

March 16 : Bruce Kulick guests on TIM 'RIPPER' OWENS Solo Debut

From: timripperowens.com

Following his spectacular enlistment by exceptional Swedish guitarist, Yngwie Malmsteen, and his awesome vocal performance on the most recent Malmsteen album, Perpetual Flame (2008), American metal vocalist Tim 'Ripper' Owens (Beyond Fear, ex-Judas Priest, ex-Iced Earth) is set to surprise the public with the release of his first solo album, Play My Game, in May 2009. The offering consists of around a dozen brand-new tracks that Owens composed himself or together with renowned friends, such as Bob Kulick, Chris Caffery (Savatage, Trans-Siberian Orchestra), Mike Callahan (ex-Earshot) and John Comprix (Beyond Fear, Ringworm).

The list of guest musicians featured on Owens solo debut is even more spectacular: along with Bob Kulick and Chris Caffery and the others, he was supported by the guitarists Doug Aldrich (Whitesnake), Michael Wilton (Queensryche), Jeff Loomis (Nevermore), Steve Stevens (Billy Idol), bassists Marco Mendoza (ex-Whitesnake), Billy Sheehan (Mr Big, ex-David Lee Roth), Dave Ellefson (ex-Megadeth), Rudy Sarzo (Dio, ex-Ozzy Osbourne, ex-Quiet Riot), James Lomenzo (Megadeth), Tony Franklin (ex-Blue Murder), Dennis Hayes (Beyond Fear) and drummers Simon Wright (ex-AC/DC, Dio), Vinny Appice (Heaven & Hell), Ray Luzier (Korn), Bobby Jarzombek (Riot, Halford), and Brett Chassen. Fans and experts alike will love this sensational all-star line-up and may rest assured that the haunting songs will effortlessly live up to this illustrious cast of musicians: Tim Ripper Owens has never sounded more impressive, melodic and multi-faceted!

"I've gotten better as a songwriter," Owens explains. "And I also write songs that the fans can really get into and get their fist pounding in the air. I've always been a great fan of the Black Sabbath line-up featuring Ronnie James Dio, and I love Judas Priest. Both bands delivered records that are straight forward and go directly to the bloodstream – which also happens to be my compositional approach."

Release Dates for "Play My Game" on Steamhammer / SPV:

5/15/09: Germany / Austria / Switzerland

5/18/09: UK / rest of Europe

5/19/09: USA / Canada

■ [MORE INFO](#)

March 14 : GENE SIMMONS vs. BOB LEFSETZ " Cage Match Debate "

From: Blabbermouth.net / SimmonsRecords.com / lefsetz.com

Video footage of the entire 34-minute debate between Bob Lefsetz, who is described one of the music industry's most influential online analysts, and KISS bassist Gene Simmons, which took place yesterday (Friday, March 13) in the main ballroom at the Royal York Hotel in downtown Toronto during Canadian Music Week, can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

The debate can also be downloaded as a [MP3 Audio file \(54 MB\)](#) from Medium Online.

The debate was convened after Simmons, who launched [Simmons Records](#) with Universal Music Canada earlier this year, and Lefsetz, known for his strong opinions on industry issues, traded [electronic barbs](#) earlier in the week.

According to [Billboard.biz](#), Lefsetz was critical of what he saw as a solely self-promotional appearance at [Canadian Music Week](#) by Simmons, who he said had little success with his label in the past.

"Just because you're a big musical act, that doesn't mean you're a decent



executive, that you can run a record company," Lefsetz wrote to the thousands who receive his regular e-mails on the music business.

"That's like saying a great football coach has to have been a star quarterback. They're different skills. One that Mr. Simmons has yet to master. Sure, he made that demo tape with VAN HALEN, but the band ended up on Warner Brothers!"

Simmons responded by calling the pundit a "moron" in an e-mail that Lefsetz sent out to his readers.

March 13 : KISS - First New Song Title Revealed !

From: Karen Bliss / Rolling Stone

KISS bassist/vocalist Gene Simmons has told RollingStone.com that the band's first studio album in more than a decade will include songs "about the obvious things, citing titles such as "Rotten To The Core". "No secret to life, no political messaging, nothing like that," he says of the lyrics.

Simmons confirmed KISS' first album since 1998's "Psycho Circus" will be produced by singer/guitarist Paul Stanley. "I don't have enough time to tie my shoelaces and there's nobody else I trust more than Paul," says Simmons.

Regarding the sound of the new material, Simmons says, "There's nothing to prove to anybody. We're not interested in musical trends or anything else. We're too long in the tooth for that. So it's going to be sort of a classic '70s rock and roll vibe. Meat and potatoes. You know, sometimes you just want to go out and have a meat and potatoes thing [and] forget the French dressing."

Read more from RollingStone.com.

March 8 : 1977 KISS cover by Japanese all Girl band reissued on CD

From: KISS Related Recordings

I remember myself visiting a Recordstore in Amsterdam somewhere in 1982, when I found a vinyl Import album by a Japanese all Girl band, simply named GIRLS, which featured a coverversion of KISS "Hard Luck Woman". At the time I couldn't effort myself the costs of such an expensive import vinyl. Starting this website early 1997, I still remembered that record, but forgot the name of the band, had no idea when it was released, and didn't had a clue if I would ever find that record again until now !

In 2007 Kunoichi Records (Marketed and Distributed by Universal Japan) reissued GIRLS 1977 "Noraneko" album as a classic limited edition deluxe, miniaturized LP sleeve replica of the original vinyl album artwork (UPCH-20038).

Before GIRL's "Do You Love Me" (1980), Franz Lambert's and Fantasy's covers of "I Was Made Lovin' You" (both 1979), or James Last's 1978 cover of "Shout It Out Loud", it must have been the Japanes GIRLS who did record the very first coverversion of a KISS tune in 1977 !.

To give you an idea how (vintage) GIRLS looks like, check their video of the album title song at YouTube.

March 3 : GENE SIMMONS' Box Set To See Light Of Day This Year

From: Blabbermouth.net / GeneSimmons.com

KISS bassist/vocalist Gene Simmons' long-promised box set of previously unreleased solo material, which has apparently had several different working titles over the years

-including "Monster" and "100"- will finally see the light of day in 2009.

Responding to a fan's letter in the letters section of his official web site, Gene writes, "I've always written 'outside' stuff, but KISS is KISS. And that means the outside stuff winds up on solo albums, or I keep it in the drawer. This year, I plan on releasing 'Alter Ego', a box set of unreleased songs...about 150 of 'em. You'll