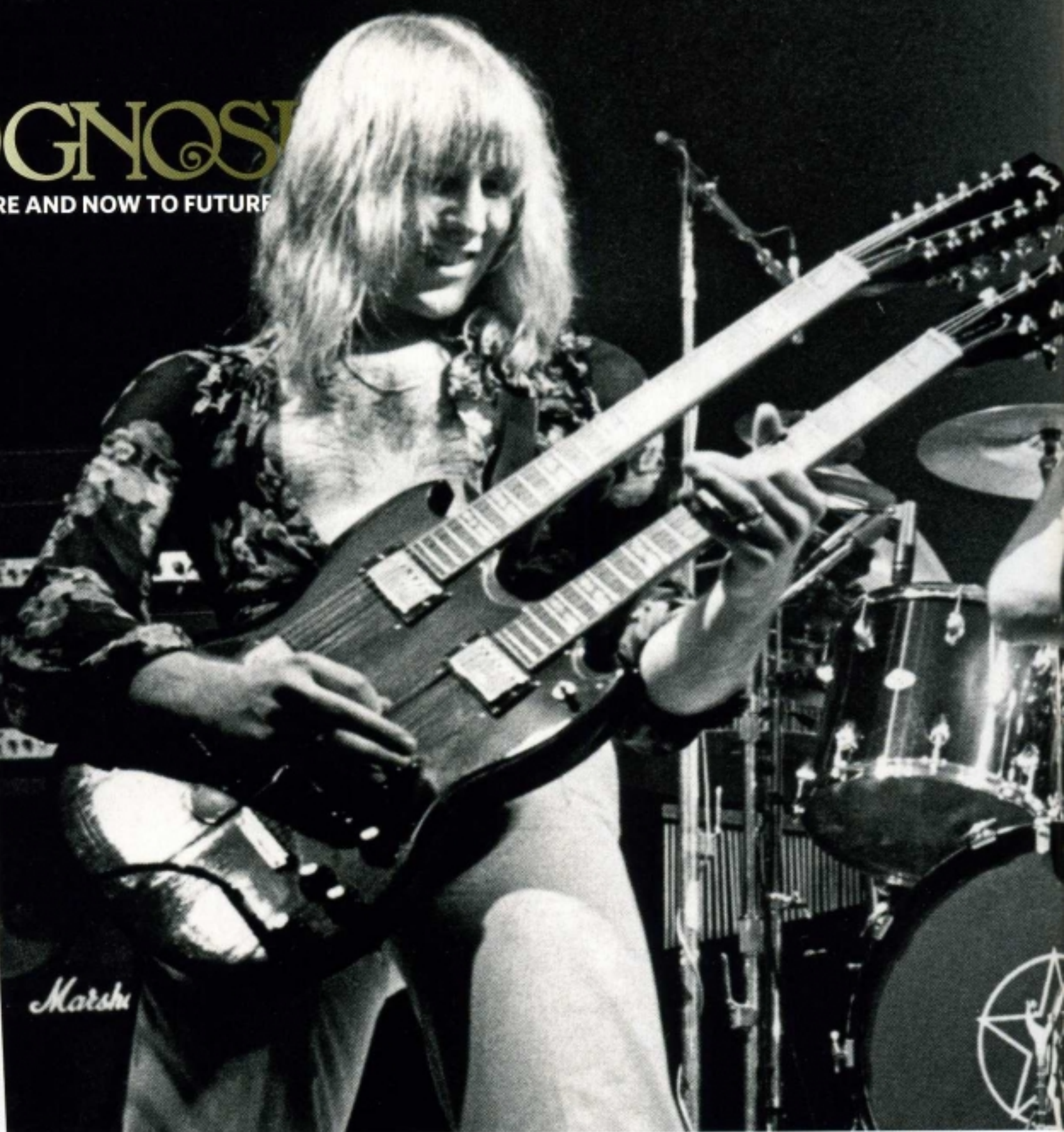
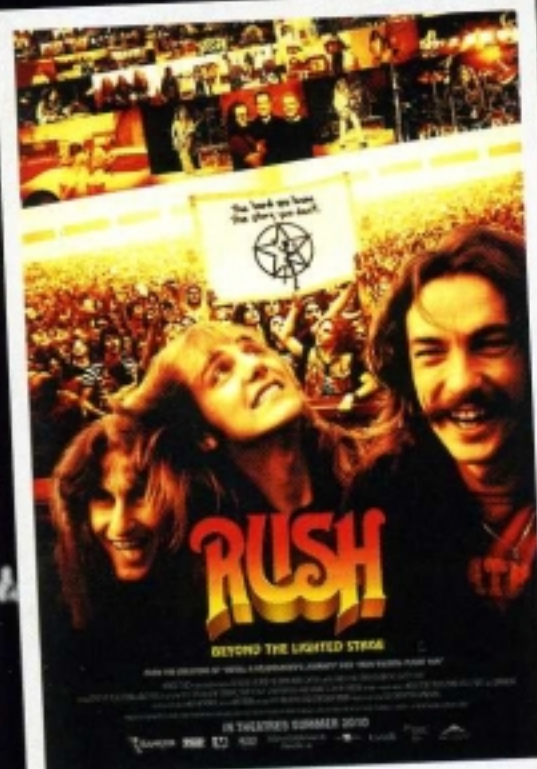


