





SHINE ON

**LIFE IS GREAT FOR
DAVID GILMOUR
HE'S BLISSFULLY
HAPPY IN HIS
SECOND MARRIAGE,
AND HE HAS A
BRAND-NEW SOLO
ALBUM RECORDED
IN THE IDYLIC
ENVIRONS OF HIS
FLOATING
STUDIO ON THE
RIVER THAMES
NOW, ABOUT
THAT PINK FLOYD
THING...**

**BY ALAN DI PERNA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ROSS HALFIN**

DAVID GILMOUR'S houseboat studio rides at anchor by the banks of the River Thames, just beyond an impeccably kept garden of bamboo and willows. Swans glide on coppery waters that slip beneath a slate gray English sky—an idyllic scene, surprisingly near the buzz and roar of London.

The boat is named Astoria, and it is by no means a large craft. It has barely enough space for a well-stocked control room, which is dominated by a huge Neve mixing console, and a

small elegant parlor that doubles as a tracking room. A narrow passageway wainscoted in rich, dark wood connects the two spaces and provides access to a few tiny side chambers along the way. The boat was built in 1912 by a prominent English showbiz entrepreneur and casino owner. Gilmour purchased the craft in 1986. Today, cabins where chorus girls were once debauched are now mainly devoted to excesses of amplitude, modulation and tape saturation.