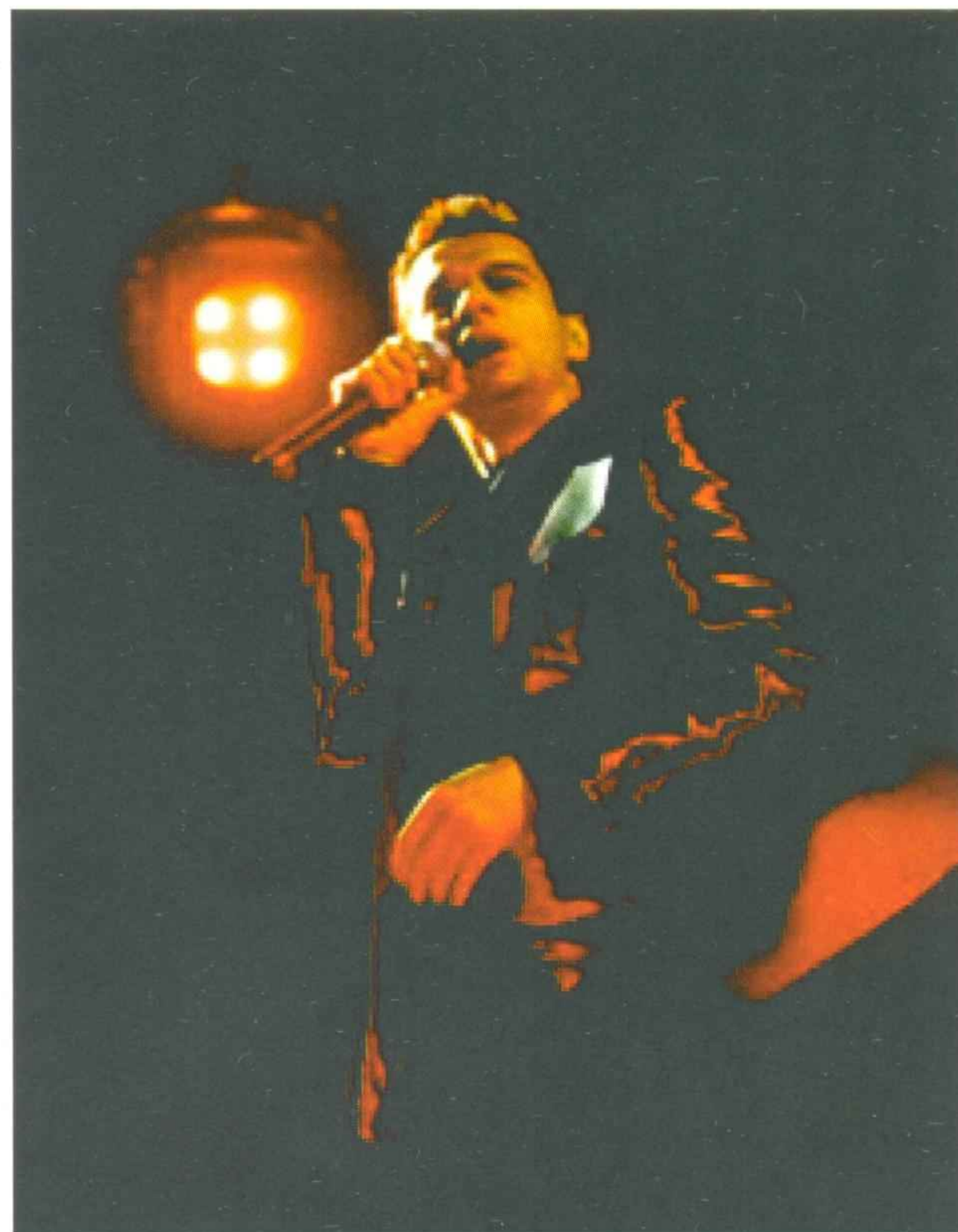
The show began exactly at 8,00pm and the support act Purity came on stage.... The sound was terrible and the technicians had big problems with the microphones. It was more noise than the sound of Purity. The crowd, of course, weren't very happy with such a performance and started to shout "Depeche Mode"!!! When Purity left after half an hour, the technicians started to prepare the



Tartu Festival Arena

stage for Depeche Mode. At the same time Tim Simenon took over the stage and we were in for some of his DJing. Finally at 9,16pm we could hear the first sounds of "Painkiller" and the crowd of 12.000 fans went totally crazy!! During the first beats of the intro the blue curtains were pulled down and two big letters "D" and "M" appeared, as well as a three-part video screen, which began to sparkle.

As the intro was about to finish, two additional musicians (Christian Eigner and Peter Gordeno) appeared on stage followed by Depeche themselves. All of them looked extremely nervous, and no wonder - it was their first show in several years and the beginning of another tour. Dave looked great in his



purple jacket and so did Andy and Mart who wore light sweaters, as it was pretty chilly outside. The band relaxed a bit after the first couple of songs, maybe due to a fact that the crowd was showing an enormous support. At the same time I could see Dave being a bit unsure of what to do on stage, but he soon returned to his famous dancing, movements, and he even tried a mic spin-a-rama during "World In My Eyes". Well, it wouldn't be the first show without a few "oopses". So we forgave the technicians for a 40-second delay after Martin's mic broke at the beginning of "Home" and he had to sing without it until it was changed. We also forgave Dave for missing the beginning of "In Your Room" and the little hiccup in the middle of "I Feel You", because the general atmosphere of the show was just GREAT!! The crowd were singing along with every song, jumping, waving together with Dave and enjoying every moment of the night - the most exciting songs of the show being "Never Let Me Down



Again", "I Feel You", "Enjoy The Silence", "Personal Jesus" and "Just Can't Get Enough". Every song came as a surprise to everyone as we had no idea about the play-list or what to expect. We didn't even know how many encores the band would play and this all added to our excitement!! I was hoping for "Behind The Wheel" and "Strangelove" to be honest, and although they were not performed I was very pleased with the play-list.

After the show ended we got in our cars and went off to Riga.

Riga (Jurmala)

We arrived in Riga at 6am after a sleepless night in our cars and had to take an hour of sleep before going to Jurmala, which is about 20 km away from Riga. On the highway, we met a column of stage trucks that were also heading for the venue. They were already late for about three hours after being held up on the Estonian-Latvian border. We reached the venue at 9,30am and dropped off our friend Roman Aksenenko, the leader of the Latvian fan club. He had his production assistant pass and started to do work there. We all went back to Riga to find out what was going on in Radisson SAS, the hotel where the band were staying. All day long we were receiving permanent update's from Roman at Jurmala venue and were reporting back about events in the hotel.

After our arrival in Radisson, we met Andy who was coming back from his morning run and so we exchanged some opinions on the last night's show in Tartu. He said he liked the sound, the venue, and appreciated the crowd's support. After that, we talked to a sound engineer and some technicians. They were a bit upset about the technical problems in Tartu, but at the same time very optimistic about the forthcoming shows. Someone also

mentioned that it was too cold last night and it wasn't very easy to sing and perform. We also managed to see Dave, but he looked extremely pre-occupied, and so we didn't get a chance to speak with him. At about 3pm, Martin went out to take a walk in the old town along with Tim, Christian, Peter and Tony (the security), who arranged a quick autograph session for us. Thanks ever so much, Tony!! We chatted for a while, Martin and Tim were very relaxed and friendly. As soon as Martin returned from his sightseeing tour the band went to Jurmala venue for the sound-check. We also decided to leave and when we arrived in Jurmala there were already a lot of fans waiting in front of the doors. All 5500 tickets were sold very quickly, in only three days!!

