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Music

House of Love's Guy Chadwick on Terry Bickers: It's nice and relaxed

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The House of Love's frontman Guy Chadwick has said that working with guitarist Terry Bickers over the last few years has been "pretty easy".

Singer-songwriter Chadwick and Bickers played on the band's two self-titled albums released in 1988 and 1990, but Bickers had been ejected from the group after the pair fell out during their 1989 tour.



The House of Love's Terry Bickers and Guy Chadwick

They reunited in 2003 and worked together on 2005's comeback album *Days Run Away* and [follow-up *She Paints Words in Red*](#), which is released on Monday (March 25).

Asked about their current working relationship, Chadwick told **Digital Spy**: "It's been a while since we got back together, so it's pretty natural really.

"It's really nice. It's nice and relaxed - we're both going for the same thing. It's pretty easy really."

Of where The House of Love fit into the current musical landscape, he replied: "I've got no idea - no idea at all. We just did our best, that was all.

"Our prerequisite is that the songs have got to be decent, the band's got to play them well and we've got to be as inspired in the studio as we've got to be. I don't spend time analysing other records or anything like that, like I used to, so I don't know really."

Asked if he was annoyed by fans requesting early material at live shows since the band's return, Chadwick said: "Not at all, that's the nature of the game.

"If the only people who came to see us were the people that were interested in buying our new record, then there wouldn't be many people there probably - that's the reality."

He added: "Most of our audience want to hear those songs. I know how I feel if I go and see a group that have been going for 20 or 30 years, I want to hear the songs that I originally liked.

"It's a natural kind of thing, and you have to strike a balance whereby you want to promote your new record and hopefully the new songs will fit in with old songs, and it will, and it will create a decent evening."

On whether he had read David Cavanagh's book about Creation Records, Chadwick said: "I didn't read it, no. I got sent a copy and I read a bit about the group but I found it pretty boring to be honest. I didn't think it was very good. It was just boring.

"I kind of felt a bit let down by him, really, because I think he was a bit two-faced about what he wrote. I did a long interview with him, and he always used to be... I wouldn't say he was a mate, but he was kind of a friend of the band.

"He was always a big fan of the band. He was very supportive of the band, particularly when we were going. I just thought it was a bit mean, what he did.

"But nah, it's alright, it's just water under the bridge. I don't think it was a very good book really. I don't think anyone bought it."

Asked what [changed his own opinion](#) about The House of Love's debut, Chadwick said: "It was time basically. I just hadn't listened to it for years and years, and around the time of the [2007] Don't Look Back gig it was reissued.

"It was a very successful reissue at the time, and I listened to it and I was just absolutely knocked out by it. I was so surprised by the way it sounded.

"It didn't sound like how I remembered it sounding. It sounded like someone else's record. It's just got this sound to it which is really, really unusual. It just sounds like a really, really special record."



The House of Love's Guy Chadwick and Terry Bickers

He continued: "But when you're making a record - particularly under the circumstances that we made the record all those years ago, where we were an unknown band... we didn't really expect the record to do anything. There was no expectation on our part at all.

"We were just recording our live set as best as we could. We didn't have any idea what would happen next. It's all very different.

"The whole process of writing a song and seeing it through to the end of a recording process makes it almost impossible to have any objectivity about it until you've got some distance from it - time, basically. Where you can have that cut-off."

Quizzed for his views on reality TV and its effect on music, he said: "What makes *The X Factor* and reality TV so popular are the people that bloody watch the TV. It's unavoidable.

"I hate... I cannot stand *The X Factor*. It actually makes my stomach turn, but my children absolutely love it!

"I've got two daughters and they just love it. And my eldest daughter, she was into Big Brother from the word go, and she still loves it. She's just of that generation. My generation just get into different things."

Asked if he would ban his daughter from competing on *The X Factor*, Chadwick quipped: "No, not at all! I don't have any effect on what my children want to do anyway!"

The House of Love are Guy Chadwick, Terry Bickers, Pete Evans and Matt Jury.

She Paints Words in Red is released on March 25 and available for [pre-order](#) now. The band tour the UK in April.

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