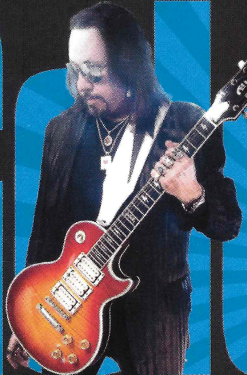


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The Music
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INTERVIEW
WITH **ACE
FREHLEY**

One of his
last interviews

JOHNNY 1944- 2014 WINTER



PLUS! **FOGHAT'S ROGER EARL**
LESLIE WEST JOHN MAYALL
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his who had a band. It was my first live concert. The tone of the guitar live was something that infected me (laughs). I thought, "I've gotta learn how to make that sound."

GM: What was the make and model of your first guitar?

JL: I had a 1980s Fender Squier Stratocaster that belonged to my older sister. Then my dad got me a '62 reissue Stratocaster for my 13th or 14th birthday. I switched to Telecasters after I heard Albert Collins play. I wanted to sound like him.

GM: Early in your career, you toured with some rock 'n' roll heavyweights, such as The Rolling Stones, Jeff Beck and Aerosmith. Did you get a chance backstage to pick their brains for playing tips?

JL: I never really wanted to ask guys like that tips on playing guitar. I wanted to be as little of a nuisance to them as possible (laughs). I didn't want them to remember me as "that guy."

GM: So did you study them from the side of the stage after you were done playing?

JL: Absolutely. I really was enthralled with the way Jeff Beck uses his hands. Nobody else really manipulates the guitar like he does. He can bend strings to whatever pitch he wants; he'll bend and then bend again to get a different note. It almost sounds like a slide guitar. So that's something I incorporated into my playing, although not nearly as masterfully as he can do it (laughs).

GM: How careful are you with your hands day to day? Do you avoid or limit certain activities?

JL: No. I've never given any thought to the protection of my hands (laughs). I mean, I'm not doing anything dangerous per se. I know there are a couple guys out there who wear gloves all the time, but I just never thought to do that. I guess I never had a reason to, but I guess once you're given a reason to, it's too late.

GM: Talk about your guitar approach on "Fight for My Soul" as compared to your previous albums.

JL: I think the idea with guitar on this record was for it to be more a team player with all of the other elements, more so than past records. And I guess what I mean is maybe not so guitar solo-

centric – try to create some different layers and have it be a part of the general atmosphere.

GM: You're a veteran of the Experience Hendrix Tour. What does your involvement mean to you as a guitar player?

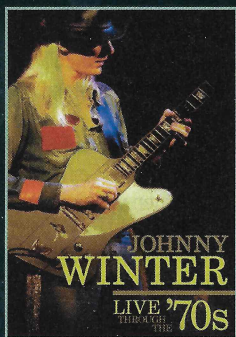
JL: Janie, his sister, runs it with a couple other folks, so to be asked by the family is a pretty big honor. I'll do it for as long as they ask me. Jimi is one of my heroes, and he's meant so much to music in general and to the electric guitar.

GM: Is there an aspect of Jimi Hendrix's guitar playing that you think gets overlooked?

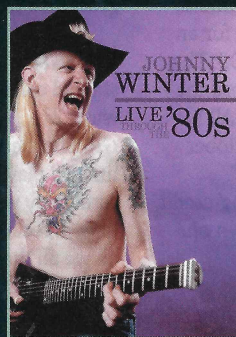
JL: There are so many intangibles with his guitar playing. His pocket and the way he phrases are so unique and so unmatched. We've talked about it on the tour, how nobody's really heard anybody else sound like him. You know, you can break out your wah-wah pedal and fuzz box and play the 'Voodoo Chile' intro or whatever, but nobody can really sound like him. There are a lot of people who can be emulated pretty accurately, but I never really heard anybody do that with Jimi Hendrix. **GM**

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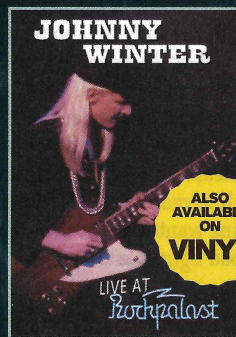
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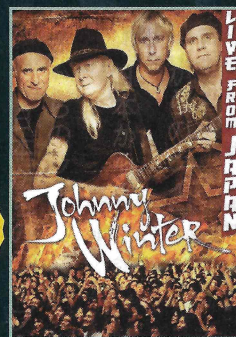
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