There was a meet & greet organised for the Latvian fans who had won a competition on the local radio station, a few minutes before the show started. Mr. Arvids Murnieks, the Mute representative in Latvia, used this opportunity to present the band with a golden disc for "Ultra", the best selling album in Latvia for 1997.

The show took place in a big metal hangar called Lielupe Tennis Hall. Due to a lack of ventilation in the venue and fans smoking on the ground - it got extremely hot and humid soon after the show began. However this didn't seem to bother any of the fans because everyone was already enjoying the show. Martin was wearing his silver overalls, but Dave and Fletch had more conventional outfits. Unfortunately, the sound was even worse than in Tartu as the venue was like a big metal box creating a huge echo. The playlist was exactly the same as in Tartu and the band members looked more relaxed than on the previous night. Dave was smiling a lot, dancing, spinning and walking around the stage. The crowd was singing along to every song, waving with Dave during "Never Let Me Down Again" etc. Many people already knew that there were only two encores, but the fans were calling for Depeche Mode again and again!! I must say that I really enjoyed this show despite the hot air in the venue.

When the concert finished, we went to an after-show party, but I had to leave soon to catch my coach to Tallinn. Next day, the Latvian fans went to the airport to say 'good-bye' to Martin, Andy and Dave, while I was about to leave for the other gigs in Moscow and St. Petersburg. That's the story.... and life goes on. See ya all!!



>> Pen Pals >>

Josh Alavarado
3206 Fairfield Ave
Bronx, NY 10463
USA

e-mail: <devotion2a@aol.com>

Hi, I'm a 16 year old male from New York City and looking to correspond with any Depeche Mode fan. I am looking for Somebody so we can have Something To Do. Just grab a pen before I'm Gone. Just write to my Home and we'll get to The Bottom Line. See You.

Marcin Krakowiak
ul. Adwentowicza 6/123
92-532 Lodz
Poland

Hi Depeches! I'm 20 years old boy from Poland and I'm a devotee since 1991. My world is full of nothing so I'd like to get in touch with any fans from the planet called Earth. Age and sex aren't important. I'm looking for Somebody who Never Lets Me Down and gives me support. Please write to me and I promise to answer all the letters - it's just A Question Of Time!!

Manfred Greisert
Am Stadtweiher 1
40699 Erkrath
Germany

Hi everybody out there! I'm a 26 years old boy from Germany and I've been an absolute Depeche Mode fan since 1987 when I was only 15. I'm interested in everything that concerns Depeche Mode and if you are too, then please write to me soon! Depeche Mode are everlasting!!

Annegret Astel
Hauptstr. 72
84032 Altdorf
Germany

Hi! I'm an 18 years old girl who wants to correspond with other Depeche Mode fans. I've been a fan for only two years but from the moment I first saw them I knew that I would love their work (and especially Dave). Beside Depeche Mode I also listen to Nick Cave, Tom Waits, David Bowie and so on. My other interests are drawing, reading, writing and many more. If you want to know what is my favourite song of Depeche Mode and want to talk to me about the band, then write to me. I hope to hear from you soon!

Yolanda Esanu
Strada Gafton Lazar, nr. 3
sector 5
75328 Bucharest
Romania

Little 21, a stylish teacher to-be, very much into Depeche Mode, The Cranberries and various Mute bands (I worship the one and only Daniel Miller), is desperately searching for any fe/male modish soul for long time faith and devotion.

Silvia Unterhalt
Langestr. 46
59555 Lippstadt
Germany

Hi! I'm a 16 years old girl and I've been addicted to DM for over two years. Now I'd like to get in touch with other DM fans living in Germany. I also like INXS, The Verve and many more. Hope to hear from you soon.

Päivi Sarvikas
Meritullink 6E43
00170 Helsinki
Finland

Aged 20, female and heavily into good hard house music. No club experience so far, though. I've liked DM for a couple of years now but I've also got a lot of other interests...Write to me to hear more! No matter who you are!

Maria Vandersluys
59 Trenance Rd
Roskear - Camborne
Cornwall TR14 8QA
England

Hello, I would like to meet male or female into Depeche Mode (who else) who live in Cornwall to meet up and socialise. I am 35, not married, never have been, no kids. Just like to mix with someone on the same frequency.

Svetlana Gorodova
154-1-27 Warshavskoye shosse
Moscow 113 405
Russia

Hi! A 20 yr. old girl is seeking for new pen pals. Absolutely deep into listening to Depeche Mode. I also adore The Smashing Pumpkins, U2, Radiohead, The Cure, New Order, Erasure, Suede, PSB, Oasis and lots more. It's Called A Heart, guys! Promise to

answer all the letters from anywhere as I'm fond of writing...Other interests include travelling, photography, singing, watching/playing football, cats, music magazines, staring at good cars and driving on highway! Hear from you soon!

Helen Phillips
21 Countess Close
Merley
Wimborne
Dorset BH21 1UJ
England

Hi! I'm looking for pen-pals from all over the world to share my passion for Dave and all Depeche things! I'm 24 yrs old and also like: U2, Smashing Pumpkins, Nick Cave, The Cure and much much more. All letters will be answered!

Celeste Ramos
176 Menahan St # 1A
Brooklyn, NY 11237-5174
USA

Lots of surprises in store! This isn't a party - it's a whole lot more.... If you're a devout, then we're already good friends! I'm 17 and live in New York City. Age and sex don't matter, just an open mind, good sense of humour and want to talk about DM and their meaning. All letters will be answered, near or far. Mode will be with you, always!

Katrin Geipel
Schaefferstr. 45
02625 Bautzen
Germany

Hello there! I am an 18 years old girl and I lost my heart to Depeche Mode in 1992. If you want you can write to me in English, German or Russian. So just show me the World In Your Eyes or tell me about the world we live in and life in general. I will be the Happiest Girl if I receive a letter from you. See you!

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".

> Satellite <<

DM Devotees
A.D. 1154
Vilnius 1
2001
Lithuania

DM Club
ul. Stefana Batorego 88 m. 13
41506 Chazow Batory
woj. Katowickie
Poland

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

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

Rush
Crabethstraat 15
2801 AL Gouda
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

DMF
Apartado de Correos 42064
Madrid 28080
Spain

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

Dressed in Black
Merhautova 73
613 00 Brno
Czech Republic

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
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

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.

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

Shake The Disease
Stefan Büler
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

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

**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

If You Want
Depeche Mode
P.O.Box 23
678 01 Blansko
e-mail: KYSA@BK.CZ

LA Convention

The Palace, Hollywood, CA - 23.8.98

Leave it to L.A. to rouse up its loyal DM fans. I wasn't expecting the crowd to be as big as last year's (held at the same place), but somehow I knew the hype was going to be huge. I came half an hour after the convention started (I had just got off from work), but the place was already packed. There were more booths this time, and the place had just about everything - pictures of DM from previous tours, early Bong issues, CDs, autographs, tour passes, posters, T-shirts, etc... I quickly bought what I came to get (ended up spending more than I should have) then went to the dance floor. On one balcony, DJ Daniel "Brat" Barassi was already mixing DM tracks. Half of the crowd was dancing, while the others (including me) were chanting along to the songs. But all of us were just impatiently waiting to win what we really came for - the concert tickets...and those surprises in between. Silence came when DJ Richard Blade of KROQ 106.7FM introduced the world premiere of "Only When I Lose Myself" video - people cheered and applauded every time Dave appeared on the screen. I couldn't blame them. He looked good! And so did Martin and Fletch! Other special sneak peaks included "The Singles Tour 86-98" press conference (Cologne, Germany) and the world premiere of "Surrender". Perhaps the highlight of the convention was the contests. Prizes included a video set of DM tracks, a big poster and a giant canvas of DM - back when Alan was part of the band. The first contest involved impersonating one of the guys. Although there were more "Dave" contestants, "Fletch" won grand prize...The second one involved testing several fans about their knowledge of DM. Some questions even got me stumped! Finally, it came down to winning a pair of concert tickets and the UK promo of "Only When I Lose Myself" (and like always, I never win anything). After the contests were over, it was back to dancing (or chanting, in my case) to DM music... So maybe I didn't get what I really came for, but I had tons of fun - and surprisingly I didn't crash that night or the next morning?! And when the night was over, I was already thinking how next year's convention would turn out... Many thanks to KROQ and London Calling for turning the convention into an unforgettable night! **Holly Poon, Los Angeles, CA, USA**

Contacts <<<

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".

