

# GRAB A GRAMMY

The Big News of last month has to be the fantastic victory at the 44th Annual Grammy Awards. Jonny, Will, Guy and Phil were at the prestigious event in Los Angeles.

Chris was absent from the ceremony as he was in England in the studio working on the follow up to Parachutes. I spoke to him

[Click to watch Interview](#)



about how it felt to win The Best Alternative Album. Chris was thrilled: "Of course we're absolutely delighted to get this Grammy thing even though it's total nonsense, it's still good nonsense to win".

I spoke to him just as the hour had swung into his 25th birthday and he was on his way to the studio to play piano.

As you probably know the recording of the second album is now complete and the mixing process has begun. Chris also told me that he is very happy with the results and assures me they have made a great album.

The band had a break after their time recording and went off to do various things. Chris visited the island of Haiti (Dominican Republic) as part of an Oxfam charity venture. This snippet is taken as it appeared in a local newspaper.

British Coldplay rock star, Chris Martin, was in the DR last week. He came on an invitation from Oxfam United Kingdom to visit coffee farms in the southern province of San Cristobal. He expressed his pleasure at seeing how coffee is planted and harvested by the real people who produce the drink. He commented to the Listin Diario that very few people know the origins of the products they consume. During his visit to San Cristobal, he shared a lunch of rice, beans, chicken and green salad with the farmer members of the Federacion de Caficultores del Sur (Fedecares). Martin said he would return to the DR soon and might schedule a performance of Coldplay here in the future.

## Q MAG HAS A FEATURE ON THE TRIP



Glastonbury will go ahead this year. As tradition upholds, the final line-up will not be disclosed until all tickets are sold out. We will let you know in due course if Coldplay are scheduled to appear. Keep an eye out on the NEWS section for updates.

I posted a couple of notes in NEWS last month and will elaborate further. 'Stars In Their Eyes' has had a few people outside the U.K somewhat puzzled. For want of a better description, it's like a Karaoke talent show, where

contestants dress up like the artist they are going to impersonate. The studio audience then vote for the person who most sounds like the act they are mimicking. In the current series someone sang as Chris Martin;... (cont on page 2)

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# COLDPLAY

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## INTERVIEW WITH THE BAND - OCTOBER '99

I was asked to do an interview (allegedly the first to be published) with Coldplay back then for The Fly magazine. This is a great free publication, brought to us by a team of people who have helped showcase so much new talent. It's a subsidiary of The Barfly - a legendary London Venue. (I wrote it under a pseudonym for those of you who have seen it first time round!)



*photo courtesy of Kevin Westenburg*

A year ago, you'd be forgiven for not knowing anything about Coldplay. There was every chance they may have faded into insignificance, but luckily they aroused label interest post In The City. Since then they have recorded a session for Steve Lamacq, who later secured them a support slot with Catatonia at the Forum. They also released a single Brothers and Sisters for Simon Williams on Fierce Panda. "Steve Lamacq and Simon Williams basically rule", says vocalist Chris Martin. Bassist Guy Berryman agrees "They're really genuinely into music. If they like something they'll stick up for it and I know we all admire that".

Sitting in a pub in Camden the day after a sell out gig at the Falcon, Chris (who also plays guitar and part time keyboards), Guy and Jonny Buckland (guitar) discuss the events of the last twelve months. This year alone has been... (cont on page 3)

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...very badly. I also reported that Chris had joined Ian McCulloch on stage at the Echo & The Bunnymen gig (Manchester Ritz - Tue 5th February) to duet on Nothing Ever Lasts Forever in the encore. It was difficult to hear what Ian was saying in between songs, so when he introduced Chris, not many people knew.

When he walked on stage, you could still sense that the people at the back were thinking, "Who's that bloke?" but as soon as he started singing there were cheers and whistles from the audience.



*photo courtesy of Ivan Smith*

Chris really enjoyed it. Here's what he had to say: "Aren't the Bunnymen great? I was dead chuffed to be singing; in fact saying that makes me appreciate it more; its funny the things that you sort of take for granted at the time, but then realise were amazing". Jonny and Ken Nelson (producer) were with him, but they didn't stay long, as it was the night before their last studio day.

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## WILL CHAMPION PROFILE

**D.O.B:** 31ST July 1978 (AGE: 23)

**SIBLINGS:** Brother Ed 3 years older.

**BIRTHPLACE AND BEYOND:**

Southampton. College in Winchester, then Uni in London.

**FOOTBALL/RUGBY TEAM:**

Southampton.

**FIRST RECORD BOUGHT:**

Postman Pat (single),  
Rattle and Hum U2 on cassette.

**INSTRUMENTS:** Drums (age 21),

Piano (8), Violin (8), Guitar (12),  
Banjo, Mandolin, Tin Whistle etc.

**FIRST BAND JOINED:**

Fat Hamster with two mates for 2 weeks when I was 13/14.

**MUSICAL HEROES:**

Tom Waits, Nick Cave,  
Shane McGowan, Christy Moore,  
Dave Grohl, Neil Young, Bob Dylan.

