

Pontiac plays host to Power Station tour debut

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Tonight Pontiac will go down in the music history books as the first U.S. tour stop of the original Power Station lineup, well sort of.

Singer Robert Palmer, guitarist Andy Taylor, and drummer Tony Thompson perform at The Power Station Thursday, Sept. 4, at Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac.

Taylor explained that his former Duran Duran and The Power Station bandmate, bassist John Taylor, had every intention of recording and performing with The Power Station. However, personal problems forced him to leave the music business.

DeCadenet) and it just so happened that they were working together at the time. It does all sort of different things to people," Taylor explained.

For John Taylor, it brought on a drinking problem for which he sought help. "I don't think he's got the energy to hang out. Being in bands probably is not the right place for him. If he doesn't want to have a drink, he shouldn't be on tour unless everyone was on the Jesus Christ kick. That's not going to happen. We're English for God's sake."

No, what he's doing is the best thing for him. He's got a little girl (age 6) to take care of. There's nothing more important than that."

The Power Station's self-titled debut went platinum in the mid-1980s with hits like "Some Like It Hot" and the T. Rex cover "Get It On (Bang A Gong)." The band performed live once with the original lineup on an episode of "Saturday Night Live" before

Andy Taylor and Palmer had a "huge ruck." Palmer left and returned to his solo career.

The Taylors began discussing the reformation of The Power Station in 1991 but it wasn't until two years later that they took the idea seriously.

"It was one of those things, because of the cast of characters that were involved, that if it came back around and it was the original lineup it would be fun to do. I learned a lot from them when I was 23-24, when I was greener and rough around the edges."

"I wasn't sure what would happen if we got back together. We may get there and hate the sight of each other. But it turned out different. We started playing and writing and basically everybody enjoyed themselves."

To replace Taylor, the band called upon Thompson's former Chic bandmate, bassist Bernard Edwards. At the first rehearsal, Palmer brought rough drafts of "Life Forces" and "Fancy That"

while Taylor had in hand "She Can Rock It," "Notoriety," and "Living in Fear."

After four to five weeks, the band had the 11 songs that make up its latest album "Living in Fear" (Guardian). Soon after mixing the album, Edwards went to Japan to perform with musician Nile Rogers. He died a few days later of influenza at age 43.

"Living in Fear" in no way resembles The Power Station's groovy debut effort. A straight-ahead pop album, "Living in Fear" carries a few hard rock chords in the title track and in "Dope."

"I think it's a lot more of a complete album," Taylor explained. If the band had not changed "the 10 years gap would have meant nothing."

Taylor expects this to be a one-off effort.

"There's no plan to do another one. It's an open-ended thing. If we want to we can. I would think that we would make another record if John is involved."

The Power Station performs Thursday, Sept. 4, at Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$23 at the door. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the all-ages show. For more information, call (248) 333-2362.

The Belgium rock band K's Choice feels fortunate for the success it has had with the single "Not An Addict" from its album "Paradise in Me" (Sony 500 Music).

"With 'Not An Addict' it was good timing. It's a good radio song. You have to be a little lucky with that, I've learned. You don't think about what when you're writing. You don't think about if it's catchy enough," singer Sarah Bettens said.

Apparently it was. The song, which builds from simple drum beats to a raging swirl of guitars, bass and drums, was one of the hit songs of this summer. Besides pushing K's Choice into the spotlight, "Not An Addict" gave Bettens the opportunity to speak her mind.

"It's not about me or about a friend. It's a subject that I wanted to say something about. I'm doing it in a different way (first person). It's such an old cliché subject and kids have heard about it a million times - what they can do and cannot do. That doesn't change the fact that it's a very big problem. Also, being around it so much I wanted to say something about it."

K's Choice, Protein and The Vents perform Saturday, Sept. 6, at the 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are \$11 in advance and at the door. For more information, call (248) 335-8100.

If you have a question or comment for Christina Fuoco, you can write to her in care of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Scheraga Road, Livonia, or you can leave her a message at (313) 953-2047, mailbox No. 2130, or via e-mail at CFuoco@aol.com

Hollywood from page E1

dio muddles with the finished product any more than has already been reported, you might want to wait for the inevitable director's cut on video. (Opens Oct. 3)

■ "Seven Years in Tibet" - Brad Pitt gets unglamorous again as real-life Austrian mountaineer Heinrich Harrer, who was captured by Allied forces during World War II and eventually landed in the path of the young Dalai Lama. From Jean-Jacques Annaud, who logged plenty of time in the mountains with 1989's "The Bear." (Opens Oct. 8)

■ "A Life Less Ordinary" - Director Danny Boyle reunites with "Trainspotting" star Ewan McGregor in an oddball love diary. He's a disgruntled janitor who kidnaps the boss' daughter (Cameron Diaz) only to be foiled

by a pair of angels (Holly Hunter and Delroy Lindo) who insist that they were meant for each other. (Opens Oct. 24)