PROGNOSIS

NEWS FROM HERE AND NOW TO FUTURE



All The World's Their Stage!

With a new film due out in the UK, a US tour and work started on a new album, **Rush** are busier than ever. And that's before you consider a huge reissues campaign and (hopefully) a UK tour.

GEDDY LEE'S BUSY. As his band's film, *Rush: Beyond The Lighted Stage*, premieres at the TriBeCa Film Festival in New York, he's in the studio mixing material for their next studio album, their 19th, planning an extensive North America tour for this summer and autumn and all of this before he straps on his tuxedo and hits the red carpet to meet the world's press that night.

Ask Lee how the ever-private Rush let filmmakers Sam Dunn and Scot McFadyen (Iron Maiden's *Flight 666*) have so much access to the band and he jokingly puts it down to: "A momentary lapse in good judgement."

It's a lapse every Rush fan will be grateful for, from the archive live

footage to the parade of articulate talking heads (Billy Corgan in effusive form, Trent Reznor almost cracking a smile, a droll Gene Simmons actually enthusiastic about something or someone that isn't about to make him a dollar) through interviews with the band and their families, it's a slick yet mesmerising couple of hours.

For the filmmakers the success of their film comes down to the largesse of the band, "We've been lucky," admits Dunn, "We've had access to Geddy, Alex and Neil's own personal archives. I was at Geddy's house and I was going through his

collection of Rush memorabilia and dug up some gems.

"We're digging to the bottom of the pile every time to find something new. We even got our hands on Neil's

"Watching a two-hour film about me is not my idea of a good time."

handwritten lyric sheets from back when they were making *Fly By Night*, *2112* and *A Farewell To Kings*. I don't think they've ever been seen before."

