

ISSUE TEN 50p/Eire 60p

YOUTH

HOUSE
MARTINS

TOM WATT

EASTENDERS

ENYA

SOUP

DRAGONS

LOUDON

WAINWRIGHT

DINGO

BABIES

BAM BAM

THE CALLING

BIG AUDIO

DYNAMITE

DUBLIN

MUSIC

AND YONS MORE



DOCTEAU
TWIN

"You seem to have a lot of Clash questions", remarks Don Letts peering at my scribbled list of questions. The pairing of Mick Jones and Joe Strummer on the latest B.A.D. album seems like a couple starting their marriage again after a failed separation. While Don Letts never actually admitted it to me it was very clear that old Strummer supplied quite a few sparks of inspiration to "No 10 Upping Street". More on that later.

Big Audio Dynamite have yet to move me in any great way. For a start they're pretty faceless. Does anyone know the other three guys in the band? Apart from the classic "C'mon Every Beatbox", one true moment of inspiration B.A.D. have yet to scale any musical peaks. Still I'd prefer Jones' ugly mug staring at me from Smash Hits than any of today's plastic pop star scumbags.

I won't waste time with anymore theorizing but will print the interview very much as it was.

YA:

"You don't mind talking about the Clash then? I ask Don in reply to his opening remark.

Don:

"I wasn't in the Clash. I can only say that I was a Clash fan and thought everything they did, with the exception of the last album was great."

YA:

What did Mick think of the last Clash LP "Cut the Crap"?

Don:

"You'll have to ask Mick that."

YA:

OK then, what did you think of it.?"

Don:

"It wasn't all there. Apart from "This is England" I didn't like it. I don't think The Clash even liked it."

YA:

You seem to be slowly building up your audience?

Don:

"Yeah, we are. It's not palatable stuff and it takes people a while to get into."

YA:

You seem to be continually experimenting, even on "Upping Street.?"

Don:

"It's better than getting into a formula. We like breaking new ground. A lot of people have a hit and stick to the same thing."

BIG AUDIO DYNAMITE



B.A.D. bas...
black music and rock music.

Yeah, but not by conscious intention, it just works out like that. I'm black and like a lot of white rock 'n' roll stuff Mick likes a lot of black music. Our cultures turn each other on and it's our differences that make us closer."

...a bad day you sound like a hastily assembled collage of the Clash and Run

...you think so? Maybe we haven't got the mixture right yet but we're working on it."

...there was a lot of ideas on the first LP but I don't think you pulled it off.

...we were finding our own sound so it didn't really come across. We're getting closer with this LP and of course the bit of Strummerization helped us."

...I thought Mick was determined to stay away from any Clash references?

...Mick isn't ashamed of anything he's done in the past. The Clash were great and what they had that was good we have it."

...all people not think it's a Strummer-Less LP and not a B.A.D. one?

...it's only dangerous if individuals feel threatened and personally it was just great to share in the experience of them coming together and working again. We're always experimenting and that was part of the experiment. All experiments are dangerous aren't they?

...critically songs like "Beyond The Pale" and "Thirteen" were vintage Strummer.

...Yeah, once they started working together it brought out the best in both of them and a lot of the tracks show that."

...the collaboration just a one-off?

Don:

"I hope not as I'd sure like to work with him again as he's 100% the real deal. He's great at lyrics and I'm not so it's good to have a maestro to look up to. He also talks a language I understand."

YA:

Do you think B.A.D. sound like how the Clash would have sounded if Mick hadn't left?

Don:

"You have a point there. The Clash touched on the ideas we have but they never saw them through."

YA:

Are you still a video freak?

Don:

"Yes because telly finishes at 12 I watch a lot of videos. Things like "Scarface" and lots of different things."



YA:

Do you still make films?

Don:

"Not anymore. I got fed up with that and that's why I'm in B.A.D."

YA:

Have you ever tried to incorporate that into the shows with slides and the like?

Don:

"We've done that sometimes but we really want to be a good live band without all the fucking cosmetics. A lot of people do that because they're concept studio bands who can't cut it live so we dispense with all the flashing lights, dry ice and special effects."