

Suits Sioux, Sir: Catch Rob behind the kit on Siouxsie's forthcoming tour

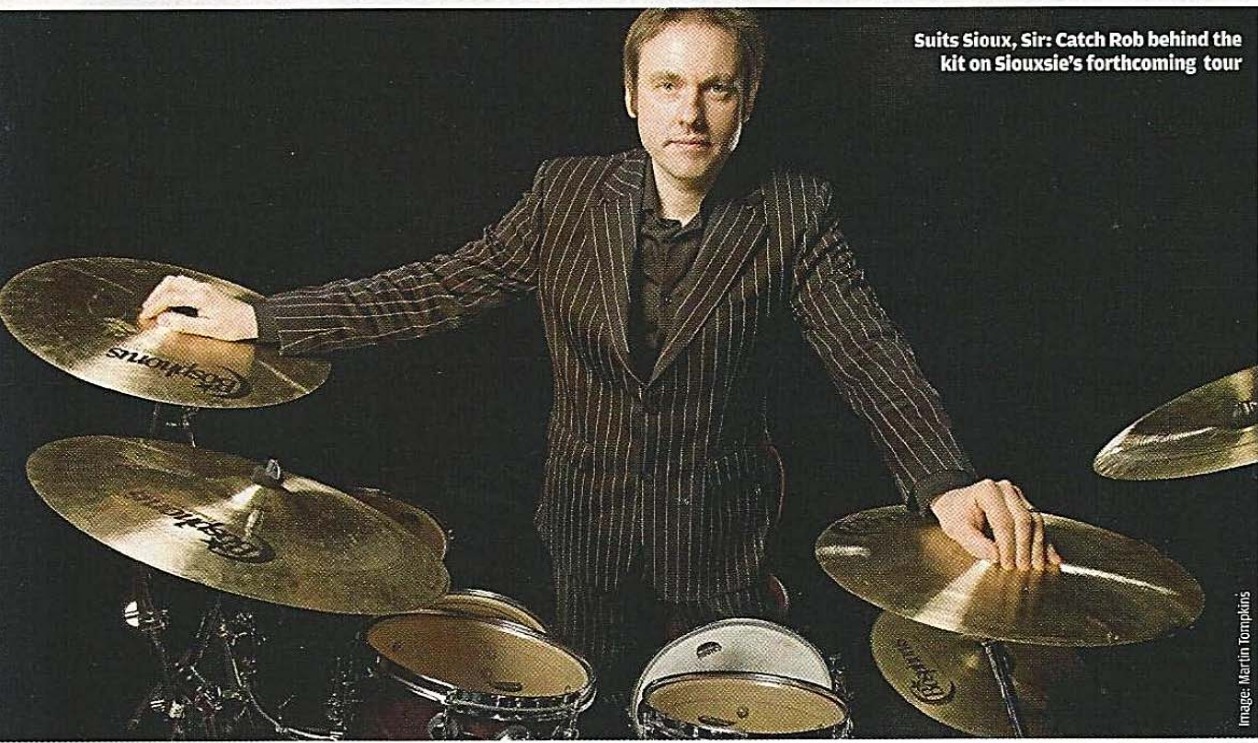


Image: Martin Tompkins

WELCOME BACK ROB BRIAN

The jazz drummer hits the road with Siouxsie Sioux



How did you hook up with Siouxsie?
"I've known Charlie Jones, who co-produced and co-wrote her album [*Mantaray*], for many years. We used to play in a '60s hip lounge band called Daddy-O. He asked if I was into hearing a new, exciting project he was working on - and I was not ready for what I heard: a totally big sounding, hip record, full of great songs, grooves and chances for me to play many styles within the live show. We started rehearsals in late August and the band just worked from the outset."

As well as working with Siouxsie, what else should we look out for?
"I'm also currently promoting the new album by Australian pianist Adam Biggs, who has put together a jazz trio

playing old English hymn music. The album, *Love Unknown*, has been getting great reviews. The trio plays very much in the Keith Jarrett vein, and his arrangements of the hymns are just beautiful. Also, I am still gigging and promoting blues guitarist Innes Sibun's new album, *Tail Dragger*. The album's a real mix of slow blues jams to up-tempo, hard-hitting funk, and I'm proud of the playing on it - the Sonor De-lite kit sounds stunning!"

Does playing with Siouxsie require different techniques/equipment?
"My playing on Siouxsie's set ranges from hard-hitting punk to 3/4 jazz brushes, salsa grooves, Bo Diddley grooves, pop, funk and everything in between! It's a real dream for me. I use the same traditional grip as I use in my

jazz gigs, I just play a little harder and with more attack to get a nice, dry sound from the kit. I am using a complete Sonor SQ2 Series kit with two top toms and two floor toms. The Bosphorus cymbal rig is larger as well, with two crashes and two chinas, as well as ride and the hats. I also need to trigger loops and samples, so I am using the Roland SPD-s and two Roland drum triggers, one on the snare and one on the bass drum."

Where are you looking forward to playing on the *Mantaray* tour?
"The Fillmore clubs in the US. I remember seeing posters for those clubs with people like The Who, Led Zeppelin, Ten Years After and The Buddy Rich Big Band all on the same bill! Imagine all those drummers in the same building: mind blowing!" **R (AH)**
Siouxsie Sioux's Mantaray tour kicks off in Manchester on 29 February
www.siouxiemantaray.com
www.biggestore.co.uk
www.innessibun.com

NEWS SPLASH

FROM THE WORLD OF DRUMS

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS
Camden's Lock 17 was the venue for Drumtech's Winter Graduate event. The night included performances from 14 bands. Student Tobias Humble walked away with the Top Overall Drum Student award. He received a Pearl Chad Smith Signature snare and a box of Vater sticks for his hard work! www.techmusic-schools.co.uk.

RHYTHM COURSE UPDATE
The International Drum Foundation's annual Rhythm Course is set to take place at Bath Spa University between 1 and 2 August 2008. The usual teaching faculty of Pete Riley, Colin Woolway and James Hester will be joined by Leicester teacher Tim Brown. The first artist to be confirmed is Damon Wilson, who has worked with everyone from James Brown to the Sugababes. Keep an eye on www.internationaldrumfoundation.org.uk for more developments.

NEW BLOOD
Canadian power metallers 3 Inches of Blood have drafted drummer Ash Pearson (Sound the Swarm, Just Cause) for their current US tour with The Black Dahlia Murder and Hate Eternal. He replaces Alexei Rodriguez, who was sacked from the band for a violent altercation with Saxon drummer Nigel Glockler at the end of 2007.



BUYER'S GUIDE SYNTHETIC STICKS

Durable and available in more funky-looking designs than you could shake a 5A at, synthetic drum sticks may sit in a whole different price pool to their traditional wooden counterparts, but they offer a range of features that aren't always possible with wooden sticks. Don't be blinded by technology, though - find the sticks that are right for you.



AHEAD 5AB HYBRID E28
Slim and versatile, Ahead's new model breaks away from some of their more metal-head tree trunk dimensions and provides a considerably more airy feel, with an extremely articulate tip.



AHEAD SIGNATURE MODELS E28
Graced with the monikers of Tommy Lee and Lars Ulrich, these models are a hit with those about to rock! These excellent sticks might set you back a bit, but they're well worth the cash.



TECHRA CARBON ROCK P28
Designed in Italy, these provide an alternative way of getting the usually hefty priced synthetic drumstick world of rock and cool jazz models currently available.