**FAVOURITE BAND AT SCHOOL:**

Rage Against The Machine.

**FIRST GIG YOU WENT TO:**

Christy Moore at The Mayflower Theatre, Southampton.

**BEST GIG YOU WENT TO:**

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds at Brixton Academy 2001.

**FAVOURITE BAND /ARTIST NOW:**

Tom Waits

**DESCRIBE THE MOMENT THAT YOU KNEW YOU HAD TO BE IN A BAND:**

When I first played the drums with Messrs Martin, Buckland and Berryman.

**BEST/FAVOURITE COLDPLAY GIG:**

Radio City NYC 2001.

**BEST/FAVOURITE COLDPLAY SONG:**

At the moment (8th March 2002) all of the songs on the new album.

**HIGHPOINT SO FAR:** Playing all around the world to people who get something out of our music.

**NEW AMBITIONS:** To make a difference.

## BAND INTERVIEW CONTINUED

(cont from page 2) a hectic schedule what with signing a record deal with Parlophone, festival appearances at Glastonbury & Reading/Leeds, writing, rehearsing and recording new songs, not to mention certain important exams at UCL where they met in 1997.



*photo courtesy of Kevin Westenburg*

Chris had a "shit summer" and the band were going through some musical changes that needed to be in place for Glastonbury. It didn't help that when they arrived, they had to walk across fields with their equipment as they'd been dropped off at the wrong gate! "The festivals were good to play, but it's difficult to get everyone emotionally into it at 11 o'clock on a Sunday morning". They then toured to virtually no one, which they didn't seem to mind, "You can't get to the top unless you've been at the bottom". Philosophical, but true enough. They shouldn't be down for long though judging by the attention they are gaining from various inkiies and fans alike. Their future certainly looks bright as they prepare to support Gomez at the Royal Court in Liverpool as part of Radio One's Sound City and play at London's Shepherd's Bush Empire with Shack.

Coldplay's audience will be a melting pot of thinking adults and there'll be weeping females quivering at Chris' soaring vocal range. The repertoire is easy on the ears whilst tugging at your heartstrings, oh and even your granny will love them! They're also an aesthetically pleasing bunch - Guy was approached at Reading festival to appear in a teen magazine!

Chris didn't attend the Pete Waterman school of writing pop songs (boy meets girl, boy loses girl and boy gets girl back again), in fact he rarely writes about relationships, "It's more like boy wants to be with girl, but girl would rather play Lacrosse"! The common link that has brought Coldplay together was they wanted "to move people with... (cont on page 4)

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(Band Interview cont from page 3) music and play music, which is maximum soul," says Chris. Coldplay do indeed write songs that are emotive - probably the most ardent tunes you'll hear this side of Jeff Buckley. Chris explains, "The first song that moved me was Another Day In Paradise by Phil Collins". Surely he is joking? Strangely though, Guy points out that the first song he ever performed in a previous was Another Day In Paradise. Hmmm.

Chris admits he thinks "a lot of the best love songs have been written already" but they are "interested in making music with soul, passion, energy, vibe and emotion". Just as well because that's exactly what Coldplay do - with honours. Here we have a band oozing with talent and intellect, but they don't make the mistake of being contrived with any pretence. There is also more than a hint of optimism, especially in the lyrics of Don't Panic, 'We live in a Beautiful World', do we? "Yes". Oh right then. Chris is of the opinion that "every cloud has a silver lining and there's good in everything". Ahhh.

For those who haven't seen their live shows yet, Chris talks to his audience like long lost friends, cracking jokes in between heartfelt songs. He's not Jekyll and Hyde; there is sincerity in both his performance and witty anecdotes. There was a time when he used to give out chocolate during the gig, not because anyone needed bribing, but because that's how nice they are. "Once we bought a train set and we were going to give that out, but Jonny put a stop to it 'cause it cost £12!" Did they know they were already gaining a reputation for being the politest band in Britain? "Really? Well thank you very much for saying so". See. Coldplay really are caring, sharing with few vices to speak of, although they did steal the name Coldplay from a friend's band who didn't rate it. And whilst on the subject of vices, they're odds on favourite to pen a Bond theme one of these days so get your slips filled in early.

Their first self-financed Safety E.P is soon to be a collector's item, as there were only 500 copies pressed. It contains the anthem Bigger Stronger, a feelgood track Keeping My Feet On The Ground and top track Such A Rush with it's amazing crescendo climax. Two of these tracks will feature on their first Parlophone release The Blue Room E.P. So are the band pleased with the E.P? Chris thinks so but he has regrets: "They're good songs. Sadly we couldn't get hold of the masters so we couldn't remix them, but they've got a really good vibe on them so we're gonna record them again - better and with more atmosphere". Coldplay are going into the studio soon to start their album. They plan to record more tracks than they need and pick the best. No doubt that's a decision that could take weeks!

