

# just|out

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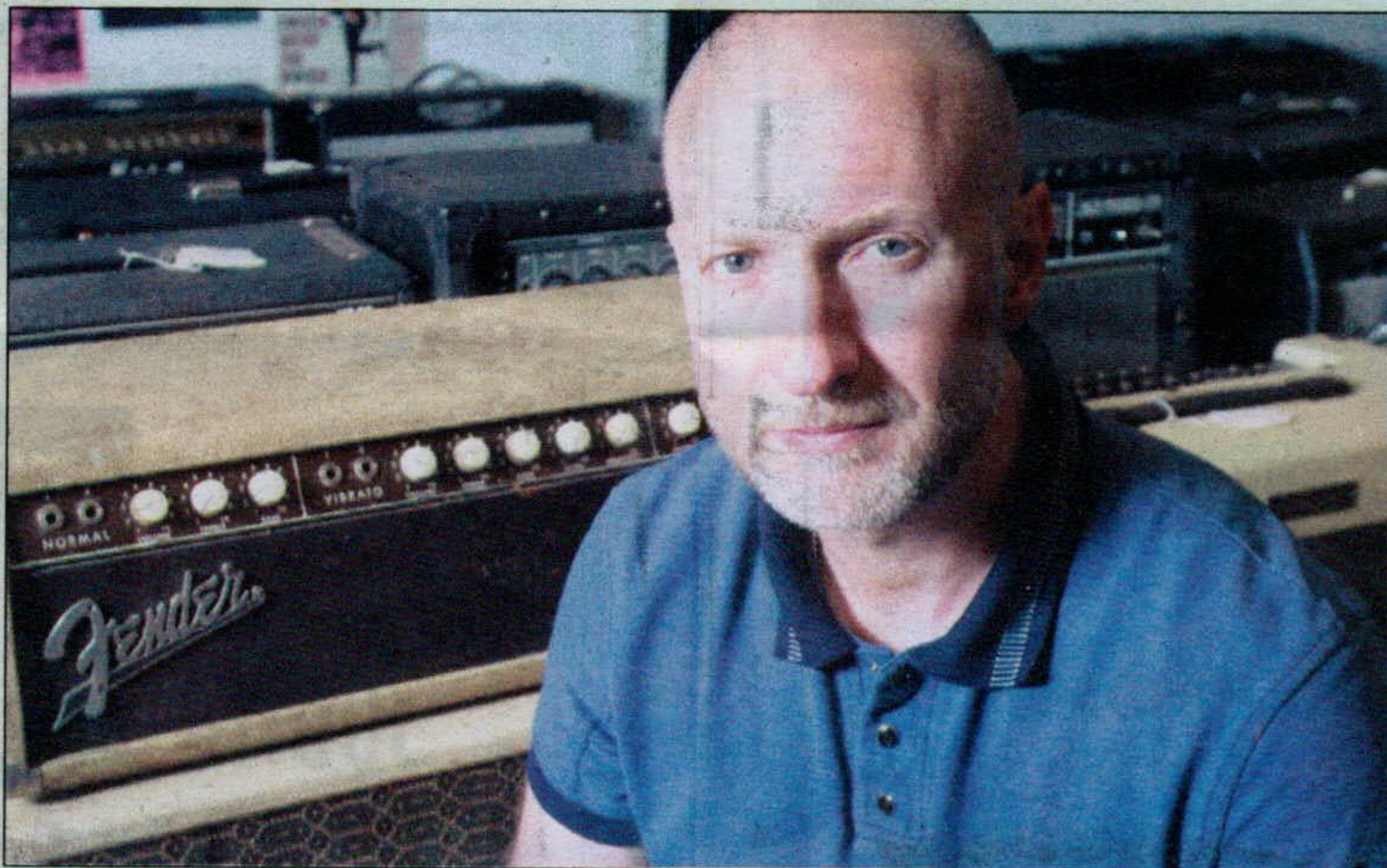
## Best Friends Forever

*Circle of Friends*, a new Bob Mould tour DVD, plays like a fan's wish list fulfilled. Flawless backing band? Check. Hüsker Dü and Sugar songs played passionately, electrically? Check. Mould smiling and bouncing around like a 20-year-old while torturing his guitar and vocal chords as if this was the only date on the 2005 tour from which this DVD comes? Check it out.

Mould was not messing around when he assembled a band to support 2005's *Body of Song*. Fugazi's **Brendan Canty** provides fluid yet powerful drumming, and Blowoff buddy **Richard Morel**'s complementary keyboard work adds a shiny layer to the guitar-centered proceedings. (Blowoff is a Mould side project that is equal parts tag team DJing and live performance.) However, the heart and soul of Mould's musical A-Team is **Jason Narducy**, whose rugged bass guitar workout and vein-popping backup vocals elevate this 23-song indie rock marathon past sublime into legendary.

*Circle of Friends* is so chock-full of highlights that picking specific sections for praise is like identifying your favorite child. The show-starting run through the first three songs on Sugar's 1992 debut, *Copper Blue*, is as unexpected as it is electrifying. The almost eerie band unity achieved on *Body of Song* standout "Paralyzed" is just as potent and room-filling on film as it was live and in person. The appropriately reverential hush that falls over the crowd for the fragile beauty of Hüsker Dü's mope-rock epic "Hardly Getting Over It" contrasted with the joyous pogo-dancing that acknowledges that same band's jagged pop nugget "Could You Be the One?" is a prime example of perfect concert pacing.

As far as extras, the DVD is as no-frills as the T-shirt and jeans Mould wears on



Doug Fir Lounge screens *Circle of Friends* Oct. 14, with Bob Mould on hand for a short acoustic set as well as a brief interview session.

stage, but the brief interviews that precede the show humanize the four men who proceed, bully-style, to pummel your ears for an hour and a half, as well as dispelling any myths about Mould being a somber sourpuss.

—Jim Thompson