On June 29, Rush begin their latest set of Evening With Rush shows in

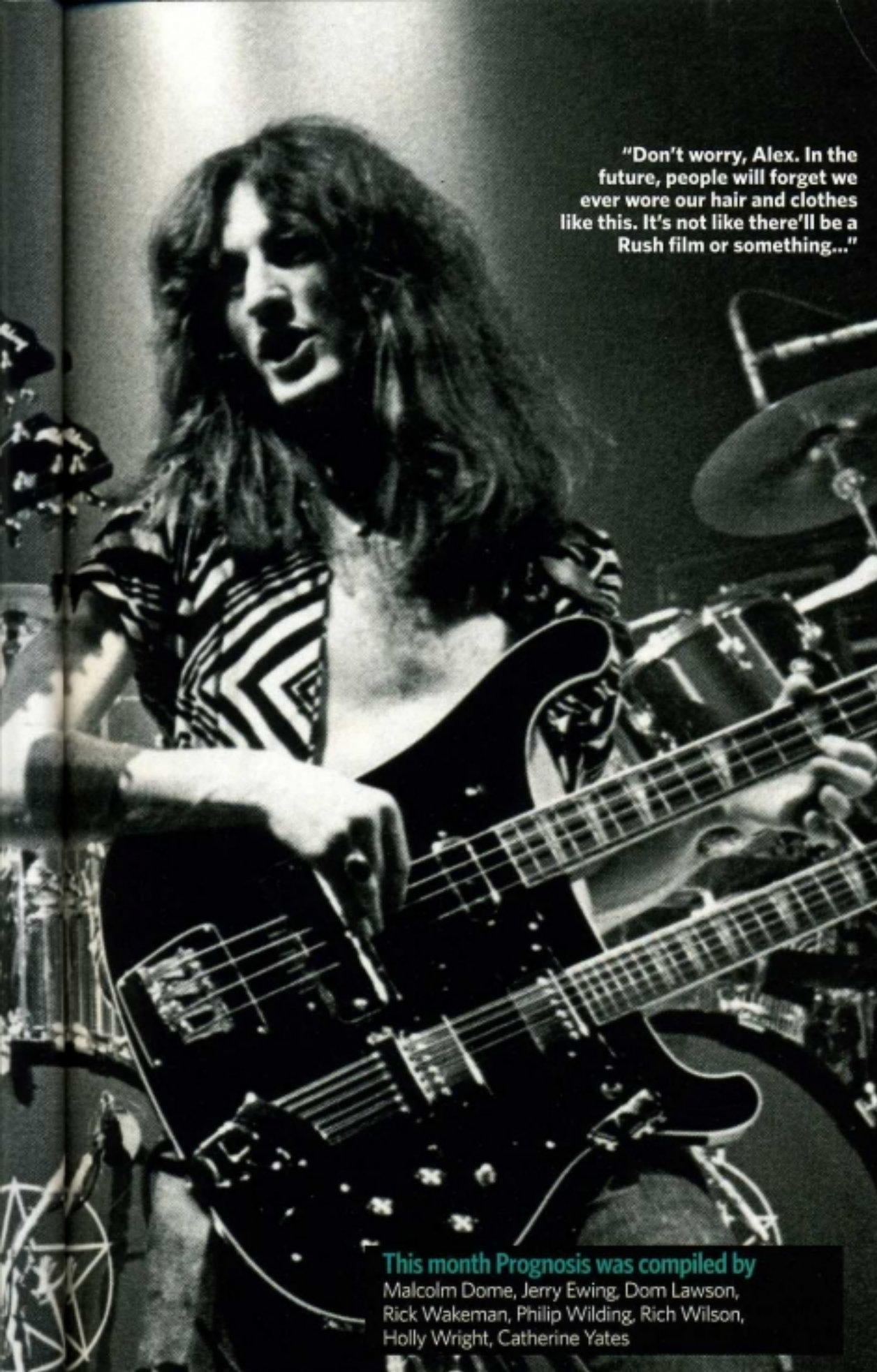
Albuquerque, New Mexico, shows that are normally a spectacular two-set, three-hour affair. This one's called the Time Machine Tour and will see them playing 1981's *Moving Pictures* album in its entirety for the first time. They're also promising a handful of new tunes from their forthcoming album.

But back to the film momentarily, were you pleased with the results?

"I suppose," says a begrudging Lee, "Although watching a two-hour film about me is not my idea of a good time."

So what prompted you to leave the studio mid-album and tour?

"The idea of this short tour began



"Don't worry, Alex. In the future, people will forget we ever wore our hair and clothes like this. It's not like there'll be a Rush film or something..."

