

# Melody Maker

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## HEROES & VILLAINS

ROCK 'n' roll 1977-style — from Berlin to Belfast. While DAVID BOWIE relaxes in London to talk about his life and times, the album he recorded in Berlin, and plans for a tour, the CLASH were out on the streets of Belfast with their backs against a wall being frisked at an Army check-point.

Bowie held court at London's Dorchester Hotel with one



aim in view — to open the ears of the world with words of wisdom about his new album. He stressed his faith in the new wave, while aware of his distance from it.

His plans for new steps into the world of movies were expounded, in particular Clive Donner's film *The Wally*, which he will be making in Vienna next year as the follow-up to *The Man Who Fell To Earth*, his first starring film role.

### Secrecy

Bowie's tour being set up for June and July next year is still shrouded in secrecy, but he spoke of his ideas for translating the studio music of "Heroes," his new album, into a form that will work on the road. Full interview, page 8.

Meanwhile, the Clash returned this week from battle-scarred Belfast, the remains of a blown-out concert behind them and plans for a London show not so much shrouded in secrecy as surrounded by pitfalls and problems at every turn. While manager Bernard Rhodes is marginally more optimistic about setting up a major London venue for the band — "at least some are talking to us now" — the Clash still go from gig to gig unsure whether another cancellation faces them.

The Clash arrived to play at Belfast's Ulster Hall last Thursday to find that the insurance

cover, promised throughout the negotiations to set up the band's three Irish shows, had been withdrawn at the last minute.

Hasty attempts were made to re-schedule the concert at Queens University to accommodate about half the 1,500 people expected to attend the Ulster Hall show, but similar insurance problems thwarted this plan.

The band was left with no alternative but to spend the night without a show in Belfast and travel to Dublin next day, where their two gigs at Trinity College went ahead without a sign of trouble in front of a combined audience of 1,100 people.

The Clash returned to Britain for the next stage of their British tour with a section of Scottish dates, but running ahead of them were new problems — their advance booking into hotels near the gigs had been under assumed names because, in manager Rhodes' words, "they found out we were the Clash, and they are getting a little worried."

### Progress

A more immediate problem for Rhodes is finding a major London concert venue for his band. The only progress he has made is that now a few promoters are talking to him, whereas before there was complete silence.

Insurance is another headache he faces, with companies demanding what he and the band view as absurdly high amounts to cover shows in venues traditionally used for rock concerts.

● Report from Ireland, page 30.

Japanese rock: Tokyo calling **PAGE 34**