

The Nature of the Beast



Annual Issue

Year 2000

CAMEL ON THE ROAD 2000



Andrew at London's Astoria
(photo by Keith Curtis)

"WE ARE KNOWN BY THE TRACKS WE LEAVE"

And the Camel tracks laid down on Tour 2K have left audiences gasping for more. Hailed as the 'best lineup since the original', Camel hit the road and the stage with a force not even the band members realised they possessed. But, before the first chord was struck by these multi-talented musicians, they were threatened with cancellation on the very eve of rehearsals...

In the early days of setting up the tour, CP was buzzing with serruptitious activity. It had been quietly decided that French-Canadian keyboardist, Guy LeBlanc would join Camel's Tour 2000. Recommended by Robert La Duca, east coast promoter of Nearfest, Guy (pronounced 'Gee' with a hard 'g' sound) was approached and after several

Denis Clement at London's Astoria
(photo by Keith Curtis)



discussions and meetings it was agreed Guy would join the tour. Both he and Andrew Latimer began work in the early summer. For all involved, it was a time of great pleasure. Such an early start to production created an atmosphere of relaxed anticipation and confidence. Guy's inclusion in the band was kept confidential.

Meanwhile, it was also agreed that Clive Bunker (former Jethro Tull) would join Camel on drums. It seemed a dream lineup and once announced on Camel's web site, letters and emails began pouring in. As Latimer and LeBlanc worked diligently on the set list, selecting numbers from votes sent in through the web site, the excitement began to gather as full band rehearsals drew near. But Camel would discover at the Eleventh Hour that Clive Bunker would be unable to perform with the band after all. This fact alone threw CP into heightened activity but then, just 2 days before rehearsals, matters took an even greater turn for the worse. Manager Susan Hoover was seriously injured in a freak accident while riding her horse and had to be airlifted to Stanford Medical Center. Andrew Latimer rushed to her side leaving CP to wonder how this obstacle could be overcome. With no drummer and the loss of Camel's main drive behind the scenes, cancellation seemed a certainty.

But word quickly came back that, despite her injuries, Susan Hoover was insisting the tour continue. Guy LeBlanc knew of a drummer from Quebec (French-Canadian, of course) and with a make or break attitude, and only 10 days left for rehearsal, Denis Clement joined the tour. In spite of the previous week's upheaval, the four musicians had an instant rapport. They were about to set off a spark of kinetic energy that would ignite the stage.

The first surprise in store for audiences was the set list. The excitement of fans hearing material they had always wished to hear produced a rising energy that spurred the band onwards. The next surprise was the tangible energy with which the musicians played. Fans have come to expect excellence from Latimer and Bass but the two musicians exceeded these expectations and newcomers LeBlanc and Clement were more than a mere compliment to the unit. Word quickly went out that this Camel show was something different. The internet sizzled with fan reviews. "Run, don't walk to a Camel gig" became an internet mantra. Guy LeBlanc attacked "Lady Fantasy" like a wildman, making the song his own and Denis Clement bowled over one audience after another with his unabashed, unapologetic energy. Audiences leaned backward with the force of Camel's performance.

After an intermission, the band returned centre stage for an unexpected acoustic set. Humour and intimacy replaced the power driven first hour. Audiences now leaned forward. The vocal arrangements captured the limelight with rich, three-part harmonies. The return to electric instruments was seamless and the build up for the



Guy LeBlanc at London's Astoria
(photo by Keith Curtis)

finale began. Some evenings would witness 3 encores. Less meant only that there were curfews to be met. No one could get enough of this band. On Camel tour Y2K, unlike any since the early days, dreams and memories were both remembered and created.

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

Guy LeBlanc has been well-known in rock-fusion circles for a number of years. An independent recording artist who records and produces his own material, Guy has for many years elected to stay faithful to his own, single-minded approach to music. Compromise would not be an option for Guy and his band Nathan Mahl. 'Mahl' represents the very essence of independent music today. You can find more about Guy LeBlanc's 'Nathan Mahl' on the web: (<http://home.istar.ca/~natmahl/>).

