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DAVID GILMOUR FROM PSYCHEDELIC TO PSYCH OUT



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Dave Gilmour

Don't ask about a reunion... By Sasha Perera

As a key creative force behind the legendary Pink Floyd, David Gilmour is renowned worldwide for his incredible influence as a writer, guitarist and vocalist. It may be well over a couple of decades since the release of the seminal album releases *Dark Side Of The Moon* (1973), *Wish You Were Here* (1975), and *The Wall* (1979), and despite the acrimonious departure of Roger Waters in the early eighties, Pink Floyd still remain a force in the music industry, continuing to inspire fans and other musicians with the musical landscapes they created in the seventies. With his new solo album *On An Island* released this month, David Gilmour is proving that his musical capabilities extend well beyond the time-capsule years of Pink Floyd.

This sixty-year old rocker may have mellowed a touch over the years, but his musical vision is just as poignant and skillfully constructed than ever before. Sitting back on his London houseboat/recording studio, The Astoria, the mellow but assured David Gilmour is pleased to admit that he is proud of the results of his new album. "The title track is called 'On An Island', and it's about an evening I spent on an island in the Mediterranean around twelve years ago with some friends," he explains simply. "Two of those friends have died since, and so it's a song that represents a happy memory that's tinged with a bit of sadness because these people are no longer with us".

In reference to the additional guest vocals on the song by Crosby & Nash, he continues further, "I went with my wife Polly to a Crosby & Nash concert in London and I thought they were singing so beautifully that I had to ask them to be on the record. I went backstage afterwards and had a chat with them and asked them if I could persuade them to come down to the studio to work on the track. A few days later they turned up at the studio and sang, and it was magic. I'd written the song, although I didn't have the lyrics prepared. We did the harmony sections together in 'la, la, la' three parts, and I think it's a really wonderful collaboration."

When asked why he thinks *Dark Side Of The Moon* was so popular, he deadpans with, "Because it's fuckin' good!", before following through with a dry laugh. And when asked what he thought of Scissor Sister's cover of "Comfortably Numb" - "Brilliant, great fun," he responds earnestly, before jibing with a wry grin, "I wish more people would do covers."

Right now David Gilmour is firmly concentrating on the release of "On An Island", which aside from last year's Live 8 diversion, has been his creative focus since his 2002 London shows, which in many ways were the catalyst for this new material. He believes that even though this is a new solo album, it's more so a follow-up to the last Pink Floyd album than it is a follow-up to his last solo album. Nevertheless, fans continue to ask about Pink Floyd reunions possibilities, but it's clear they will have to satisfy themselves with last year's one-



off appearance.

In itself it was a performance that Gilmour, despite having moved on from his days with the Roger Waters line-up of Pink Floyd, remembers fondly.

"The Live 8 experience was fantastic - I thoroughly enjoyed doing it," he says with obvious affection. "It took some persuading before I agreed to it, but eventually I did for three good reasons really. One being that the cause was extremely important; I did initially think that although the cause was important that Pink Floyd playing wouldn't really make much difference - and I don't know about that still to be quite honest, but the cause was important. The second reason for doing it was to rid myself of some of the bitterness and the bad vibes that had been going on between me and Roger for God-knows how many years now, dissipating some of that bad energy, and putting closure to some of that stuff. It was a very worthwhile thing for us to do within all of that. The third reason for doing Live 8 was I just thought I'd regret it if I didn't do it; I thought my kids would like to see me doing it and I didn't want to regret not taking part in the year's ahead."

And in regards to the initial concerns about taking part in Live 8 because fans would start asking questions about a further Pink Floyd (complete with Roger Waters) reunion album and tour, David Gilmour rolls his eyes and waves it off by simply saying, "They were, they did, and they still are..."

Who: Dave Gilmour

What: *On An Island* out now through Sony/BMG