This month Prognosis was compiled by Malcolm Dome, Jerry Ewing, Dom Lawson, Rick Wakeman, Philip Wilding, Rich Wilson, Holly Wright, Catherine Yates

with a desire to get into 'tour playing shape' for recording and to attempt to break up the usual way of doing things." Says Lee, "It also occurred to us that we could play some older songs and some new songs - there'll be two new ones played live - and road test them, and see if they evolve before we went back into the studio to finish the record.

"We wanted to create a 'future/past' tour, which kind of fits into the concept we're working on for the next album. It's the same idea with performing *Moving Pictures*. The time felt right, it seemed like a good opportunity to try this kind of thing and it fits what we're trying to do this time around."

And how is the new album going?

"We've written six songs and have just finished recording two of them. They're being mixed as I'm speaking to you. They turned out terrific and sound very fresh."

Is it still fun to trawl through the catalogue and rearrange older

material for new live shows?

"It is actually fun to do that. And you go through a phase where you don't believe you can play the song with any conviction and then you kind of recapture the spirit with which it was written; a surprising process."

Will you still have those terrible fake Cockney accents in the background on *The Camera Eye*?

"Hopefully, and we will attempt to add some other terrible accents along the way... perhaps we can butcher a Midlands accent too?! Roight guvnah!"

Rush: Beyond The Lighted Stage will be released in the UK on a limited theatrical release on June 28. Rush's back catalogue will be the subject of a major reissues campaign in 2011. The new album is currently slated for a spring/summer release.

Finally, can you please hurry back to the UK? We miss the noise.

"We hope to back in the UK in 2011 for a full tour... we miss the cloud cover!" **PW**



It's not been *Discordant*, but Alasdair Melville (second left) has left Touchstone.

Strange Days

Touchstone part ways with drummer.

BRITISH POMP PROGGERS Touchstone have parted company with drummer Alasdair Melville. The news came on the back of announcements for the release of the band's forthcoming *Live In The USA* album and ahead of their opening slot on the Prog stage at this year's High Voltage Festival.

"Touchstone have been my family, my brothers and sister for a long time now and moving away from your family is never an easy undertaking," Melville, who is expected to pursue a heavier musical direction, told Prog. "I fully support Touchstone in finding a replacement for me and in their future as one of the best new British progressive rock acts on offer."

"It's been an honour and a privilege to share the stage and studio with Al and to see him grow as a drummer in the last three and a half years," stated keyboard player Rob Cottingham.

The band have recruited Dee Expos/Final Conflict drummer Henry Rogers to temporarily fill in for Melville on their forthcoming live shows.

In the meantime the band will release their first live album, *Live In The USA*, on their Heavy Right Foot label on July 24. They will be appearing at The Horn in St Albans on Friday July 16, which will serve as a launch party for the new album and a warm-up for their appearance at High Voltage on the Prog stage on Saturday July 24.

The eager forward-planners have also announced their usual array of Christmas concerts, at The Peel, Kingston on December 11 and The Robin 2 at Bilston, December 12. Special guests, festive fun and singer Kim Seviour dressed as one of Santa's elves guaranteed! **JE**



Logical Songs?

Supertramp members argue over 40th anniversary.

NO SOONER HAD Supertramp announced their 40th anniversary tour, which currently consists of a one-off show at London's O2 Arena on October 6, than an almighty row has broken out between original songwriters Rick Davies, who currently fronts the band (which also features John Anthony Helliwell and Bob Siebenberg) and Roger Hodgson, who left in 1983, and who also has live dates booked through to 2011.

"Since this is the first time we are touring simultaneously since we split up 27 years ago, I expect Rick to honour the agreement he and I made that the band would not play my songs," says Hodgson, who has not been asked to play a part in the Supertramp show.

Meanwhile Davies' camp are promising a show that "will provide the audience with a total Supertramp experience, a delight for both their eyes and ears". **JE**



Supertramp: in happier times.