

NEW GUITARIST - THE OFFICIAL WORD

As some of you already know, at the end of the September tour we saw the departure of Nick Dunne from the ranks. Until now I have kept my silence allowing Nick to make his feelings known through his statement. I felt it more important to carry on with the (hectic) planning of this coming years releases and touring, and so concentrated my efforts in finding a suitable replacement and preparing to record the first batch of new songs. Now we are approaching the end of the year and we now have a large amount of material recording pending mixing, I feel I need to let you all know what happened.

Let me start by saying Nick is an enormous talent and fully deserves to be a success in his own right and I have enjoyed working with him over the last four or so years. However, as is very prevalent in bands, differences often come to a head as it is very difficult keeping four strong personalities on an even keel. I will not go into details as it would be unfair and incorrect of me to do so. Suffice to say I had a conversation with Nick where I felt we addressed a number of issues that I was concerned about and had cleared the air enough for him to carry on working with me. However, he felt differently and I had to accept his decision to leave.

It was, for me, a real loss as Nick had contributed to the band so much and I had come to appreciate his natural affinity with music and will always regard his involvement as significant. However, a band is exactly that, a group of people who MUST pull as a team to even stand a chance of success. This project has taken such a long time to reach this point, and now we have a clear direction, new music, tour dates etc it is imperative that we can all work together to achieve the results we desire. It is a shame that at perhaps the most pivotal moment in my career that Nick chose to leave, although fate has a funny way of intervening and I suspect it will end up being the best decision for all of us.

DEAN HOWARD

I spared no time in selecting Nick's replacement. I have been friends with Dean Howard for many years, he did in fact play guitar on 'Viewfinder' and the original sessions that spawned 'Forgiveness' so Roger, Matt and I knew how he operated very well.

For me, Dean embodies the elements of the 'real' rock musician. He has the talent and natural ability that few have and many dream about. His history lays in evidence around him having been the lead guitar player in T'Pau, played extensively with Ian Gillan and also spend time as the guitar player in Bad Company. He was the first guy I called, and from the moment we all walked into the studio at the end of November to start recording the new material, he fitted like a silk glove even though it has been many years since we worked together. Dean is a different style of player to Nick, but I feel strongly that he understands what he contribution should be, no more, no less. His experience has brought vitality and effortless feeling to the band and I am over the moon with the results so far and I'm sure when you all see the band in the New Year you will be to.

Many thanks



Tobe
Dec 06