Giacomo Solazzo: It was so great to spend two days with you - 26/9/98 (Bologna - what a rain!!) and 27/9/98 (Milan) - and to see Depeche Mode live.... magic!! Please, keep in touch with me!! A big kiss!! Lucia.

Happy Christmas & New Year to all my DM pals!! My very best greetings to Anthony (your kind words in B37 will never be forgotten, I pray for your happy life with Dana!), Chris & Sebastian (it's always DM music that keeps our friendship together!), Paul (I always enjoy long letters from you, hahaha!), Michael (I always understand your words, so keep on writing!), Oscar & Jose (let's keep in touch more often!), Jérôme (shall we swap more French-Japanese stuff?), Yoshi (I know you are reading this, please write to me!), Melissa (thank you for the great videos you sent me!), and to Jari (thanks for writing to me, hope to see you some day in Poland?!). Also my kind regards to Karel, Carsten, Wayne and everyone else who have shared their DM passion with me. Finally, I always LOVE you & will NEVER leave you, Jany my sweetheart!! Moto.

Hey, longhaired blonde from Germany (Berlin, September 18th). Do you remember the tallest fan right in front of the stage - who let you and your friend stand in front of himself to give you a better place? A lot of greetings to you from Marek. You remind me of someone....

Calling Gill Chambers! Remember me? We started writing to each other through Bong. I met you in London in the summer '93 then you came over to see DM live with me in December. I never heard from you again! Are you still out there? I'm living in London now, please drop me a line as I'd love to hear from you. Francis Cave, Flat 5, 86 Palmerston Road, Wood Green, London N22 4RF.

Martin L. Gore look-a-like: You won the contest at the Bong Convention in Camden Palace, London many years ago (about 8-10 years). We have written to each other before. Back then I also looked for you in Bong and had good luck...I really miss your always sweet and unique letters. If you remember me please write back to me quickly. I miss you. I have so many things I want to tell you. Write to: Christa K. Rasmussen, Rossinisvej 6. 3.MF., 2450 KBH S.V., Denmark.... anyone else who is Martin look-a-like please write to me as well.

Jana Sampson - Where are you? I've had no contact since the convention last year. Please write to Tom Evison, "Home" 30 Burleigh Piece, Buckingham, MK18 7BB, UK. Also, hello to Michelle Peterson, Tajana Ujevic, Alisha Brock, Caroline & Steve, Di, Sandy, Sue, Judith and Francesca. Write soon.

dm/live

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< Classified >>



Wanted: I'm trying to put together a catalogue of DM limited edition owners and numbers. If you have any limited edition vinyls (7", 12", LPs) please write with catalogue number, title, edition number and your name to: Tom Evison, "Home" 30 Burleigh Piece, Buckingham, MK18 7BB, UK.

For sale: large selection of DM items including CDs, vinyl, videos, T-shirts and posters. Wanted: "NLMDA" 1987 original UK 4trk CD single. Please write to: John Bretherton, 20 Rosedale Ave, Woolston, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 4NX, UK.

For sale: "Violator" - 2CD Japanese promo ALCB-33, "Strangelove" - CD 3" US Sire 27777-2, "It's No Good" - promo CD + press kit - RCD Bong 26, 2 pic-interview disc 7" - Mode 1P + Mode 4P. Make me offers: Florent Lemoine, 4 Allée Antoine Sartori, 94140 Alfortville, France or e-mail: <poz@club-internet.fr>

For sale and open to offers: DM 86>98 promo box set - includes two CD promos of "The Singles 86>98" and promo CD interview with transcript, EPK video, all in custom box and lots of band info. DM promo digital watch. Lots of other items in

my collection for sale. Please send a SAE or IRC for my list: John D. Hall, 3 Bloomfield Grange, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs PR1 9BP, UK.

Desperately seeking for (live) recordings of the following DM songs: "Mouldy Dough", "Mirror Is Standing", "Then I Kissed Her", "Sunday Morning", "Radio News", "Secrets", "Mama Mia" (ABBA cover). Can anyone help? Please write to: K. Husak, Revolucni 1831/7, Litomerice 412 01, Czech Republic.

For a full 16 page Depeche Mode catalogue including Limited Editions, remixes, promos, posters and rarities send SAE or IRC (if you live overseas) to: Rage Mail Order, PO Box 209, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0QQ, England.

Depeche Mode videos for sale, including interviews, specials, TV appearances, concerts, videos. Send SAE for list to: Niels Kolling, Silkeborgvej 74, 2.th., 8000 Arhus C, Denmark.

I would like to swap a 180-pages book on Depeche Mode from Poland for one from any other country. I am also desperately looking for articles on DM

from English press (Melody Maker, NME, Q, etc) and for the video clips to "But Not Tonight", "One Caress" and "Strangelove" - US version. Is anyone out there who can help me? Please contact: Marcin Krakowiak, ul. Adwentowicza 6/123, 92-532 Lodz, Poland.

