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BLEEDING HEART ARTIST : AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVE KILMINSTER

By Kristen Picc, Bleeding Heart Artist | June 26, 2006

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Interview with Dave Kilminster, guitarist and vocalist with Roger Waters Dark Side 2006 tour

Bleeding Heart Artist would like to thank Dave for taking the time to answer some questions.

Q/ What similarities and or differences have you experienced touring with Keith Emerson as opposed to now touring with Roger Waters?

There's actually no similarities whatsoever touring with these two guys!!! But mainly that's because they're putting on a totally different type of show...

With Roger, he likes to have everything planned, rehearsed, organised... and sounding as close to the record as possible. Everything has to be in time (played to a click) so that it matches up to the visuals, and he also has a very strong sense of how the show should look with regards to lighting etc... which is why we all wear dark colours so as not to get in the way!!! Also with the quad sound I think the whole show sounds incredible!!!!

With Keith it's more about the moment... capturing a feeling, going out on a limb... Fearlessly improvising, experimenting, searching for those little magic moments that can happen when you give yourself totally to the music...

Q/ Who are your guitar heroes?

I'm not actually a huge fan of guitarists!!! It's all so incestuous... especially in the rock and blues genre. Everyone copying each others licks and phrases... I guess my guitar heroes are people with something original to say... People like Van Halen, Brian May, Yngwie Malmsteen... a very uncool bunch to mention, but when they appeared there was NO ONE else like them!!! The sort of players I listen to now though are people like Bumblefoot, Robben Ford, Sonny Landreth, Jeff Beck, Michael Hedges... If you're a prog fan then you probably haven't heard of ANY of these guys though!!!!

Q/ how would you describe the music you most enjoy?

I like ANY music that has passion, rhythm, emotion, energy... melody, harmony, syncopation, groove, feel... any or all of those things I enjoy... Which is why I never listen to Folk music!!!!!!!!!!!! ;O>

Q/ Is there any city or venue on this tour that you most look forward to performing at?

I guess I'm looking forward mostly to Hyde Park... But that's only because I have loads of family and friends coming to that one!!!! As I write this though we've just played Israel... We really didn't know what to expect, but it was a TOTALLY INCREDIBLE experience... Absolutely AMAZING... Roughly 56,000 people showed up.... I can't really put it into words, but it's not a evening i'm ever going to forget....

Q/ You have been a teacher and you have also done instructional videos. What do you bring to the stage from your experience as an instructor? Are they similar for you?

What do I bring to the stage from my experience as an instructor? Absolutely nothing!!! I think being a performer enhances my abilities as a teacher, or at least certain aspects of it, but it doesn't work the other way around...

Q/ How did you get involved in teaching?

I think it was around 1991... I was talking to a guitarist friend of mine (Shaun Baxter) and he told me that the school where he was teaching (The Guitar Institute) was looking for a new teacher and was I interested... I said NO WAY!!!! But a couple of days later I was informed at work that my temporary contract wasn't going to be renewed due to budget cuts.... so I felt like 'life' (fate, whatever) was steering me in a particular direction... She does this to me sometimes...

Q/ How do you feel about performing in a very theatrical show such as Roger's, with the visuals setting the pace of the show?

I'm having a great time!!!! It's unlike anything I've ever been involved in... Unfortunately when you're on stage you don't really get the full effect of the show (I STILL haven't seen all the visuals!!), but I'm really looking forward to seeing it on a DVD whenever we film it!!!!!!

Q/ Can you tell the Floyd fans how you got involved on the tour with Roger?

Well, it was the old fashioned way!!! Snowy phoned up my manager and asked if he knew any guitarists that could 'cover Gilmore's parts'... So I spoke to Snowy, then to Andy and recorded a demo CD of me playing some Floyd tunes... 'Comfortably Numb', 'Wish You Were Here'...ummm something else as well I think... A few days later I was asked down to an audition in London and it was terrible!!! My amp didn't work... my acoustic didn't work... we were half way through playing 'Wish You Were Here', and I realised my bottleneck was still in my jacket pocket... No one was more surprised than me when I got the job!!!!!! It's most guitar players dream!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Q/ Where you familiar with Roger's solo albums or his last tours?

No... In fact I wasn't overly familiar with Pink Floyd either!!! (I know... sacrilege!!!!!!)

Q/ If you were on a deserted island and could only have one Pink Floyd album which one would it be?

I haven't heard all of them, but I really love 'Wish You Were Here'...

Q/ How did you get to know Keith Emerson?

He came along to a Qango show we were playing at the Astoria, I guess just to say 'hi' to his old mate Carl Palmer... He seemed quite impressed though!!! So I emailed him a little while later, just to say how much I enjoyed him jamming with us for the encore, and he wrote back asking if I was interested in forming a band!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Q/ Do you have any projects in the upcoming future that you could tell us about?

Well, I've almost finished my solo album called Scarlet... I should hopefully get it completed in the short break between the European and American tours. It would be great to tour with that around November... either on my own or with two guitar player friends of mine, Guthrie Govan and Jamie Humphries. We should all have albums out this year, and hopefully our schedules will allow us to tour together... Kind of like the 'G3' thing with Steve Vai, Joe Satriani and Eric Johnson... Although obviously our version will be loads better!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Q/ What words would you use to describe your guitar playing?

Passionate....

Be sure to check out Dave's website DaveKilminster.com and check out his other musical avenues, especially if you are an aspiring guitarist.

His album *Playing With Fire* is wonderful classical guitar with a unique expressive flair.