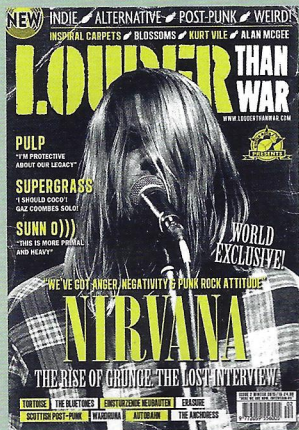


NEWS



LOUDER THAN WAR

VLR's sister magazine Louder Than War has just published its second issue. A mix of classic alternative and indie rock, the current issue includes John Robb's never before published first ever UK interview with Nirvana's Kurt Cobain. Other features include the Inspiral Carpets, Pulp, Alan McGee, Scottish post-punk and Einstürzende Neubauten.

BEDLAM BREAKOUT

The UK's premier psychobilly weekend Bedlam Breakout returns to Northampton Roadmenders again in March to celebrate its 21st festival. This non-profit organisation have been running Breakout shows since 1996 and now hold 2 weekenders a year, showing no signs of slowing down. This year's lineup includes Demented Are Go and The Quakes. Details at www.bedlam-breakout.com

DISCHARGE

The Stoke-on-Trent hardcore punk legends have just signed a worldwide deal with Nuclear Blast. Formed in 1977 by Terry "Tezz" Roberts, his twin brother Tony "Bones" Roberts and Royston "Rainy" Wainwright, Discharge are cited as a major influence on everyone from Metallica to Anthrax to Sepultura. The band's new studio album will be released in 2016. The Exploited will also release their new album on Nuclear Blast in 2016.

100 CLUB RESOLUTION FEST

The Legendary Oxford Street venue returns with its second annual Resolution festival in January as part of the Punk In London festivities. Taking place over 10 nights, the venue which hosted the first ever UK punk festival in 1976 has lined up a cast of old and new acts including GBH, The Ramonas, The Anti Nowhere League and more. For the full lineup see www.the100club.co.uk

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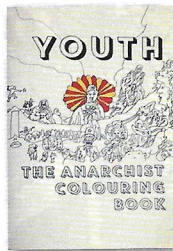
Vincent Price Bobblehead

Sick of staring at Christmas tat already? Wish you had something spooky to balance it all out? Well, you're in luck. Rue Morgue Magazine has partnered with the legendary horror icon's estate to release the first of their Rue Morgue RIPpers Collectible Bobbleheads, in the form of a 7-inch-tall limited edition figure depicting Vincent in a classic pose, with a skeleton firmly in hand. Order online at Rue-Morgue.com



The Anarchist Colouring Book by Youth

Being an Anarchist can be stressful. At some point you're going to need to take a breather, and how better than the latest trend in relaxation - the colouring book (with a suitably chaotic twist of course). This A4 collection of original designs by Youth, features free form ink drawings taken directly from his sketchbooks, and the results are an extraordinary mash up of the mundane and the controversial, referencing everything from pop media to art, religion and politics. Order online at Kommune.bandcamp.com/merch



The Guitar Belt Buckle

If you love guitars as much as you love your jeans not falling down, then boy have you come to the right place. This enamelled, metal buckle looks like the real thing and would be the perfect Christmas stocking filler for the guitar enthusiast in your life. And just when you thought it was already a great gift, they even come with their own belt buckle bag and stand! Sorted, for £9.99 from Candyfusion.com



"I'M VERY PROUD OF THE ALBUM"

Recently releasing their first album in eight years in the form of 'Present Tense', VLR spoke to **ANY TROUBLE**.



How did Any Trouble end up being tied into the punk and new wave scene and ending up on Stiff records?

"Good question! I'm not quite sure really. We came out of an indie scene in Manchester and the Midlands in the late '70s. We'd started out playing a lot of covers, mostly of American bands we really liked like The Band, Little Feat and Dylan. It was obvious that we needed original material to advance from being a local band acting as a human jukebox and what was really happening in '77/'78 was punk and new wave. We were very taken with the more singer/songwriter end of that scene: Elvis Costello, Nick Lowe, Graham Parker, Rockpile... We just adopted that style and played our songs louder and faster! We got a lot of record company attention after our first single picked up a lot of Radio One airplay. We went with Stiff because they were our kind of people and they really got our kind of music, simple as that."

Your first album 'Where Are All The Nice Girls' certainly had enough new wave-style hits on it to compete with the Elvis Costellos and Joe Jacksons of the day. Why do you think it didn't happen for you?

"I think we had what Nick Lowe called the "Public aversion factor" in spades! Being good is never enough. To be successful in pop music, the public have to like you and buy into whatever you do. We just never had enough public acceptance and I don't really know how that works. I think that in some ways we were not a typical Stiff act. I think we had the music pretty much sorted but we never had a strong visual image like so many of Stiff's artists. Maybe that was part of it? Who knows?"

How did it feel making the new album?

"It was a lot of fun... We did our first 'reunion' album in 2007 ('Life In Reverse') and actually toured a little bit in 2014 so it was pretty straightforward to get back in the studio and record the new album. It was all pretty fast, we cut twenty songs in just about a week! I'm very proud of the album... I think people will like it. Fingers crossed!"

There's a cool country feel to many of the songs. Does that reflect your current mood?

"Maybe. I've lived in the south of the USA for almost 25 years.... 15 of those years in Nashville, where I played with Nanci Griffith for a long time, so I've had a lot of exposure to country music, I guess. We're all a bit older now and I suppose full tilt thrash is not quite as easy these days! I don't think it really matters what label you put on music as long as it's good, honest and emotional and has the potential to mean something to the listeners. That's good enough for me!"

'Present Tense' is out now on Cherry Red Records