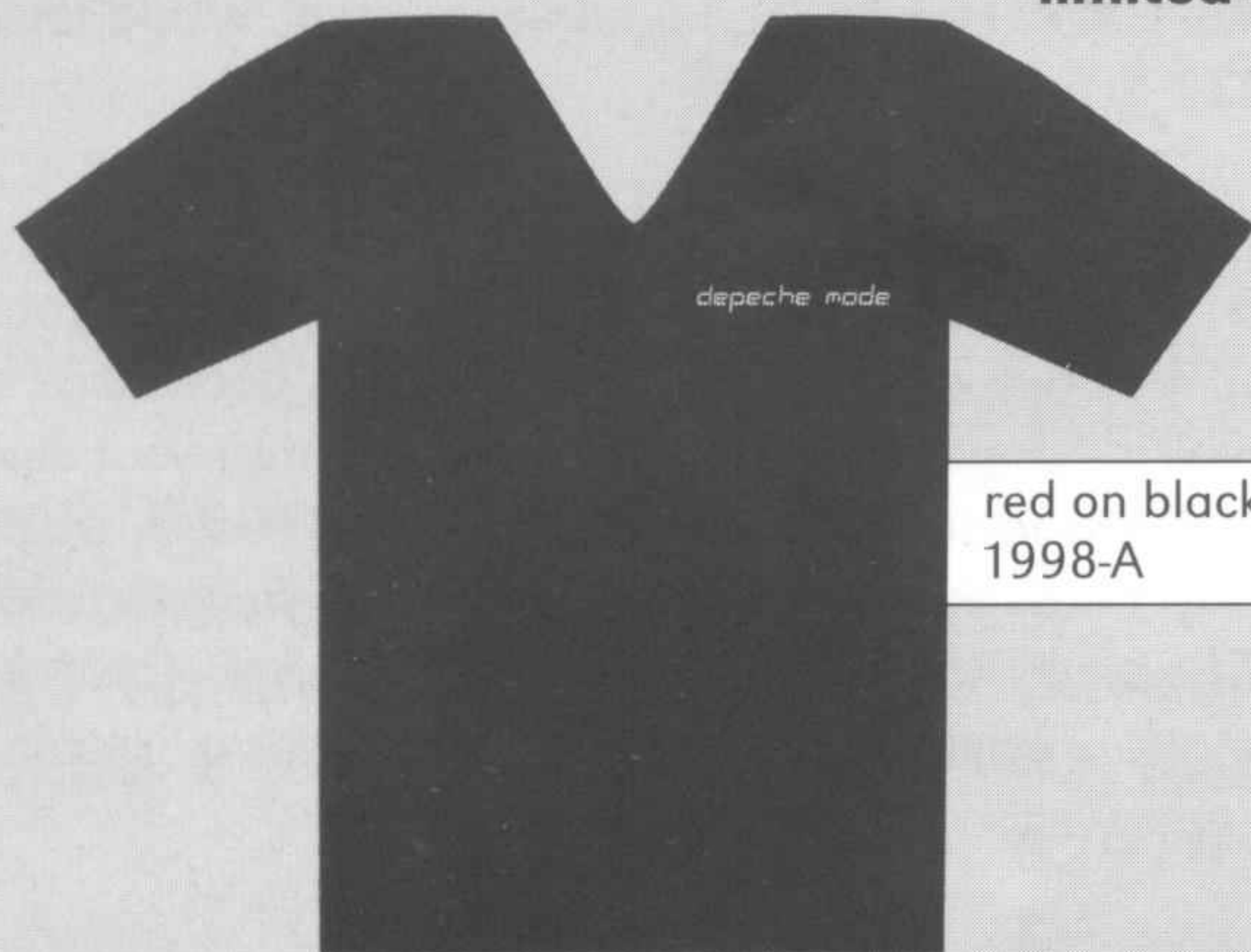
I am desperately looking for DM live videos as well as TV interviews and appearances. Also searching for DM photos from live shows, backstage, hotel, etc. Please help me and write to: Michal Bednarczyk, ul. Krakowska 18/14, 42-544 Sosnowiec, Poland.

I will sell my collection of DM articles and posters from 1983 to 1997 or swap for Alphaville and A-HA stuff. For more information, write to: Ana Del Rincón, URB/El Mirador del Romero A-44, 28210 (Valdemorillo) Madrid, Spain.

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.

