

Des Barres on vocals. Guitarist Mark Bosch, drummer Brian Delaney and bassist Winston Roye unleashed the beast with their gravitational guitar licks and demolishing drum surges.

The rockers kicked rock 'n' roll on its backside with a set list that should be engraved in New York City's concrete sidewalks with an inscription saying "Rock Lives Here." The performances of a Silverhead favorite, "Hello New York," and "Carnaby Street" were just the beginning of this out-of-body body rock experience. The night intensified as Des Barres proclaimed his love for each and every living soul in attendance, reaching out into the crowd to pull these souls of rock 'n' roll into the light to share the lyrical altar.

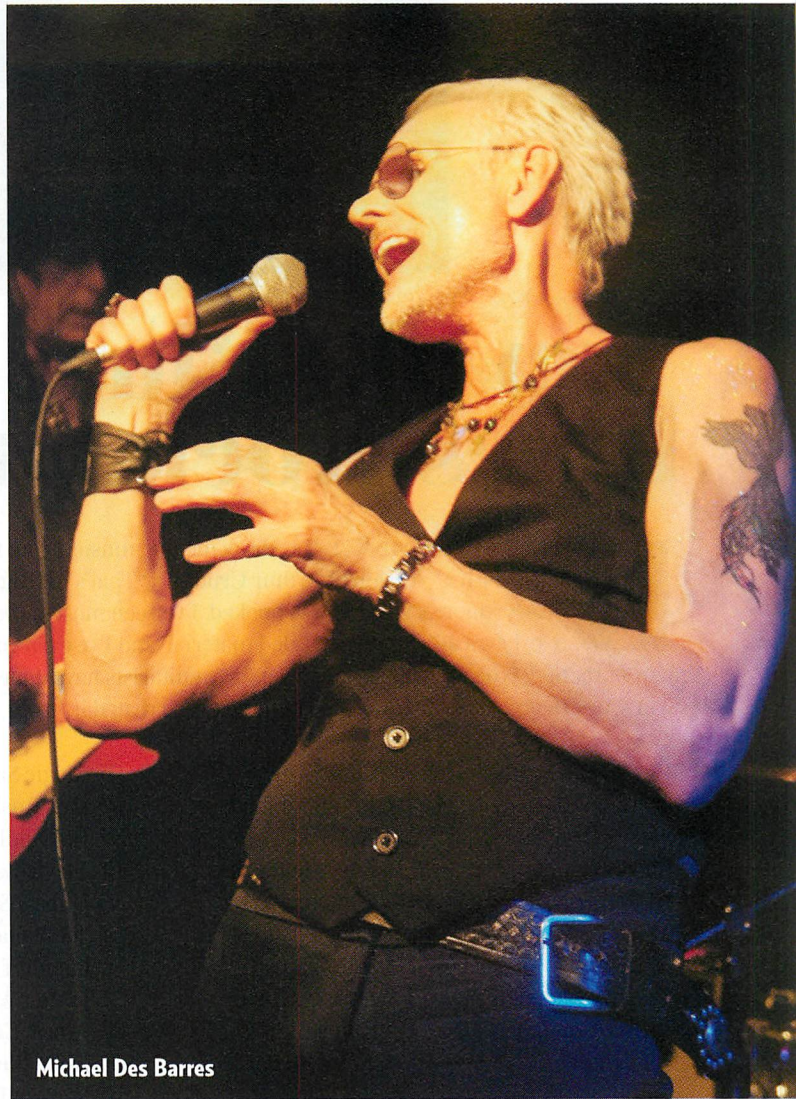
SHARMILA TREDGER

**Ryan Short
and Adam Pease**
*I'm Now: the Story of
Mudhoney*
(KING OF HEARTS)

Critics will argue that Mudhoney wasn't as successful as Seattle contemporaries like Soundgarden or Pearl Jam, but as Black Flag's Keith Morris said, "It's like 'Fuck YOU!' That's a fuckin' amaz-

ing band." With the rockumentary *I'm Now: the Story of Mudhoney*, not only is the band's story on film for the first time, it's done in a way that makes any documentary hereafter seem pointless. From the Julien Temple-esque cinematography to the candidness of Mudhoney, the film plays like anything but some monotonous history lesson.

The title perfectly summarizes Mudhoney—always active in the moment and never distracted from their ideals, even when the A&R suits waived impressive cash at them. *I'm Now* doesn't just highlight talented musicians, it also points out their humor, humility and intelligence, as well as the bullshit they endured. Bassist Matt Lukin laughs in front of the camera as he recalls the first time he met drummer Dan Peters: "He was wearing a fuckin' beret; I forgot about that!" Their punk-rebel attitude adds humor to the film: they made records for pennies and pocketed the label's lump sum so they could buy houses. There's also that time Courtney Love got Danny Goldberg to drop the band from Warner Bros.—on vocalist Mark Arm's birthday no less. Arm's open-



Michael Des Barres

ing words in *I'm Now* are, "Anytime you play music for the crowd instead of yourself, you're fucked." A band that stays true to their principles some 20 years later certainly deserves consideration.

After interviewing Arm for another documentary, directors Ryan Short and Adam Pease were taken by Arm's charisma, so they swiped their credit cards, boarded a plane to Japan and went on tour with Mudhoney. The fact that the pair had no investor fueling their project speaks volumes about their passion for the music. Throughout the film, they capture an organic candidness, the obvious result of trust between band and filmmaker. "With the wrong band,

this [project] could have been a disaster," admits Short. "But I must say it was nothing but pleasure traveling with those guys. I wish I could come up with excuses to continue doing it in the future."

MELISSA CARUSO



Mudhoney

