

The Nature of the Beast



Annual Newsletter 1999



NEW CAMEL ALBUM ON SALE NOW!

Rajaz, Camel's newest studio album is here! Confirming a buzzing fanfare of energy that had circulated throughout the internet, *Rajaz* impending arrival is now a reality.

Andrew Latimer came across 'rajaz' while reading the book: "World Music: The Rough Guide" (see page two for more details in an interview with Andrew).

Inbetween their own busy schedules, Colin Bass and Dave Stewart joined Andrew at Camel's studio for recording earlier this year in March. *Rajaz* had been scheduled for a spring release but Camel's worldwide group of distributors appealed to the band for a synchronised release date and all agreed: 11th October 1999!

Rajaz is a fine closure to 1999 made finer still by the participation of keyboardist Ton Scherpenzeel who makes a welcomed guest appearance on several tracks.

CAMEL GOES KAYAKING

The recording of *Rajaz* provided Andrew with the opportunity to reconnect with old friend and former Camel bandmate, Ton Scherpenzeel, albeit in a somewhat unconventional manner. During the late 70's, Ton's striking compositions and keyboard work could be found on Kayak albums which were released on the same US label as Camel. Andrew first heard about Ton from Allan Mason at Janus Records, who gave Andrew two Kayak albums. Andrew instantly liked Tons 'European' style of writing and thought he was "a great player to boot". When

looking for a keyboardist to record 1984's *Stationary Traveller*, Andrew contacted Ton who readily accepted the invitation. Ton contributed his extraordinary talent to "S.T." and to the live *Pressure Points* album and tour as well as *Dust and Dreams* - Camel's triumphant 1992 recording and return to the limelight.

However, one major obstacle had to be overcome before Andrew and Ton's reteaming on *Rajaz* could become a reality. Ton, a resident of Holland, is uncomfortable with air travel. As Andrew had previously relocated from his native England to the US, it seemed the two musicians would never be able to work together again until the wonders of modern technology and a little CD-ROM offered a helping hand. Ton could now record his keyboard parts in his own studio in Holland and electronically send them halfway around the world to an awaiting computer housed within Camel's studio in California!

Each morning, Andrew would eagerly arise and listen to Ton's arrangements, received via audio files. "They were in close contact during the recording process" says Susan Hoover. "It was as if he was in the next room. I could almost see Ton at his keyboards as I listened in the control booth. It was very nearly the same as a typical recording session except he wasn't able to play badminton during lunch breaks as we did during *Stationary Traveller*", adding with a laugh "Well, almost".

Could modern technology have even more surprises in Y2K? Most certainly!



TOURING

Will Camel tour? The bad news is... not in 1999. The good news is that Susan Hoover has confirmed they are discussing the feasibility of a tour in Y2K. "We have had quite a few offers in recent weeks but our energies are focused on the album right now". Not exactly a 'yes' but clearly, they are thinking about it and this has Camel fans holding their collective breath since rumours were rife during the '97 tour that it would be Camel's last. Although CP would not say for certain that Camel will tour, there is an air of cautious optimism to give an extra reason to look forward to the new year.

IN STORE

With the new Camel album now firmly settled in our catalogue, CP is revamping the list of items on offer. There are still copies of *Camel on the Road 1982* available, so it remains on our form at this time. CP is also having a 'sale' of sorts to make room for new products. The 1992 and 1997 Tour shirts (size XL only) have been reduced in price along with our Harbour of Tears T-shirt (both L and XL available). Please check our merchandise order form for prices.

Long-time fans Steve Nicholas and Wes Seavey sent Andrew their version of a *Nude* mouse pad. This instantly set off a round of good natured theft at CP as everyone wanted it and the mouse pad often disappeared mysteriously (it's now securely in Andrew's studio). CP has decided to offer mouse pads on our merchandise list. To begin, these will be limited editions starting with *Nude* and *Rajaz*. If the response is good, CP will consider artwork from Camel's past albums.

As *Rajaz* is Camel's last recording of the century, we wanted to include a special t-shirt to coincide with the release. Grey, with short sleeves, it has 3 center buttons with the *Rajaz* logo (see overleaf) embroidered on the left. A definite compliment to the recording, especially as a gift.