n e w b o n g t - s h i r t s

* limited amount * exclusive to BONG *

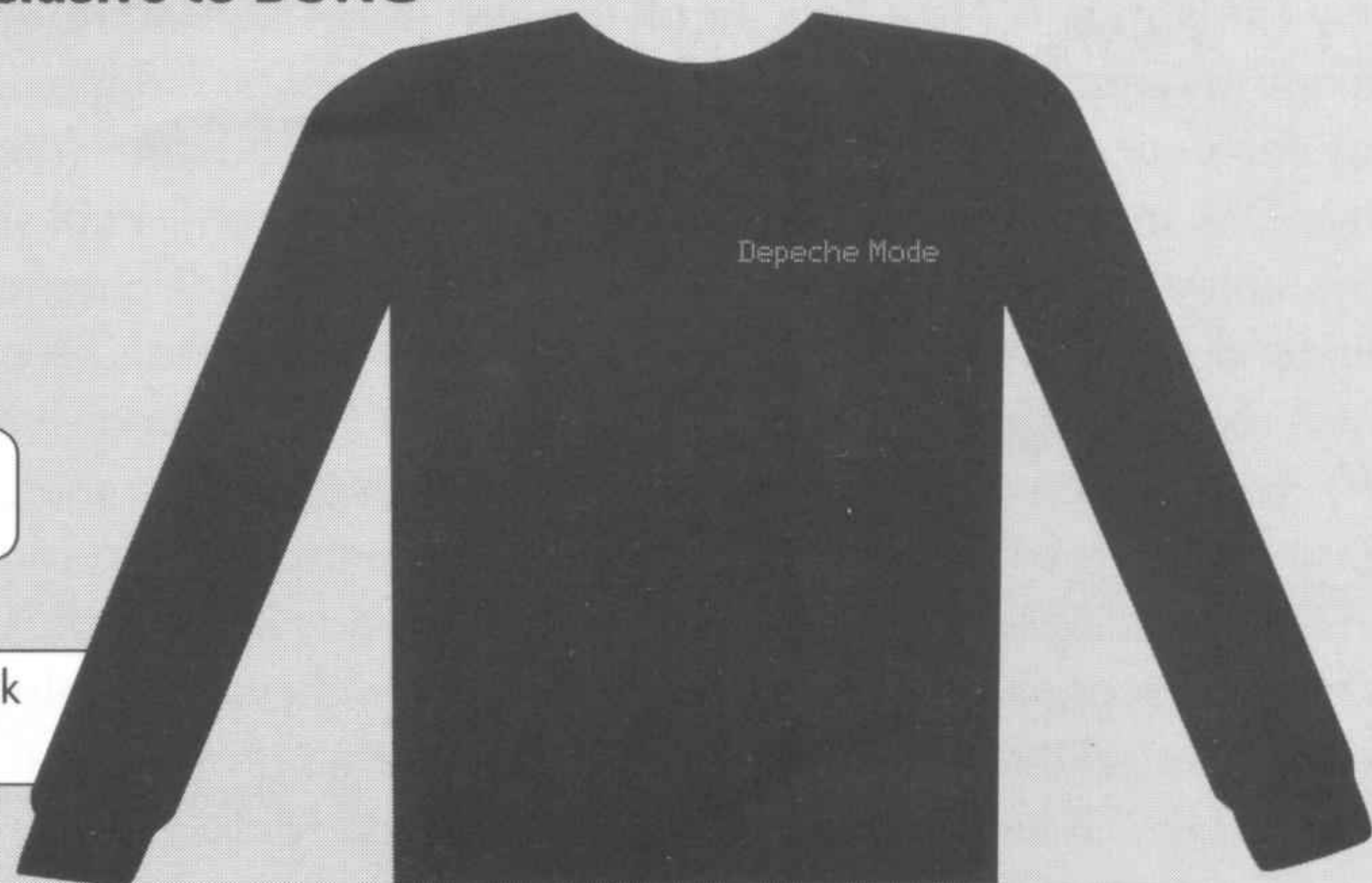


red on black or navy blue
1998-A

white on black
1998-B

depeche mode

Size: M / L / XL
Price UK: £14
Price Europe: £18
Price Overseas: £23



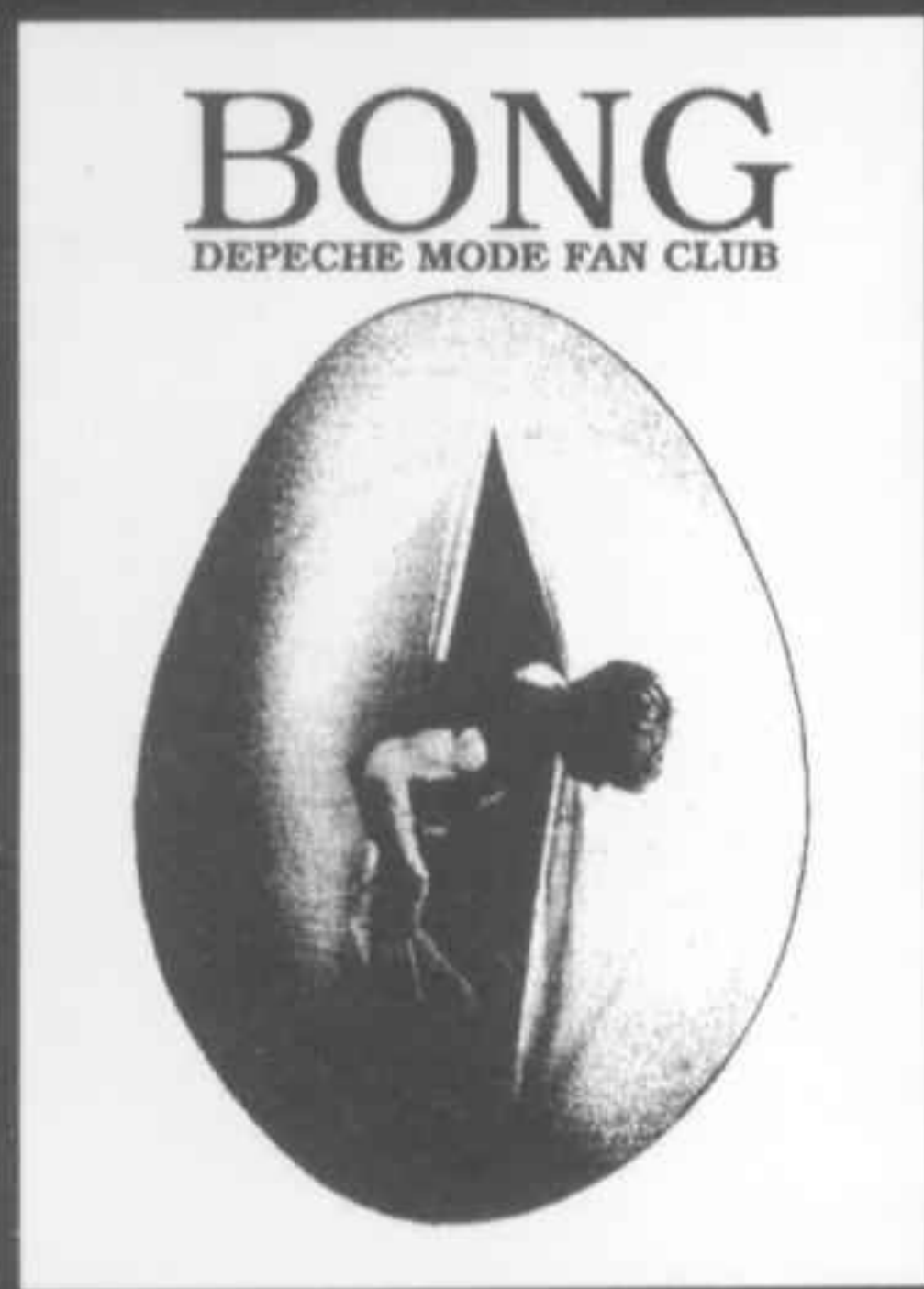
Depeche Mode

Size: L / XL
Price UK: £15
Price Europe: £19
Price Overseas: £24

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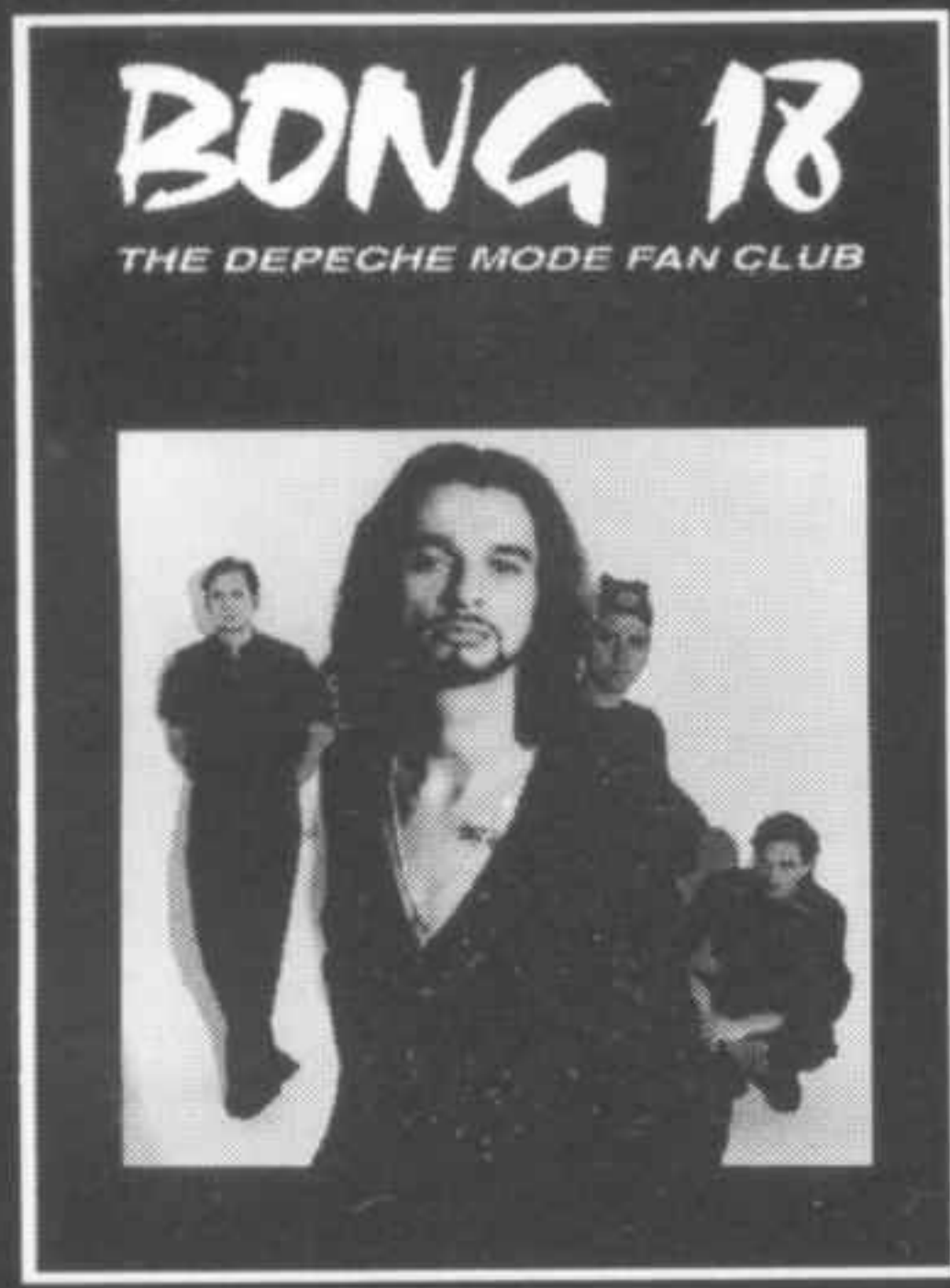
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BONG 14