*Thanks to Will Kinsman at The Fly for kind permission to duplicate.*

# INTERVIEW WITH PHIL HARVEY

COLDPLAYS MANAGER! ON THE NEXT PAGE

**NEXT ISSUE**  
The Jonny Buckland Profile  
& the latest news updates!

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# PHIL HARVEY

## WE INTERVIEW COLDPLAY'S MANAGER

### HOW DID YOU COME TO BE COLDPLAY'S MANAGER?

At the same time that I was boring myself stupid studying Latin and Greek up at Oxford, I used to work a couple of nights a week in the local nightclubs setting up and promoting student nights. It was pretty basic stuff but it at least gave me a vague idea of what it is to hire a venue, book a band or DJ and try and make a little money.



*This photo of Phil was taken on the recent trip to Haiti*

One day Chris was telling me about how one of the local Camden promoters had a bit of a vice-like grip on the band and wasn't coughing up any money so I suggested the band put on their own event. We booked a local venue called Dingwalls and printed up thousands and thousands of flyers. I think in the end we got about 400 people in there, which, considering the band had only played three or four prior gigs, was a big deal. As I remember, it was the money from that night which allowed me to pay back my investors (my Dad and my Oxford roommate) who had lent me the funds to get the Safety EP made. We sold the first 50 copies that night so all in all I suppose that was the time that I officially became manager.

### WITH NO PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE, HOW DID YOU COPE WITH THE PRESSURES OF THE CUTTHROAT MUSIC BUSINESS?

I think I've been very fortunate in that, for one reason and another, my complete and utter lack of experience has never really been a problem. Without wishing to sound glib, experience can only count for so much. Infinitely more important is enthusiasm and having good people around to give you advice. Even more infinitely important is having an amazing band. I remember very distinctly getting back from the Safety EP recording session on a Sunday evening and sitting with Chris and Jonny in their Camden Road flat listening to the unmixed music. The last track Such A Rush ended and I turned to them and said something ridiculous like 'I could go into any record company in London with this tape and get us whatever we wanted'. I hardly knew what a record company was, let alone what we actually might want from one, but it was the right sentiment. I was 100% into the music, which was enough for me to stumble through (as is still the case today).

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**DID YOU EVER HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS?**

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Received wisdom would suggest that going into business with your best friend from childhood is a bad idea. I'm sure a couple of times near the beginning I theorized that maybe it wasn't such a great idea but the reality of it is that it works brilliantly.

**WAS THERE A TIME WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE IN TOO DEEP AND NEARLY GAVE UP?**

Absolutely. When Parachutes came out in the UK and Europe, I got incredibly stressed and was convinced I'd got in over my head. The album went straight in at No.1 and all of a sudden I was working 16 hours a day with three phone lines ringing constantly. I didn't have an assistant or anything so there was no one to take any of the load off my shoulders. I got on top of things in the end and for nearly a year got through on sheer adrenalin but I paid the price later when my body finally decided enough was enough in early 2001. I got really ill and had to take several months off work. I certainly thought about giving up then. It crossed my mind that I simply wasn't tough enough. It was only later that I discovered most international bands have huge teams and organisations supporting them not just one bloke in a shithole office.

**WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR EARLY DAYS ROLE AND MANAGING THE BAND ON AN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS LEVEL?**

A typical gig day when we were starting out would have involved me booking a couple of taxis to take the equipment from the Camden Rd flat to the venue; buying batteries for Jonny's pedals; going around the bar greeting all our fans by name; desperately looking for music industry types; arguing for hours with the promoter over £10. Now my assistant manager Estelle hires planes and tour buses months in advance; Jonny's guitar pedals have to be hooked up to the National Grid; I don't go in the bar so much because the dressing room is stuffed with vodka and champagne; I'm more likely to be desperately avoiding music industry types at gigs; I leave the arguing to our tour manager Jeff who's much better at it than me.

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR JOURNEY?**

Walking through Battersea Park in London listening to the first copy of Parachutes on my Discman. Even though I hadn't contributed a note it was still an amazing feeling of pride and fulfilment. The best day as a whole was when we played with U2, Doves and JJ72 on Top of the Pops in October 2000. I remember U2's manager Paul McGuinness, whom I had idolized since I got into music, introducing me to The Edge. I was trying to think of something suitably reverential to say but before I had a chance to speak Edge was going 'Oh, so you're Phil Harvey. I was reading about you in the paper at the weekend...' Very weird.

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE LOW POINT?**

The Brit Awards 2001. I was feeling like death when I should have been on top of the world. The band picked up awards for Best British Band and Album and all I could think about was how much I wanted to be in bed. It was two days later that my doctor phoned to say she was worried I might be about to slip into a coma.

**WHAT ARE YOUR UNFULFILLED AMBITIONS?** They're all tied in with this next album.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE DOING NOW IF THINGS HADN'T WORKED OUT?** I'd like to write a book one day. Maybe I'd have started working on that...

**HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT THE FUTURE?** Excited. Happy. Curious.

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