Denis (pronounced 'Den-ee') Clement has taken everyone by storm. Free lancing in his home town of Maniwaki, Quebec, Denis' only awareness of



Colin during the acoustic set at
The Junction in Cambridge
(photo by Steve Howes)

Camel was the album sleeve of Moonmadness which he recalls seeing at his uncle's house when he was, er, very young. When Camel telephoned him in early August Denis was intrigued by the offer and accepted. He listened to a cassette of the set list while he quickly organised the legal documents necessary for travel and work in foreign countries, an act filled with intense pressure due to the late date of his inclusion and the ever encroaching tour dates. Denis Clement showed his ability to handle this pressure with a boundless joy behind his drum kit.

SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR?

The South American leg of Camel's tour was regrettably postponed. Denis Clement had a prior commitment and Andrew Latimer needed to return to CP to assist in the preparation for year-end activities at CP most especially because of recent events. This decision was a disappointment to both Camel and South American fans alike, but CP remains optimistic and hopes to have Camel performing in South American in 2001. Check our web site for updates.

TOP TEN

UK's Channel 4 TV will include Camel in their enormously popular music series, Top Ten. This up-coming edition of the program will focus on the top ten bands of progressive rock. Interviews with past band members, archival footage and recent performances will comprise Camel's portion of this historical account of Progressive Rock. As CP goes to press, air time is scheduled for January 2001 but check our web site for the exact date.

FACELIFT

If you have been on CP's mailing list you will have observed the many changes we have been through over the years. Y2K is no exception. CP has attempted to simplify things and to create a more fairly based price structure for all fans. The shipping charges placed on each order often do not cover the real costs of shipping and handling which can be very complicated. After much discussion and calculation we settled on a single price list for all countries with some slight adjustment in shipping charges. CP hopes this will provide more equality while continuing to keep our prices steady.

NEW OFFICIAL BOOTLEG!

...well, sort of. This new-old release is actually a re-release, originally bootlegged on vinyl and then bootlegged again from the vinyl and titled "Famous Rock Dreams". Just before the start of Camel's Y2K tour, it came to the attention of CP that an established record label was about to release this bootleg under a new name of 'God of Light' after an unscrupulous individual illegally sold them the tape (and kept the money). CP promptly objected and the record label shelved the release temporarily so CP has elected to put it out officially under the title "CAMEL 73-75 Gods of Light". The Cd does have similar titles to our Camel on the Road 1972 release but they are different versions from different performances so the release is worth the effort. Be sure it has our official bootleg logo and a catalogue number of CP010 or you'll only be supporting the profiteers. Recordings are from the Greasy Truckers album and BBC broadcasts.



Track listing:

God of Light Revisited
White Rider
Lady Fantasy
Arabaluba
Excerpts from the Snow Goose

RETIREMENT FOR THE BEAST?

CP has never 'charged' for our newsletter. We have always wanted this to be a free information service as a means to say thanks for your support. In recent publications, we have appealed for \$10 contributions and the response was generous from a small number of fans. But not enough to keep us going in this fashion. A way to help us cut expenses would be to transfer your newsletter delivery from 'snail-mail' to email. If you would like to have the newsletter sent to you via email, send your email address to: newsletter@camelproductions.com. You will automatically be put on a recipient list.

VIDEO IN SIGHT?

Camel did indeed video record a Los Angeles performance and there will be our customary Official Bootleg of the Y2K tour. Release dates are not yet available but check our site for progress on these up-coming treasures.

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SPECIAL! GUEST PASS SOUVENIRS

CP has a limited number of left-over back-stage satin passes that we have decided to sell as souvenirs. They are now obsolete but still quite beautiful and autographed by Andrew, Colin, Guy and Denis. Be sure to include your first name and Andrew will dedicate it to you personally or if you should buy them for xmas gifts, include the name of the person this unusual gift is for. Please remember these are only souvenirs and not a valid pass for a concert. They are limited so it will be first come, first served!