A4, b/w

BONG 18



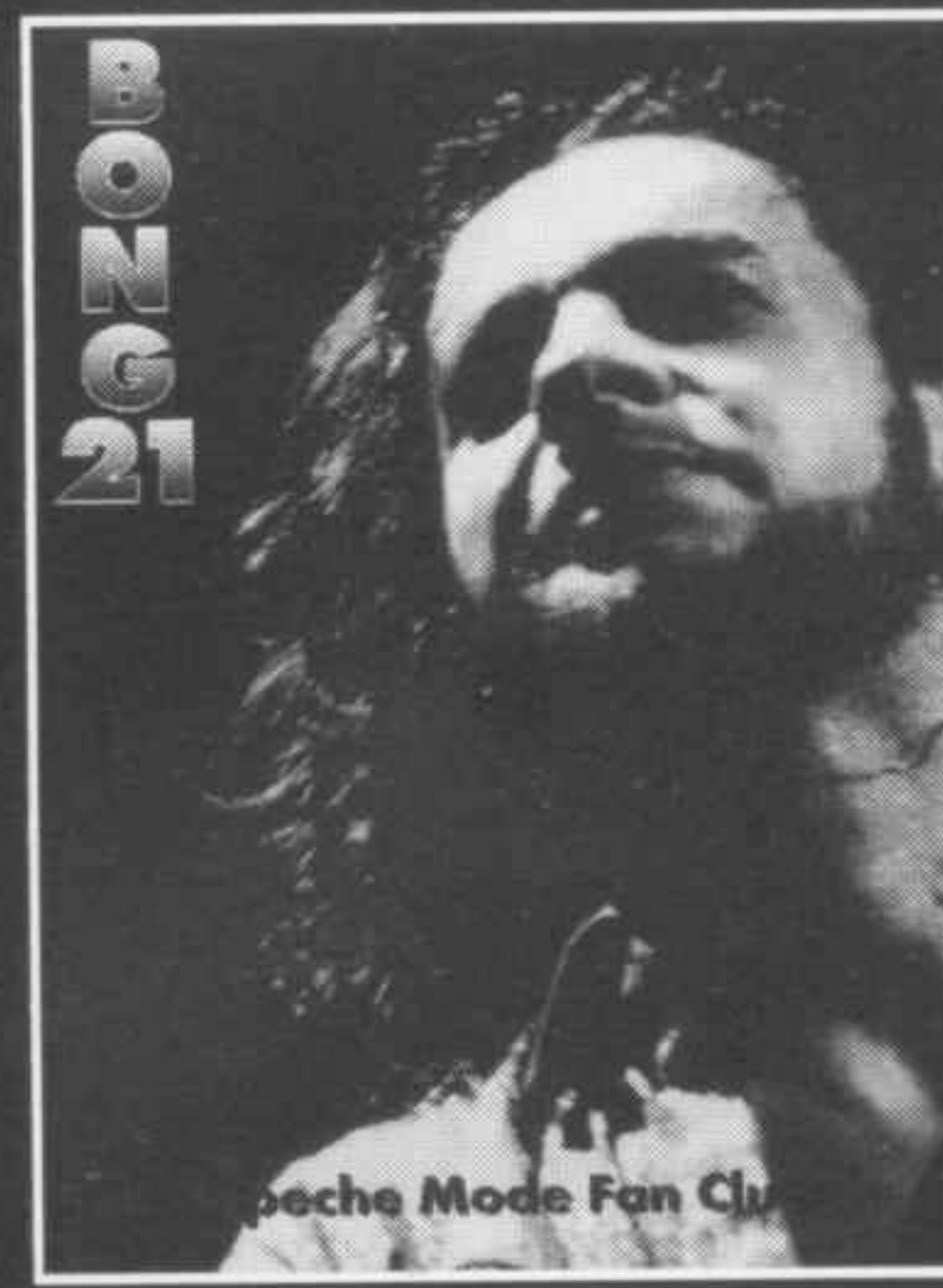
A4, b/w

BONG 20



A4, colour

BONG 21



A4, colour

BONG 22



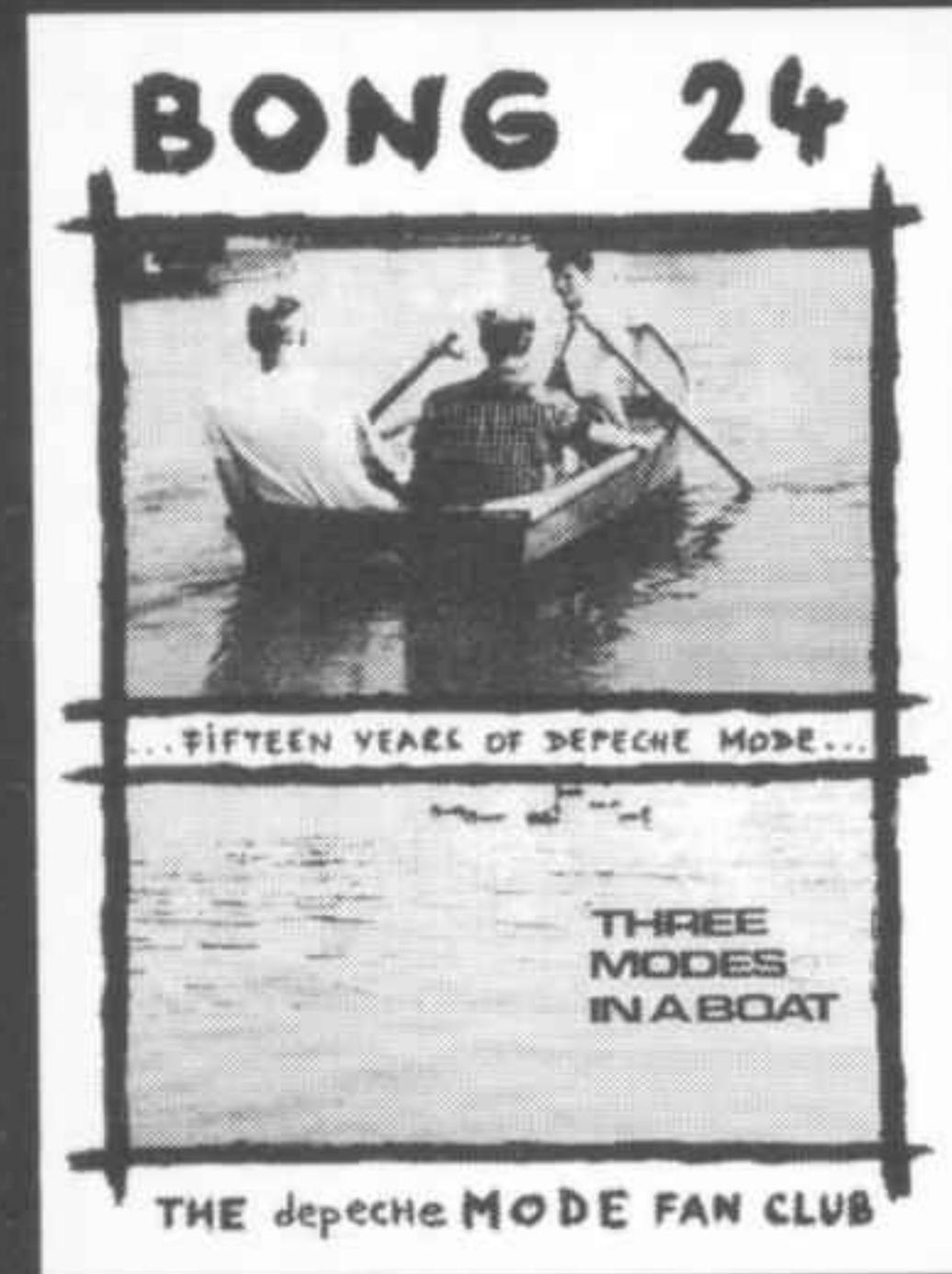
A4, colour

BONG 23



