

Glam & the Damage Done

Andy announced the band was intending to follow up the Lyceum gig with a ten-date tour of the UK in March. The band was not inclined to jump onto the nostalgia bandwagon. They were acutely conscious of song-selection for their set, he said of their glam hits, 'Some of them were alright, I suppose. *Ballroom Blitz* is a good rock song, we still do that one live. I think we're all proud of that one. We won't do *Blockbuster* live now. If we did that we'd be dwelling in that era. It would keep us back there.' "Sounds" magazine obliged with a feature article to coincide with the tour entitled "The Original Blitz Kids". Steve Keaton summarised '...seven years on, the sticky grasp of Bubblegum rock still stains the Sweet's every move...and such was the damage that today the band's name still conjures up visions of glitter, feathers and Indian headgear...it's long been looking that the public will never forgive them for it.'



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In the interview, conducted at the band's Shepperton rehearsal studio, Andy said of their now cringe-inducing legacy, 'We only meant it to be a piss take...slap on some makeup for a laugh...I think we only did it for a couple of singles actually but everybody seems to remember that era. What really pissed us off was we'd go to other places in Europe, like Germany and Scandinavia, the good old stalwarts, and they'd know we were a half-decent band. England could never forget that. They just thought, "TOSSERS!" They saw you on TOTP and that was that.' Andy continued, 'I know it sounds corny but we couldn't get past the

images we created for ourselves on TOTP. No 19 or 20 year old bloke was gonna come and see us because he'd seen his 10 year-old sister with one of her singles in her hand. The image got slightly out of hand. And it was a great pity because we were putting on a fantastic show; we had films, monster dicks, smoke bombs and all the effects that have become blasé today. It was flying over their fuckin' heads I'm afraid. We got so bored playing to that audience that we spent the entire gig trying to get each other to make mistakes. The blokes used to spend half the time trying to beat us up while the birds were trying to get back to the hotel with us. Come to think of it there were a few blokes who wanted to get back to the hotel with us too!