

Dear Lemmy

WELL MATE, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE SAID "G DAM," OR SHARED A STAGE TOGETHER. WE'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN ONE OF THE THINGS YOU SAID TO US, WHICH WAS: "NO MATTER WHAT, STAY TRUE TO YOURSELVES, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ALL THE OTHER BULLSHIT IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY. MAKE MUSIC THAT YOUR ROADIES WILL LIKE. BECAUSE THEY'VE HEARD YOUR SHIT MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, IF THEY LIKE IT, EVERYONE WILL LOVE IT."

MATE, WE DID IT.

SIX YEARS AGO, WE SHUT THE POWER DOWN ON EVERYONE AND GOT TO WORK WRITING SONGS FOR THIS RECORD, SPENDING MANY, MANY HOURS, MANY, MANY DAYS, WEEKS MONTHS AND YEARS WRITING AND WRITING, THROWING THINGS OUT, STARTING AGAIN, AND ALWAYS SIFTING FOR GOLD.

AFTER ABOUT FIVE YEARS OF THIS, WE FELT THAT WE HAD A SOLID BUNCH OF ROCKIN' ROLL SONGS HAPPENING, THEN MUTT LANGE AND BRYAN ADAMS BROUGHT IN THEIR BIG ~~guns~~ GUNS AND A COUPLE OF THOSE SONGS WE WROTE WITH THEM MADE THE RECORD. WE WROTE A LOT WITH BRYAN, AND HE

WAS INCREDIBLY INSPIRING, AND WE LEARNED A LOT FROM HIM - A TRUE ROCKIN' ROLL GENTLEMAN. AT THAT POINT, A LONG TIME MATE OF OURS, VICK WRIGHT, FLEW OUT TO AUSTRALIA, AND WE WROTE AND WROTE AND WROTE SOME MORE WITH HIM. HE'S A ROCKIN' ROLL STREET POET, AND HE TAUGHT US A LOT AS WELL, WE ENDED UP WITH SOME REAL GOOD ROCKERS WITH HIM.

WE SENT EVERYTHING TO BRIAN HOWES, AND HE SAID WE HAVE A SOLID RECORD NOW, AND HE WAS PUMPED TO WORK HIS MAGIC. DANTE FROM SPINEFARM, WHO HAS BEEN A REAL CHAMPION ALL AROUND THE WAY ON THIS RECORD, GAVE US THE GREENLIGHT TO MAKE ~~THE~~ AIR JOURNEY.

WE SHIPPED OUT A TON OF GEAR FROM OUR MANCHESTER COMPOUND AND FROM AN OVER THE WORLD, LOADED IT INTO A SEMI-TONNE TRUCK, AND DROVE IT UP THE EASTERN COAST OF AUSTRALIA FROM MELBOURNE TO MUSIC FARM ~~STUDIOS~~ STUDIOS, HIDDEN IN A JUNGLE ON THE SURF COAST OF AUSTRALIA. THIS PLACE IS SURROUNDED BY SNAKES, SYDNEY FUNNEL WEB SPIDERS, RATS AND CANE TOADS - PLENTY OF SHIT THAT CAN KILL YA. WE KNOW YOU WOULD HAVE LOVED IT THERE BECAUSE THAT WHICH DOESN'T KILL YOU ONLY MAKES YOU LOUDER!

WE COPE WITH HURRICANE WEATHER, FLASH FLOODING RAINS, PALM TREES THAT WERE TORN OUT OF THE GROUND. ONE OF THEM ALMOST KILLED STREET, OUR BASS PLAYER. THAT WAS A VERY NEAR MISS.

THE TAPE MACHINE WAS A CUNT. IT WOULDN'T STOP BLEWING UP BUT SHE SOUNDED GREAT, SO SHE WAS WORTH DEALING WITH AND WAITING ON

~~EVERY~~ EVERY DAY WE WOULD WAKE UP, JUMP OVER A BROWN SNAKE, OR PYTHON, FEED THE PIGS, SAY 'G'DAY' TO THE GOATS, WATCH THE ONE MALE ROOSTER WITH A HAREM OF HENS SWOONING AROUND ~~HIM~~ HIM WHILST HE'S STRUTTING AROUND THE PLACE LIKE HE WAS KING DICK. WHO KNEW THAT FOUL COULD BE SO INSPIRING?