A4, colour

BONG 24



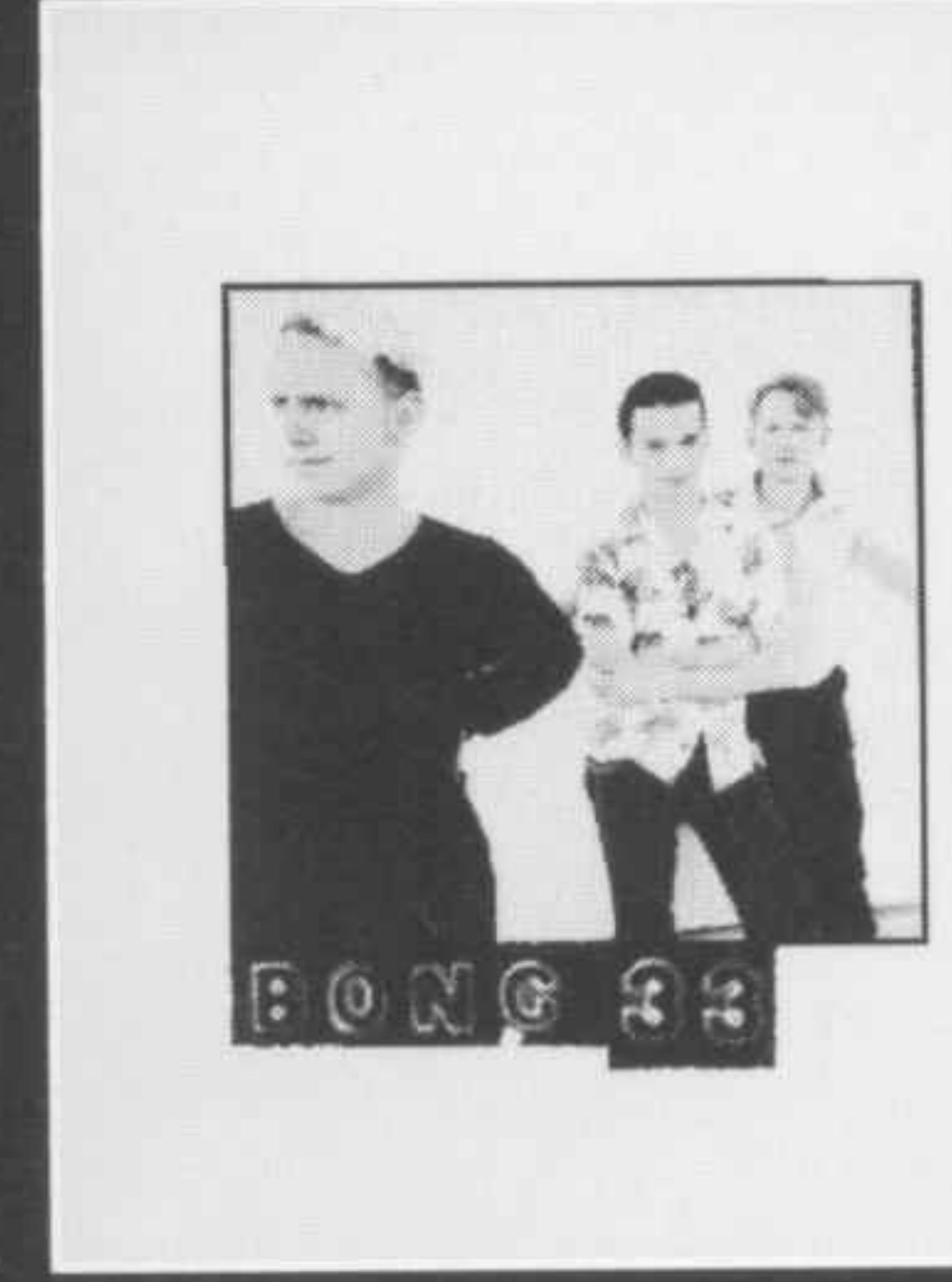
A4, colour

BONG 32



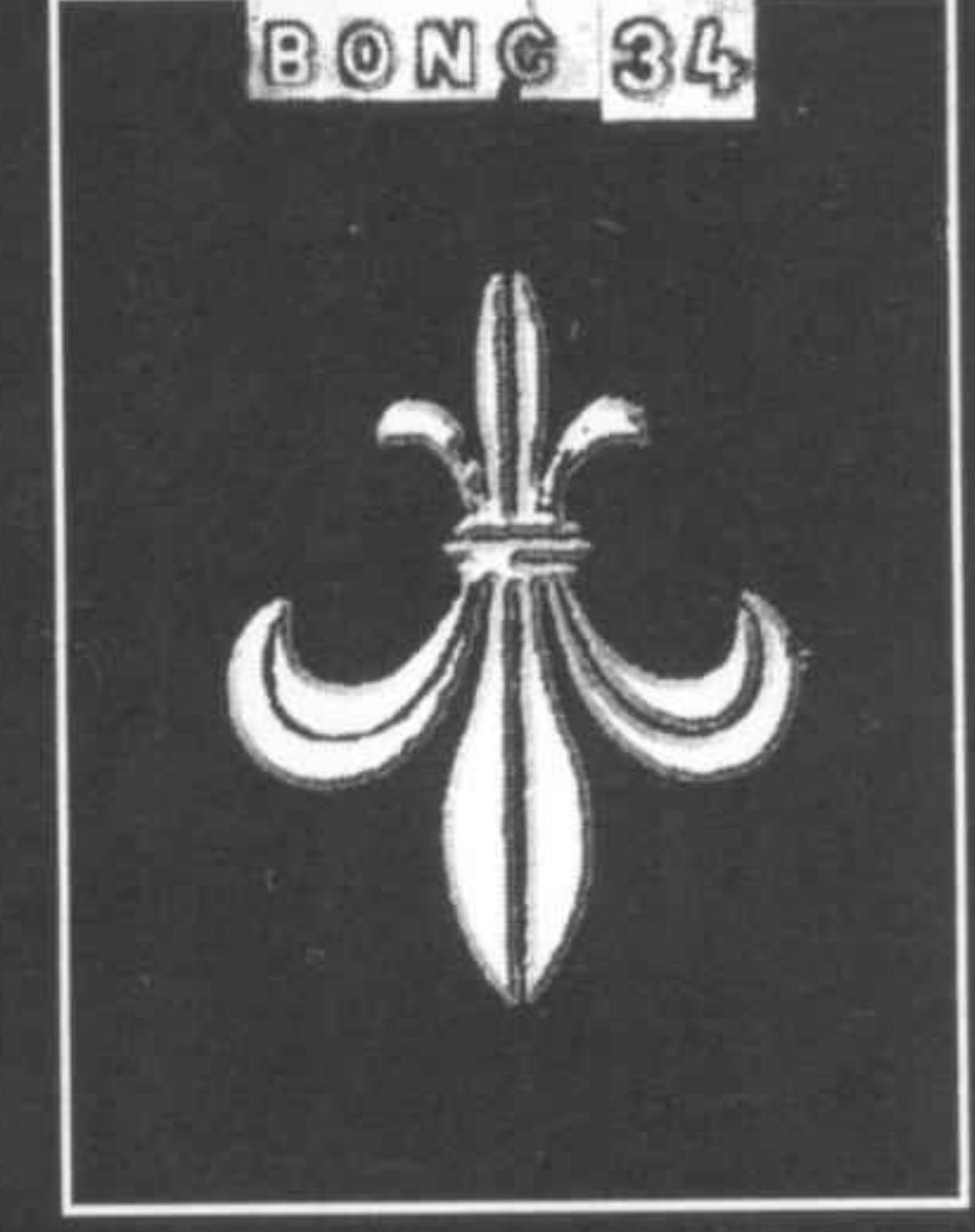
A4, colour

BONG 33



A4, colour

BONG 34



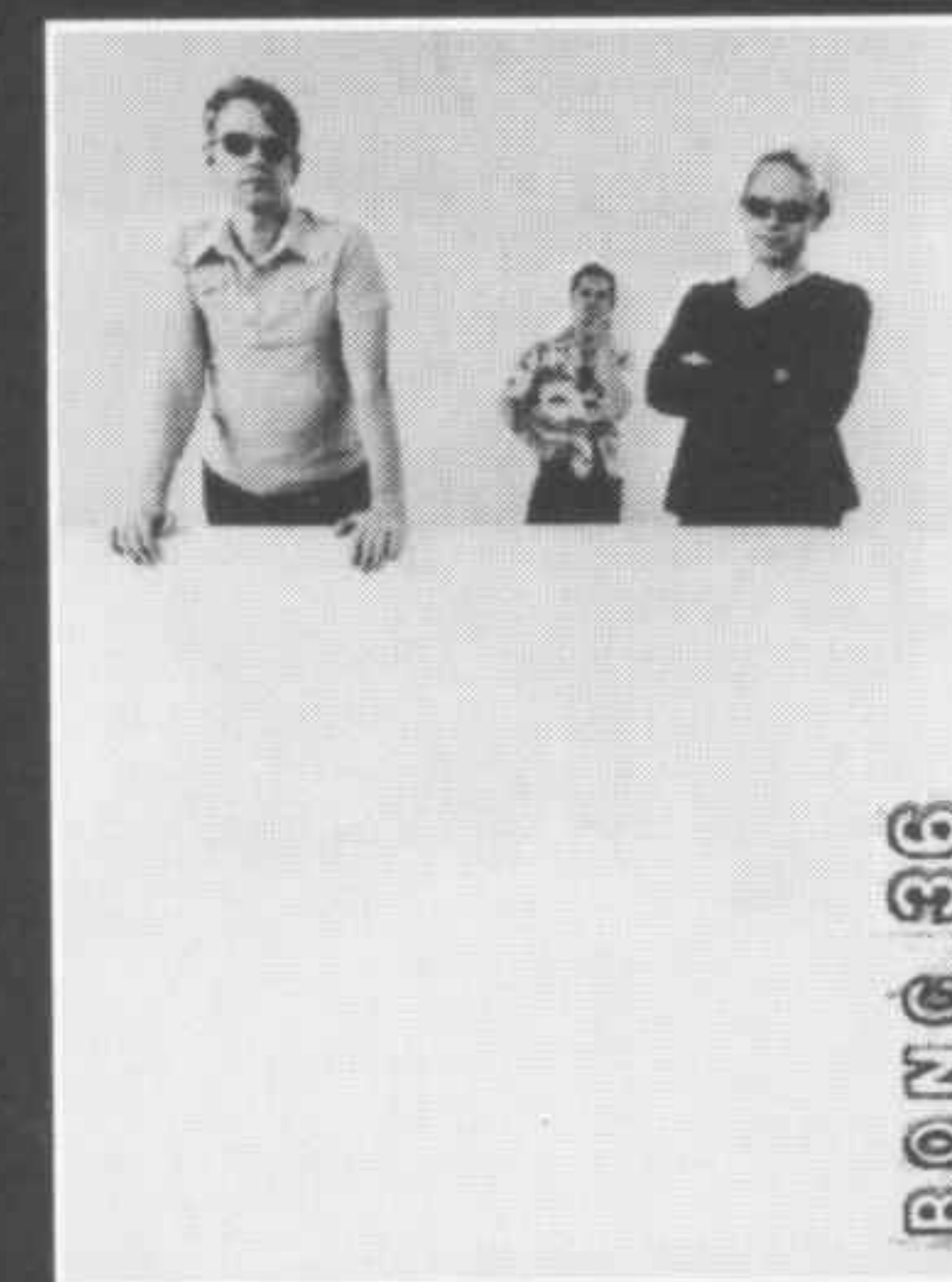