■ "Boogie Nights" - What you didn't see in "The People vs. Larry Flynt." A behind-the-scenes look at the burgeoning adult movie industry in the 1970s should be heavy on polyester, Disco, and yes, sex, which is why it has been delayed from its original May release. Mark ("Marky Mark") Wahlberg and Julianne Moore star, along with Burt Reynolds. (Opens Nov. 7)

■ "Starship Troopers" - Giant insects are apparently the stars of this war film in the guise of science fiction epic from Paul Verhoeven, no stranger to the

genre after "Total Recall" and "RoboCop." (Opens Nov. 7)

■ "The Truman Show" - After an entertaining return to slapstick ("Liar, Liar"), Jim Carrey goes high concept again with the story of an insurance salesman who realizes that his life is actually a staged TV show. With veteran director Peter Weir ("Dead Poet's Society") at the helm, this hopefully won't become another "Cable Guy." (Opens Nov. 14)

As good as these movies may sound, they are only a warmup for what looks like an amazing slew of holiday releases. Not only do we get new films from Woody Allen, Quentin Tarantino, the Coen brothers and Martin Scorsese, we finally get to see if James Cameron's mega-budget "Titanic" sinks or floats.



Deadly: Grace McKenna (Jennifer Lopez) and con man Bobby Cooper (Sean Penn) find themselves caught up in a deadly game in the black comedy/drama "U-Turn."

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Wig from page E1

We're kind of simplifying some things as we go along. I think sometimes we're trying to write more songs, per se, instead of always writing the crazy sound-trucky stuff that we can write so easily. Sometimes it's a little challenge to write these songs," Falls explained.

"Wireland" was originally due in stores last August but was pushed multiple times. Wig recorded what it thought was "the album" shortly after finishing a grueling tour in support of "Deliverance" (Island). The ambient rock band's artist and repertoire representative at Island thought differently.

"She said that the last two songs we wrote are the coolest songs on the record that we'd recorded so far," explained Nova, who could not recall which two songs about which she was speaking.

"She wanted us to write and record two more songs. Our mind-set was we just finished our record. If anybody else had said that to us we would have said OK. Since it was the label, we were kind of heady at first. But she was totally right. We did two songs and two more after that."

Like the Detroit rock band

Horace, Wig sees the delay of its album as a good thing.

"That was the best thing in the world for this album. Since then we wrote two more songs that weren't on the album. We remixed the whole record. We worked with some great producers and engineers." Falls explained.

That list includes Stephen Stuart-Short (Echo and the Bunnymen and Peter Gabriel), Keith Cleversley (Flaming Lips, Spiritualized, Mercury Rev), and Andy Johns (Led Zeppelin, Television), along with local producer/engineers Chris Varady, Dave Feeny, and Al Sutton.

Traces of the producers' influences can be found throughout the album. One of the future singles, "California Poppy," wraps Echo and the Bunnymen-like soaring guitars around the toe-tapping hook-laden lyrics. The twinkling guitars and Nova's distorted vocals in "Negativland," have elements of Mercury Rev.

As the spelling suggests, the song expresses Wig's love of the controversial group.

"We're interested in their whole 'throwing a wrench at things' just to see where people draw their lines. We were actually arguing about it the other day

- who writes what and who owns what. In a band situation like ours, you could say that we are definitely all involved in the writing," Nova said.

"Negativland talks about who owns music and when you sample from someone else, did you author the song still and what not."

Falls - who graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in psychology for "purely self help" reasons - calls the dreamy, 8:04-minute title track of Wig's album "my little gem."

"It's my opus. It's like a three-part epic. I don't think bands are doing that very much any more."

Last month, Wig became a five-part epic with the addition of former Plymouth-Canton-area resident Wayne Faler, formerly of the hard rock band Philo Beddow.

"He plays rhythm guitar and keyboard stuff, some back-up vocals. He's our little utility man," Falls said. "He really thickened up our sound."

Nova, however, explained that Faler adds something else to the band.

"Sanity. We call him 'Sane Wayne.' Since the album, we've added some guitars and messed

around with some keyboard parts. He's the slack man. He's picking up all these loose ends. Rob plays so many spaced-out guitar parts that it's nice to have someone hold down the rhythm."

Although "Wireland" will be in stores next week, Falls explained that Island won't start pushing the album until early next year.

"The plans include us doing some little tours. The big push for this album doesn't happen until next year. They want us to develop with some tours here and there. Island does things differently. They're not gonna shove it down people's throats," Nova said.

"Wireland" is the band's second release for Island. "Deliverance," the first album, kind of got lost in the shuffle. Nova explained.

"The label was in disarray when we landed there. We were originally signed to Polydor but that was phased out just before 'Deliverance.' We moved to Island and they said 'Who are these guys?' They just put it out to see what would happen. We're pretty lucky to still be around on the label."

"On 'Deliverance' we were sort of figuring out what was going on (with Wig) ourselves. Things are a lot cooler now."

Falls agreed. "The label's starting to get totally behind us. The move from Michigan, it was a nice change of pace."

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