

Talking heads

Paul Lamb

Paul Lamb & The Detroit

Breakdown's *Ready, Fire, Aim* is out 4 November and *RC* asked him which movie it could soundtrack?

"Any Rudy Ray Moore *Dolemite* movie, if Tarantino was remaking it and Johnny Winter was starring in it!"

If you could revisit any of your albums, what would you change?

I'd re-sequence *Gunshot Lullaby* and *Tales From The Gravel*, because the songs segued, but iTunes put a two-second gap between the songs.

Is there anything still unreleased?

We trimmed some songs from *Hangin' On For Dear Life* and a couple for *Tales From The Gravel*, and some got shelved in several other bands over the years.

Have you done anything fans may not know about?

A soundtrack and voiceovers for the movie *Koi Of Hungwa*.

If you were to make a split 7", who would it be with?

JJ Grey, Mofro or Motörhead. Lemmy is God!

If you were to produce another artist, who would it be?

Eminem. I'd love to hear his ideas translated through musicianship, instead of samples.

Where were you when you first heard one of your songs on vinyl?

The Glory Revival, while living in an abandoned house in Phoenix, Arizona. We thought we were on our way to stardom! We were stoned.

What was your favourite record shop when you started out?

Car City Records, Detroit. I lived there as a child and I spent every penny I ever got.

Your first record?

Aerosmith, *Toys In The Attic*.

Was anyone in your family a musician?

A great uncle toured in the 20s and 30s in a polka band.

Have you kept studio notebooks?

I have every work I've ever done completely documented.

What would you ask your music hero?

Quincy Jones: If he believed it was possible for integrity in music to come full circle again?

What's the oddest circumstance in which you've had inspiration for a song?

After jamming on my birthday with Walter Trout, we partied at Gwithian Beach, Cornwall, and at sunrise on top of a World War II artillery mount on the cliffs I wrote *Time Of My Life* in one sitting.

Who's taken music forward in the last decade?

The Black Keys.

What's your most prized personal music item?

My autographed copy of Muddy Waters' *Electric Mud*.

Which band would you most like to see in a reality TV series?

Our band!

Who would you like to cover one of your songs?

Tom Waits, *If Only Goodbye*.

Which of your songs is the most personally meaningful?

When The Crown Hit The Ground. Last April, I lost some friends at sea on the boat, *Wamow*, which left Scotland for Norway in search of the Northern Lights. In my state of mourning, I wrote the song.

Of all the people you've worked with, who taught you the most?

Robert Bradley, a blind man from Westside, Detroit. He said, "close your eyes and play the colours". I did, and it transformed my playing. I still play harmonica with my eyes closed.

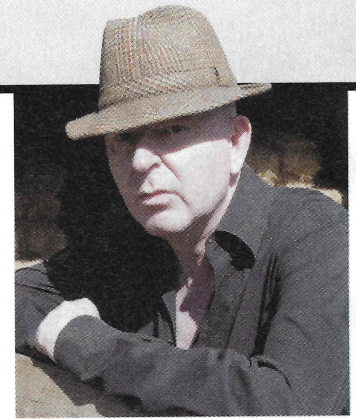
Alan McGee

Alan McGee is back helming a new label, 359 Music, which opened its account with three new albums by **John Lennon McCullagh**, **Mineral** and **Chris Grant**. Three more new sets are due to follow from **Gun Club Cemetery**, **Pete MacLeod** and **Tess Parks**, and **Ian Shirley** asked Alan how he got back in the record label saddle...

"Iain McNay at Cherry Red offered me half the company [359]! He's a great friend and was the first person to sign me and The Laughing Apple, at 19. I trust him. He still sends me publishing cheques!"

John Lennon McCullagh has been compared to a young Bob Dylan.

He's a freak of nature. A 15-year-old guy who talks about Robert Johnson in detail. It's a brilliant record, but I don't think he's even got there yet. I think that his second album will be a really great record. Richard Hawley loves him and is going to take him



out on tour and take him under his wing.

How did you discover him?

I was DJ-ing for his dad in Rotherham as a favour, and he said, "could I put my son on stage?" John was 14 and he just nailed it. I said, "You're fucking brilliant! Go and write some songs." We recorded the album in a day in Sheffield. £232. Totally DIY.

What are your plans for the new label?

Just to put out records that I like. And I actually now listen to everything that I'm sent!

John Lees' Barclay James Harvest

John Lees' Barclay James

Harvest's *North* is out via Esoteric and the band tour the UK from 7 to 23 November. *RC* asked frontman **John Lees** what was the last album he bought?

"Jackson Browne's *Looking East*."

Is there anything still unreleased?

There are multitrack demos of quite a few of my later songs written for the old BJH (before the split with Les Holroyd) that have never been released before.

Have you done anything that fans won't be aware of?

We did some bits and pieces on the old Asda Price adverts, around the time of *Gone To Earth* (1977), with Davy Rohl, at Strawberry Studios.

When did you first hear one of your songs on vinyl?

At home with my parents, when John Peel played our first single, *Early*

Morning. In fact, I used to have a home recording of that event, with our dog barking in the background!

Did you ever write songs under the influence?

No.

What was your first record?

Paul Anka, Diana.

Have you kept studio notebooks of your albums?

I have most of the rough notes of my song lyrics as they developed into the final versions, plus loads of photos, white label pressings and rough sleeve designs.

What's the oddest place in which you've had inspiration for a song?

By a swimming pool while on holiday.

Who would you like to cover one of your songs?

River Of Dreams, Rod Stewart.

Who would you do in karaoke?

Anything by Abba. ▶



BJH's John Lees, left