A4, colour

BONG 35



A4, colour

BONG 36



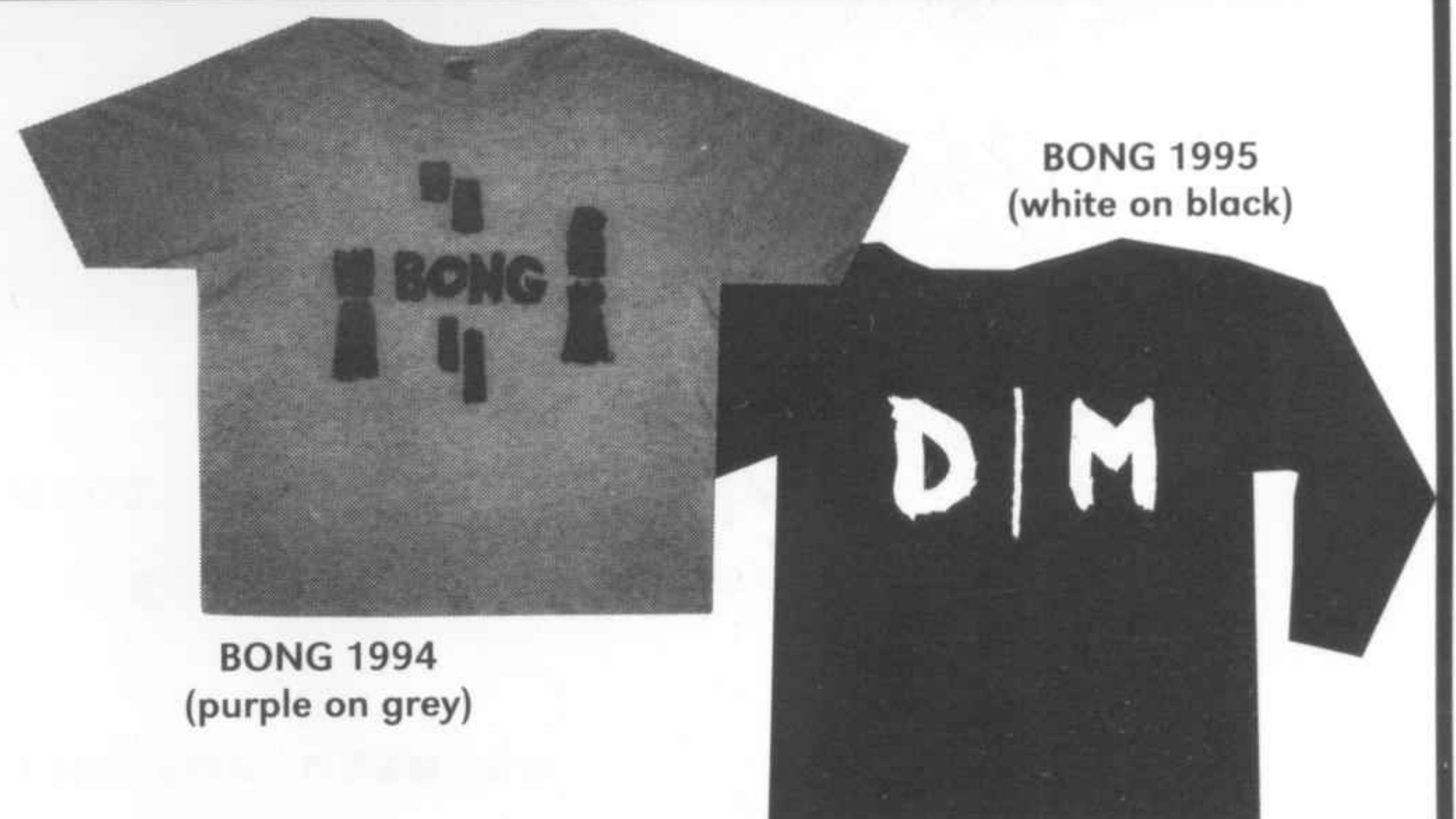
A4, colour

BONG 37



A4, colour

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