Top Photo: Photo-shoot Foolery.
Andrew with Colin and Dove

From left:
Andrew
Dove
Colin



Rajaz logo: 4 colours including blue and sky blue

RAJAZ

Release date: 11th October 1999
Price: \$16 (USA) \$18 (Non-USA)

Track listing:

Three Wishes
Lost and Found
Final Encore
Rajaz
Shout
Straight To My Heart
Sahara
Lawrence

Running time: 58:11

Equipment List

Colin:

Zon fretless bass
Fender Jazz bass
Trace Elliot bass stack

Dave:

Pearl Studio Series Birchwood kit
Zildjian cymbals
Vata #7 sticks
banana and egg maracas

Andrew:

Guitars: Burny
Martin D1 acoustic
Roger Giffin
'71 Fender Strat
'80 Gibson Les Paul Heritage
'56 Gibson Les Paul Gold Top

Amps: Kelly Amp
Mesa Boogie Heartbreaker
Fender Super Reverb
Marshall Bluesbreaker

Effects: Ebo
Rat Fuzz
Ibanez Tube Screamer
Prescription Electronics Vibe Unit and
experience pedal
Coloursound Tonebender

Ton:

Synths/samplers:
Proteus 2000
D70
Roland S-770 sampler
UltraProteus
Yamaha TG77
ProTools 4.3.

16-track, 2 inch tape; mixed to half-inch tape
(analogue) digitally mastered with HDCD (High
Density Compact Digital)

Special Note: Camel thank Chris Now for his
expertise in Pro Tools which helped to make
Ton's recording on Rajaz possible.

An Interview with Andrew Latimer...

by Paris Ford

PF: Where did the title 'Rajaz' come from?

AL: It came from a book that CB (Colin Bass) gave me.. "World Music: A Rough Guide". A section on scales and rhythm mentioned an ancient Arabic form of musical poetry that was likened to the metre of a camel's hooves. A poet would apparently sing a sort of impromptu lyric in a rhythm that matched the pace of the camels. It would help the animals and humans forget their burdens as they travelled many hundreds of miles across the deserts to their journey's end. I loved the idea that a camel's rhythm would help people on their journey - wherever they were going.

PF: This album sounds different than the last two studio releases, why is that?

AL: Well, firstly, I have have a bigger studio now so this time around we were all able to play together live in the studio. Secondly, Colin, Dave and I recorded onto a 16-track, 2-inch tape which has a different sound... it breathes, it has more air around it. So these two factors played a major role in making it sound different. I also wanted to simplify and get to the core of the music. Less orchestration, and a more open feel.

PF: Can you tell us about the material? Is it a concept album?

AL: No, not as such. It's about what was happening to me at the time... finding new relationships with old friends, letting go of other relationships and discovering that it's okay to be 50. The songs cover a wide chunk of my past and present. It has elements of the early Camel and elements of Camel now. There's also more guitar on this one.

PF: I was really excited to hear you were working with Ton Scherpenzeel again.

AL: Yes, that was good fun. I used the computer in a way I'd never dreamed possible. Ton sent an audio file of his parts through the internet so I could hear them right away. I could hardly believe it, him in Holland, me in California. It was fantastic. When he'd finished, he sent a CD which I then synchronised to my 16 track and off we went. I love Ton's style and touch, and I'm really excited about this medium. It means that Ton and I can work together on future projects without having to trek



half way 'round the world to do it. I'm hoping to contribute to a project of Ton's next year.

PF: What about touring? I've heard a rumour that the 1997 tour was your last?

AL: Well, I suppose that came from me when I said it was becoming more and more difficult to finance and, at that time, we were all pretty drained. But, time has a way of healing and renewing so who knows? We've had quite a few flattering offers and I dearly love touring so... But I just can't say yet. It really depends on the album sales, though it pains me to say that.

PF: And the future...?

AL: I've started work on some new material with the aim to close the gap between releases but somehow an album just seems to take the time it takes. They sort of have a life of their own and my best intentions seem to not make any difference. And of course, if we should tour, that would change that plan right away. It seems plans just get pushed around to make room for what ever is going to happen. I'll let you know when I know, fair enough?

PF: Fair enough! Thanks, Andrew.



A quick snapshot of Ton as he recorded his parts in his studio in Holland; Andrew during recording of the same time, in his studio in California.