WE'D MAKE OUR WAY DOWN ~~THE~~ THE HILL TO THE STUDIO, JUMPING OVER "OLD MATE," THE RESIDENT SNAKE THAT LIVED AT THE FRONT DOORS OF THE STUDIO. WHEN WE ENTERED THE STUDIO, WE'D MAKE SOME HEART STARTING COFFEES, PUT SOME PIES IN THE PIE WARMER, VB'S ON ICE, THEN BRIAN HONES, MIKE FRASER, AND KARL DICAIRE WOULD SHOW UP. A FEW CIGARETTES, LAUGHS, AND CAFFEINE LATER,

WE'D TALK SOME BULLSHIT, AND THEN WE'D GET ROCKING. FOR ABOUT 12-16 HOURS WE WOULD GO. TIME CEASED TO EXIST FOR US, AND IT WAS THE BEST FUN WE'VE EVER HAD MAKING AN ALBUM.

THE LAST BATCH OF SONGS WE WROTE WITH BRIAN AROUND THE STUDIO KITCHEN TABLE, OFTEN WHILST ~~HEARD~~ HURRICANES HAD KILLED THE POWER. WHILE THEY WERE SMASHING THE STUDIO TOGETHER, WE BROUGHT THIS ALBUM HOME.

THE MAIN CONSOLE WAS THE ORIGINAL NEVE DESK FROM ALBERT STUDIOS 1 HERE IN AUSTRALIA, (AC/DL, ROSE TATTOO, THE ANGELS, BILLY THORPE AND MORE), THERE'S AN UNMISTAKABLE RAW OZ 'ROCK TONE IN THIS DESK AND YOU'D LOVE IT.

WE DIDN'T FINISH THE RECORD IN TIME, AS WE HAD TO GO BACK OUT ON TOUR, WHICH ACTUALLY WORKED OUT REALLY WELL BECAUSE LYRICS THAT WEREN'T WRITTEN IN THAT STUDIO NEEDED TO COME FROM BEING ON THE ROAD, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE SONG "ALIVE AFTER DEATH".

WE CAME BACK AFTER THE TOUR TO OUR MELBOURNE STUDIO HOME, DOWN IN SKILDA,

THE FAMOUS HOTHOUSE STUDIOS, WHERE WE RECORDED OUR FIRST EP. WE'VE ALWAYS HAD A LOVE AFFAIR WITH HOTHOUSE, IT HAS THE NEVE CONSOLE FROM ALBERT STUDIO 2, SO IT WAS GUTSY TO GO BACK THERE AND FINISH THIS RECORD OFF.

CRAIG HARNATH, WHO WE'VE BEEN MATES WITH FOREVER, JOINED THE TEAM, AND AFTER ANOTHER TOUR, AND ANOTHER FEW MONTHS AND TRIPS DOWN TO HOTHOUSE, WE FINALLY FINISHED THE RECORD.

ZAKK CERVINI JOINED THE TEAM AND MIXED UP A ROUGH-ROU HURRICANE OF A RECORD. HE'S A REAL WEAPON! JED JENSEN AKA "THE GREAT ONE" GAVE ZAKK'S ATOMIC MIXES A REAL SUPERCHARGED SPIT AND POLISH AND BRAWNIT IS AN HOME WITH HIS CLASSIC TRADEMARK STERLING MASTER PRINT THAT ONLY HE CAN DO.

SO, WE FINALLY RIPPED OFF THE BAND-AID AND MUSTERED UP THE BALLS TO ~~PLAY~~ PLAY IT TO THE RADIOS..... AND GUESS WHAT? THEY LOVE THIS ONE! THANK FUCK! ONLY TOOK US 20 YEARS!

THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL OF YOUR WORDS BACK THEN MATE. WE'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN THEM AND WE WOULDNT BE HERE WITHOUT YA. WE'LL ALWAYS KEEP YOU 'ALIVE AFTER DEATH'.

ROCK ON LEM AND SAY G'DAY TO PHIL FOR US!

MUCH LOVE MATE,

