THE MOJO
LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD

David Gilmour

"AFTER ALL these years of practiseing I think I'm getting it now," quips rock's best-bred guitar hero upon receiving MOJO's Lifetime Achievement Award acknowledging four decades of sonic genius. Even beyond his key role in such masterpieces as Pink Floyd's Dark Side Of The Moon and their 2005 triumph at Live 8, Gilmour continues to surprise and delight. Two of his most recent career highlights being this year's On An Island solo album, and a gig at the Royal Albert Hall which saw him joined by David Bowie on Arnold Layne and Comfortably Numb, the Dame's first live outing in two years. Presenting the award, Gilmour's pal and current bandmate Phil Manzanera is reduced to the level of schoolboy hero-worship all over again, nervously telling of how he met Gilmour as a teenage devotee and how, even playing live with the man, he still finds himself "struggling with the intro to Wish You Were Here." Gilmour, bemused teacher figure, smiles on. James McIlroy

PITTING BOB
Dylan's No
Direction Home against
Dig!, The
Mayor Of
Sunset Strip,
The Story Of
The Ramones
and Kraftwerk's Minimum
Maximum, the MOJO
Vision Award (aka the Best
DVD category) is one of
the evening's most hotly contested
gongs. The Flaming Lips. The Fearless
Freaks. Two-disc set, however, wins the
votes of the HMV/MOJO quorum and

is described as a unique chronicle of a band's trip from garage to Grammys. Shot over 15 years by Bradley Beesley, the Flaming Lips was edited down from over 400 hours of footage into a searing 90 minutes, providing a rollercoaster ride through an 11-album career littered with excess, self-destruction and joyous creativity.

Sadly, the Lips are absent this evening, playing Holland's Pink Pop festival, but send along two furry associates and a wigged-out, homemade acceptance film courtesy of the head Flaming Lip, Wayne Coyne. Clive Prior

A guitar hero speaks...

So, David, pleased with your MOJO Award? I'm thrilled. But it's a strange, lonely thing being up there on my own, I was more terrified accepting this award than I was playing the Albert Hall.

What are your major career achievements? You've had to single out Dark Side Of The Moon and Wish You Were Here, but for me it's all here and now. My current album has done much better than one could ever have expected. It's been the happiest, most fulfilling project I can remember. With the live shows, we've been worrying less about people's expectations. So, to deliver into the back catalogue and play the whole of Echoes, say, has been a blast.

How did David Bowie join you at the recent show? Our tour manager, Nick Belshaw, has worked with David for years. He had lunch with him in New York, and next thing I got a call from David saying, "If you'd like me to do it I'll be there." Fantastic! I didn't know until the day of the gig that it was his first live show in ages. But he instantly made both those songs his own.

Who would you most like to give a MOJO Award to? I could name 30 or 40 people. Bob Dylan, Neil Young and Joni Mitchell come to mind. And awards for Leadbelly and Pete Seeger, perhaps. I learned guitar from Seeger's tutor record when I was about 12.

So what's next for David Gilmour? I've enjoyed this last album so much that I can't wait to start fiddling around in my studio again.
“I was more terrified accepting this award than I was playing the Albert Hall the other week.”