CAMEL

www.camelproductions.com
FAX YOUR ORDER: 650-879-9711



MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

Important! Include return fax number

MERCHANDISE	QUANTITY	PRICES		TOTAL
		USA	Non-USA	
CDs				
Dust and Dreams	_____	x \$16.00	x \$18.00	= \$ _____
Camel	_____	x \$16.00	x \$18.00	= \$ _____
Camel on the Road 1972	_____	x \$10.00	x \$11.00	= \$ _____
Never Let Go	_____	x \$25.00	x \$28.00	= \$ _____
▲ Camel on the Road 1982	_____	x \$11.00	x \$12.00	= \$ _____
Harbour of Tears	_____	x \$16.00	x \$18.00	= \$ _____
Camel on the Road 1981	_____	x \$14.00	x \$15.00	= \$ _____
Coming of Age	_____	x \$25.00	x \$28.00	= \$ _____
☞ RAJAZ (1999 studio recording)	_____	x \$16.00	x \$18.00	= \$ _____
CAMEL LAPEL PIN (red, in Camel shape)	_____	x \$ 5.00	x \$ 5.00	= \$ _____
20th Anniversary Tour Program-FREE IF ORDERED WITH OTHER ITEMS	_____	x \$ 5.00	x \$ 5.00	= \$ _____
POSTERS: Dust and Dreams, Never Let Go (circle your choice)	_____	x \$11.00	x \$11.00	= \$ _____
☞ MOUSE PADS Nude Rajaz (circle your choice/s)	_____	x \$14.00	x \$15.00	= \$ _____
T-SHIRTS (100% cotton)				
Dust and Dreams, black, w/image from album	___ L ___ XL	x \$16.00	x \$20.00	= \$ _____
▲ 1992 Tour, short-sleeved, white w/red triangle	___ XL ONLY	x \$10.00	x \$10.00	= \$ _____
Moonmadness, black, camel in spacesuit	___ L ___ XL	x \$20.00	x \$25.00	= \$ _____
▲ Harbour of Tears, green with image of Angel	___ L ___ XL	x \$12.00	x \$15.00	= \$ _____
▲ 1997 Tour T, yellow, front w/camels, back w/dates	___ XL ONLY	x \$12.00	x \$15.00	= \$ _____
Coming of Age, dark blue w/Hale-Bopp comet image	___ L ___ XL	x \$20.00	x \$25.00	= \$ _____
☞ RAJAZ (3 buttons down front; gray w/ Rajaz logo embroidered on left)	___ L ___ XL	x \$25.00	x \$28.00	= \$ _____
SWEATSHIRT zip front, black w/embroidered 20th Anniv. logo	___ L ___ XL	x \$35.00	x \$39.00	= \$ _____
VIDEO (Format guide: USA, Canada, Japan, etc. = NTSC; Europe, etc = PAL)				
Coming of Age, Camel's 1997 tour	Format Qty			
w/Andrew, Colin, Dave Stewart (drums) & Foss Patterson (keys)	PAL _____	x \$30.00	x \$35.00	= \$ _____
	NTSC _____	x \$30.00	x \$35.00	= \$ _____
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ALL ORDERS TO SOUTH AMERICA MUST ADD EXTRA \$9 FOR REGISTRATION OF PACKAGE				→→→→→ \$ _____
Allow 1-6 weeks delivery time on all orders.				Newsletter Contribution \$ _____
▲ ON SALE! Items marked with this symbol are in limited supply. They will not be available after our stock runs out.				ORDER TOTAL \$ _____

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Mark this box if you are not presently on our mailing list

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Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

IF YOU HAVE NOT ORDERED BEFORE using a credit card you MUST include a copy of both sides of the card, CLEARLY SHOWING ALL ACCOUNT NUMBERS. Orders will not be processed without this. IF YOU HAVE ORDERED BEFORE with your credit card, a copy is not necessary. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND CAREFULLY!! Account numbers are not kept on file. Prices valid through end Sept. 2000

Camel Productions, P.O. Box 4876, Mtn. View, Ca. 94040 (U.S.A.)

If you are new to Camel's mailing list, we welcome you. The Nature of the Beast is an annual newsletter for which we ask a one-time 'contribution' of \$10. Once on our list, we will send you TNOTB each year, generally in the month of October. If you register inbetween our release dates, the copy you receive will be from the previous year. Updates can be found on our website: www.camelproductions.com.

Most of the questions we receive from newly registered fans concerns Camel's discography. This is now listed below, including the images of the artwork with a brief description. Eventually, you will also find these on our website along with our merchandise items, in glorious colour. But please be patient. The Camel website is a work in progress. We got a bit ahead of ourselves last year and announced the site prematurely. The recording of 'Rajaz' kept everyone at CP very busy and now post-production activities will keep us just as busy right through to Y2K.