Acoustical moments with Guy and Denis
(Guy's photo: Juan Joy at the Belly Up)
(Denis' photo: Keith Curtis at the Astoria)



Doing what they do best
(photo: Robin Turner at the Astoria)



Guy's own 'Lady Fantasy'
(photo by Steve Hawes)



Spockian musical mindmeld.
(photo by Robin Turner at the Astoria)

ON STAGE



Andrew, enjoying it like never before
(Photo by Robin Turner at the Astoria)

CAMEL Merchandise Order Form



Fax to: 650-879-9711 Mail to: PO Box 4876 Mtn. View, Ca. 94040

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
COMPACT DISCS			
Dust and Dreams ('92 studio recording)	_____ x	\$17.00 =	\$_____
Camel ('73 studio recording)	_____ x	\$17.00 =	\$_____
Camel on the Road 1972 (Live '72)	_____ x	\$12.00 =	\$_____
Never Let Go (Live '92)	_____ x	\$25.00 =	\$_____
Camel on the Road 1982 (Live '82)	_____ x	\$12.00 =	\$_____
Harbour of Tears ('96 studio recording)	_____ x	\$17.00 =	\$_____
Camel on the Road 1981 (Live '81)	_____ x	\$12.00 =	\$_____
Coming of Age (Live '97)	_____ x	\$25.00 =	\$_____
Rajaz (1999 studio recording)	_____ x	\$17.00 =	\$_____
CAMEL 73-75 GODS OF LIGHT (live recording; old bootleg re-release)	_____ x	\$12.00 =	\$_____
MISC			
TOUR CAP (black w/CAMEL embroidered in white on front - one size fits all)	_____ x	\$15.00 =	\$_____
POSTERS: (circle your choice/s) Dust and Dreams Never Let Go	_____ x	\$11.00 =	\$_____
MOUSE PADS: (circle your choice/s) Nude Rajaz	_____ x	\$15.00 =	\$_____
STICKER (spread the word with this 4 x 4 inch Camel sticker)	_____ x	\$ 1.00 =	\$_____
SATIN GUEST PASS SOUVENIR - Autographed by band (but won't get you into a gig!)	_____ x	\$ 5.00 =	\$_____
T-SHIRTS			
Dust and Dreams (black, w/image from album)	_____ x	\$20.00 =	\$_____
Moonmadness (black, camel in spacesuit)	_____ x	\$25.00 =	\$_____
Harbour of Tears (green with image of Angel)	_____ x	\$10.00 =	\$_____
Tour-T 1997 (yellow, front w/camels, dates on back)	_____ x	\$10.00 =	\$_____
Coming of Age (dark blue w/Hale-Bopp comet image)	_____ x	\$25.00 =	\$_____
RAJAZ (3 buttons on front; gray w/ Rajaz logo embroidered)	_____ x	\$28.00 =	\$_____
Tour-T 2000 (black w/blue camels; dates on back)	_____ x	\$25.00 =	\$_____
SWEATSHIRT (zip front, black w/embroidered 20th Anniv. logo)	_____ x	\$39.00 =	\$_____
		*add \$2	
VIDEO			
VIDEO FORMAT GUIDE: USA, Canada, Japan, etc. = NTSC; Europe, etc. = PAL		NTSC or PAL (circle one)	
Coming of Age ('97 tour w/Andrew, Colin, Dave Stewart and Foss Patterson)	_____ x	\$30.00 =	\$_____
PAYMENT INFO			
PAYMENT in U.S. DOLLARS ONLY (VISA, MasterCard or International Money Order)		SUB TOTAL =	\$_____
SHIPPING: If you live in Japan please add 25% to the total of your order;		SHIPPING @ _____% =	\$_____
If you live in the United States, please add 10% to the total of your order;		to Calif add 8.25%TAX =	\$_____
If you live anywhere else in the world, please add 15% to the total of your order.		to South America add =	\$ 9.00
California residents MUST add 8.25% to the total of your order		Newsletter contribution =	\$_____
US residents only may pay with a check drawn on a US bank		TOTAL =	\$_____
ALL SOUTH AMERICAN ORDERS ADD \$9 FOR REGISTRATION OF PACKAGE			

PLEASE FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____ M/O _____ Check _____ VISA _____ MasterCard _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Fax #: _____ Customer #: _____

Signature: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Card#: _____

Allow 1-6 weeks delivery time on all orders.

