

5 Minutes With Dave Gleeson



After an eight-year hiatus, countless hours in the studio and a few kids later, The Screaming Jets are back on the Australian rock music scene with an album sure to rock in the usual Jets fashion. **LIANNE BROWN** spends five minutes with frontman Dave Gleeson for an insight into their latest offering.

What is your favourite track on the new album *Do Ya*, and why? I have a few actually including Falls In Place – it has got a really kind of country rock vibe to it. Track six Inside Out, is also a favourite as it is a real departure for the Jets – it's a song about life. Number one, Do Ya should also get a mention as it's the most balls out rock'n'roll song we've done for a long time.

There were some significant comings and goings within the band during the production of this album – how has the band fared as a result, is it business as usual? We're in our 18th year now and as much as it was a bummer to lose Grant, who was a founding member, it's just one of those things. We also lost our sixth manager around that time – we're the band that can't be managed. It was a bit of luck that we did have those obstacles thrown at us because it led to the last six months, when the guys from the US became involved and got things going, one of them works for Mick Jagger. It was really gratifying to know [that with their support] we weren't just a

bunch of yobboes going round Australia trying to get a break. Hopefully the Jets are at the forefront of a revolution that just because you're old doesn't mean you aren't of value.

Describe your new album *Do Ya* in five words. Rock, rock and more rock. Uppermost in our minds was to make a rock record. There is so little rock going on at the moment although there is a whole soft rock revolution going on which makes me want to vomit. On our album there's riffs, driving drums, big choruses – it's all about Aussie pub rock.

With almost two decades in the industry under your belt, what keeps you coming back for more? I love it and the band loves it. If I don't rock out and come off stage absolutely exhausted, I'm not doing it right.

How do you look after your voice? I blow the mist now – if you want to do it forever the partying has to go out the window. Those days of no sleep for a week are over. Every night you're in a different town

and people pay their hard-earned money to come and see us so we want to put on a good performance for them. Sunday nights I get to have a drink if I'm not home. I'm definitely not a wowser but there's something very tragic about a 40-year-old man who can't sing.

What are your thoughts on shows like *Australian Idol* and their worth to the Australian music industry? I've watched a few series and I love the people that say they'll use what they get from it. But if it's such a great opportunity why are we up to six seasons? That's 72 finalists we've had – can you name them? That's about a 15 per cent success rate – you might as well buy a raffle ticket and win a karaoke machine. We've spent our life doing this stuff – making posters, doing things for nothing and knocking on doors. In the end it is what it is, but it rates better when they've got the outtakes on there than when they get to the final 12. CL

The Screaming Jets will perform in Cairns this month, for details visit screamingjets.com.au

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