Another question we often get is if fans can support Camel more effectively by purchasing through CP. This is true, but our distributors work very hard to get Camel product into the shops so buying from the record outlets is really just as effective because the shop owners see the response and buy more stock from CP. This elevates the profile of the band. Fans from the past, still unfortunately unaware that Camel are going strong, 're-discover' the band by browsing in the shop. So no matter from whom you buy, you support the band directly and we remain in this century, as we will in the next, ever grateful for this special niche you have created for Camel.

No one can possibly predict the impact the millenium will or will not have. CP will close, as we have each year, from 15th December to 15th January, regardless of which century it is. But it might be a good idea to order what you want now and not put it off, just in case.

As always, we will light an hour candle at midnight on 31st December. Camel and All at CP wish everyone happiness, health and good fortune. Our thanks to you all for making the 20th Century so splendid for Camel.

Looking forward to seeing you in Y2K!
Susan Hoover

Newsletter written by David Scott and Paris Ford
Edited by Salanarah Cook
Photos by Jay Blakesburg
For back-issues of Camel newsletters, send \$10 to:

Camel Productions
P.O. Box 4876
Mtn. View, Ca. 94040 (USA)



DUST AND DREAMS 1992: Andy Latimer, Colin Bass, Paul Burgess & Tom Scherpenzeel. All new material; studio recording. 16 trks, 47:56 minutes. Beautiful melodies and story inspired by John Steinbeck's



CAMEL 1973: Andy Latimer, Pete Bardens, Andy Ward & Doug Ferguson. All original material; 7 trks; 40:22 minutes; 1st Camel recording ever made. It sounds as good as it did then!



OFFICIAL BOOTLEGI CAMEL ON THE ROAD 1972: Andy Latimer, Pete Bardens, Andy Ward & Doug Ferguson; 4 trks; 44:15 minutes. Early days, early material. Delightful souvenir of '72 tour!



OFFICIAL BOOTLEGI NEVER LET GO 1992 Live: Andy Latimer, Colin Bass, Mickey Simmonds and Paul Burgess; w/songs from past & *Dust and Dreams*; double CD; 28 trks; 2 hours. Incredible version of *Ice*.

Camel Productions carries only those titles marked with an *

- *CAMEL (1973)
- MIRAGE (1974)
- SNOW GOOSE (1975)
- MOONMADNESS (1976)
- RAIN DANCES (1977)
- A LIVE RECORD (1978; live)
- BREATHLESS (1978)
- I CAN SEE YOUR HOUSE FROM HERE (1979)
- NUDE (1981)
- CHAMELEON (Best of...) (1982 - deleted)
- SINGLE FACTOR (1982)
- STATIONARY TRAVELLER (1984)



OFFICIAL BOOTLEGI CAMEL ON THE ROAD 1982: Andy Latimer, Kit Watkins, David Paton, Chris Rainbow, Andy Dalby & Shurin Tooh; 14 trks; 66:49 minutes; great fun with Alan Parsons' musicians!



HARBOUR OF TEARS: Andy Latimer, Colin Bass, David Paton, Mickey Simmonds; 1996 all new material; studio recording. 12 trks; 45:53 minutes. Tales of an Irish past with incredible guitar.



OFFICIAL BOOTLEGI CAMEL ON THE ROAD 1981: Andy Latimer, Kit Watkins, Jan Schellhaas, Andy Ward & Colin Bass; '81 tour w/songs from *Nude*; 12 trks; 58:47. Last recording w/ drummer Andy Ward



OFFICIAL BOOTLEGI COMING OF AGE 1997 Live: Andy Latimer, Colin Bass, Foss Patterson & Dave Stewart; '97 tour w/songs from past & *Harbour of Tears*; double CD; 28 trks; 2 hours. Also on video!

- THE COLLECTION (1986; compilation)
- LANDSCAPES (1991; compilation)
- *DUST AND DREAMS (1992)
- *CAMEL ON THE ROAD 1972 (1993; live)
- ECHOES (1993; chronological anthology)
- *NEVER LET GO (1993; live, double CD)
- *CAMEL ON THE ROAD 1982 (1994; live - TO BE DELETED)
- *HARBOUR OF TEARS (1996)
- *CAMEL ON THE ROAD 1981 (1997; live)
- *COMING OF AGE (1998; live double CD and VIDEO)
- MASTER SERIES (1998; compilation)
- *RAJAZ (1999; LAST Camel recording in the 20th Century!)

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