Has your address has changed? Yes _____ No _____

Have you have ordered before? Yes _____ No _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND CAREFULLY!! 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 but you must fill in the information to authorize the charge. Account numbers are not kept on file.

Prices valid through end Oct. 2001



ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

It is said you will discover who your friends are if you inherit money or if you are in great need. We discovered the truth of the latter when I was injured and CP effectively ground to a halt. Friends were in grateful abundance and we want to acknowledge them now. Of immediate professional concern was the tour dates which had yet to be sent to Camel's mailing list, the very backbone of our support. Designer Stacey Oku immediately created a tour date post card and, along with partner Joe Sigretto, organised this important production, delivering and collecting valuable supplies, making sure fans received news of the tour -- late, yes, but the alternative was unthinkable. Kelly McKnight drove endless miles to and from hospitals, and to airports, collecting crew members, taking whomever wherever without hesitation; Kira Gaensler was a saving grace that would never falter; Mary Wells took the helm and kept it steady when things got shakey; Cliff Wilderman gave homecare and travelled 1,500 miles to bring the musical gear back to CP; Roger Wells proved his true heart; Nick Barrett lent a much-needed, level-headed perspective; Peter Gee kept the UK flag flying high; Willie Sue Orr gave imperative maintenance at the homefront; Anne Prinz brought a smile in a living balloon; Magdalena E. and Carolyn Bernardi cooked and delivered food fit for Kings to a hungry band and crew; Jeff Gebhardt gave discreet assistance at a crucial point in rehearsals; Karen Neves brought a light in the fog; and Diego, Gary and Gianna gave their tender touch at a much-needed time. It is no exaggeration to say that without these people, Camel would not have gotten to the stage. And once on stage, the show was made that much greater for the voracious reception by this family made of Camel fans. Every pain was worth the effort.

This year, the hour candle we traditionally light on New Year's Eve will burn that much brighter with that much more significance. We have much to be thankful for, not least of which is the gift of another day to celebrate life. We also celebrate the music, our tenacity, and the power of love and friendship. I was deeply touched by your cards and good wishes. They contributed enormously to my speedy recovery.

With fondest regards, I and all at CP wish everyone an equal measure of our happiness, health and good fortune. Susan Hoover

CAMEL DISCOGRAPHY	
 <p>CAMEL 1973: Andy Latimer, Pete Bardsens, Andy Ward & Doug Ferguson; 7 trks; 40:22 minutes; 1st Camel recording.</p>	<p>*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) PRESSURE POINTS (1985; live CD; video DELETED) 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) *HARBOUR OF TEARS (1996) *CAMEL ON THE ROAD 1981 (1997; live) *COMING OF AGE (1997; live double CD and VIDEO) MASTER SERIES (1998; compilation) *RAJAZ (1999)</p>
 <p>DUST AND DREAMS 1992: Latimer, Bass, Paul Burgess, Ton Scherpenzeel; 16 trks; 47:56 minutes.</p>	 <p>HARBOUR OF TEARS: Andy Latimer, Colin Bass, David Paton, Mickey Simmonds; 13 trks; 45:53 minutes; 1996.</p>
 <p>WARNING: OFFICIAL BOOTLEGI CAMEL ON THE ROAD 1972: Andy Latimer, Pete Bardsens, Andy Ward & Doug Ferguson; 4 trks; 44:18 minutes.</p>	 <p>OFFICIAL BOOTLEGI CAMEL ON THE ROAD 1982: Andy Latimer, Kit Watkins, Jan Schelhaas, Andy Ward; 13 trks; 58:47.</p>
 <p>OFFICIAL BOOTLEGI NEVER LET GO 1992 Live: Latimer, Bass, Mickey Simmonds and Paul Burgess; double CD; 28 trks; 2 hours.</p>	 <p>OFFICIAL BOOTLEGI COMING OF AGE 1997 Live: Latimer, Bass, Foss Pattinson & Dave Stewart; double CD; 28 trks; 2 hours. Also on video!</p>
 <p>RAJAZ (1999): Latimer, Bass, Dave Stewart w/ special guest Ton Scherpenzeel; 8 trks; 58:09 minutes.</p>	

