I personally would like to see Pink Floyd come back in the future... I live in hope. I am an optimist.

1973

1994

2005

SETW MEETS NICK MASON

Pink Floyd: The Dark Side of the Moon and Much More

Listening... Pink Floyd: The Dark Side Of
The Wall and The Division Bell

He was with bandmate Syd Barrett in 1965 when the singer fused the names of bluesmen Pink Anderson and Floyd Council to create a new name for their fledgling outfit. He was at Abbey Road Studios in 1972 to record The Dark Side Of The Moon (35 million sales) with Roger Waters, David Gilmour and Richard Wright. He was on Pink Floyd's last tour minus Waters, in 1994 when a performance of their 1973 album was filmed. He was part of the full band's triumphant reunion at Live 8 last July. He joined Waters on stage in Hyde Park on Saturday, July 1, for a rousing return to the Dark Side. He went with Gilmour and Wright to a West End cinema on Monday to promote their stunning new live DVD of the '89 tour.

Drummer Nick Mason is the band's custodian, the man who keeps the Pink Floyd dream alive. He looks back with dry humour about the band's ups and downs and says he's still waiting for the call for all those who've played a part in their extraordinary story.

And despite Waters' acrimonious split and subsequent lawsuits that dogged the Eighties, Nick still hopes that the Pink Floyd story isn't over just yet.

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THE DVD AND WHY ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ALBUMS EVER MADE IS EVEN MORE RELEVANT TODAY?

WHAT PROMPTED THIS NEW P.U.L.S.E. extravaganza 12 years after the Division Bell?

When the show was recorded, Pink Floyd's hallmark heady atmosphere needed a whole bunch of new technology to improve the quality of the video footage we shot at Earls Court. The weird thing is that the films we made in 1972 or Pink Floyd in Pompeii (with flared trousers) was fine to put to DVD straight away because it was shot on 35mm film.

What we have here is a chance for improvements in quality for P.U.L.S.E.?

Through extraordinary developments programs that I couldn't have begun to operate even 12 years ago, have made the video world.

So it's a hugely enhanced product compared with original?

Yes, this one's had steroids.

I was intrigued by the section titled "Footlegging the bootlegger". Is this like one in the eye back?

Quite a lot of extra footage was taken by family members and crew and we don't have Gilmour's "Grey Ghost" example, but doing it ourselves means we didn't have access to their VHS. So it's quite nice to put more stuff together and to put it on your PC at home.

It looks fantastic, though.

Yes. But we're still a long way from doing it all. The new technology is an exciting development for enhanced images. And it's a fantastic thing that you can see the whole piece of music on the big screen.

How important is the visual side of Pink Floyd?

You have to strike a balance. You have to avoid doing a "Fantastic". There's a piece of music that makes you think of the word. For us, it's about the music.

And did you rehearse different tracks as you went along?

Yeah, in fact we only started doing Dark Side towards the end of one of the tracks. We had no idea how the whole thing would end up. So it sounds quite "Cliff Richard" to say let's do the show right here.

The time you got to Earls Court was also very different. It was really moving to get together and to play as a single unit. If ever an album deserves to be treated as a live piece, surely Dark Side is it?

It's actually a good length for an audience because something like The Wall tends not leave much room for anything else.

I think it was part of the journey we took on with the Dark Side project. We were too busy with the other things to take the time to do it properly.

This was a very difficult thing to do. For us, it was just about recording a live album.

And did you rehearse different tracks as you went along?

Yes, in fact we only started doing Dark Side towards the end of one of the tracks. We had no idea how the whole thing was going to work.

Do you think it's a more difficult thing to do? I'm not sure. It's a bit tricky. For us, it was just about recording a live album.

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