

PULP

ISSUE #28 OCTOBER 2002 P100.00

NO MUSIC? BITE ME!

coldplay's ELEVEN NER RANT CHILD REN

issue
no. 28

PAN +
DONG ABAY
MOONSTAR 88
GOLDFINGER
ERASERHEADS
ELY BUENDIA
PAUL WELLER
THE RETURN OF
ORIENT PEARL
THE GREATEST
BAND BREAKUPS



•CONTENTS PAGE•

FEATURES

038 MOONSTAR88

Managing editor Cornelius Mondoy can't make out anything of his recorded interview with the band, and orders a bourbon, a scotch and a beer at Mayric's as he chickens out.

040 ERASERHEADS

So how's life without Ely? The Eraserheads are getting by fine, as Pearlsha Abubakar finds out.

046 ELY BUENDIA

Uncover part of Ely's mystique in this interview by the equally mysterious Anne Rue Lee. Why did he leave the E-heads? Someday we'll know...

050 PAN

Welcome the new gods of fun and pandemonium!

054 WESTDON

Westdon? It's not a new boyband. Turn to this page to find out who's back.

056 GOLDFINGER

Goldfinger brings on a new definition of punk attitude. Wake up!

060 COLDPLAY

Fresh from their album Parachutes, Coldplay is back along with 11 errant but well-groomed children.

066 ORIENT PEARL

The gods of Pinoy power ballads are back!

DEPARTMENTS

- 024. LETTERS
- 028. JUICY BITS
- 034. ON STAGE
- 035. HOMEGROWN
- 037. Q & A
- 068. PULP FOLIO
- 075. PULP SKIN
- 081. TECHNOJUNKIE
- 082. I WANNA BE A ROCK STAR
- 083. INSIDE MUSIC
- 083. ON STAGE REVIEW
- 084. SITES TO BEHOLD
- 086. REVIEWS
- 104. END NOTES

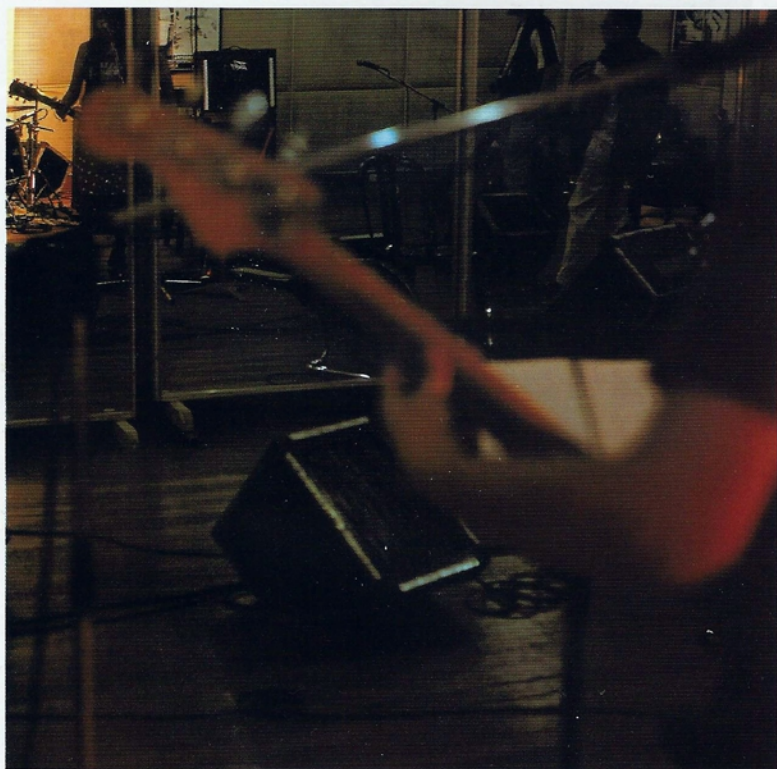


Pan Cover Photographed by
ERIK LIONGOREN
Cover Designs by
GUADAKOMEDA

Erratum:

We would like to acknowledge Ate Lea for making the ala Green Mile uniforms of both Glen and Jay of Battery on the September 2002 issue.

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Alive And Kicking

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Contrary to what has been reported in this magazine, the Eraserheads are still very much alive. In fact, they have been kicking people's arses for more than five months now with their new sound: octanol-driven punk rock that's sexy and provocative, thanks to the influence of *Fatal Posporos'* Kris Gorra-Dancel who has since replaced the group's eccentric former vocalist and made that difficult place her own.

"Wala pa namang nambato so far," Kris jokingly reports.

Fans of **Ely Buendia** might be aghast to find a woman in his place, but for bassist and sometime band manager **Buddy Zabala**, being femme-fronted has worked to their advantage. "We wanted to avoid comparisons. Imagine if another male vocalist had taken his place," he explains.

The 'Heads are not at all bothered when people refer to them as "the new Eraserheads" in the wake of Ely's departure. For them, it means a clean slate, a fresh start. "We're the oldest new band on the block, with a lot of experience behind us," declares drummer Raimund Marasigan, while beside him, guitarist Marcus Adoro smiles in agreement.

At their rehearsal studio, housed in their manager Butch Dans' compound in Quezon City, the band is having a sumptuous merienda of cassava cake and cheese after an afternoon of hard work. The members are rehearsing songs from their EP *Please Transpose*, which was distributed last June to select friends and media people. It has garnered good reviews so far. The music video for "U Make Me," which was shot using six DV cameras, is already in the can and will be aired soon.

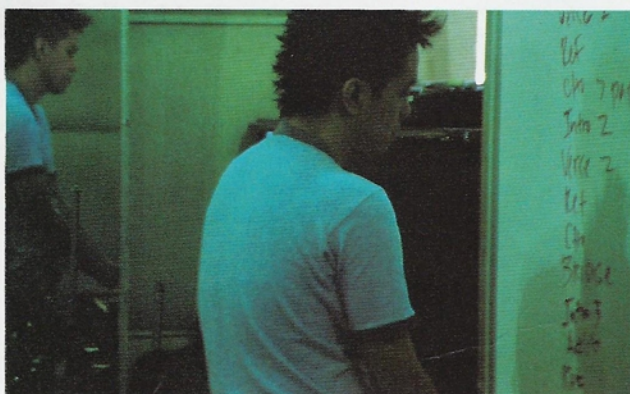
But knowing what they're up against - fan expectations not the least of them - the 'Heads have been working double time, twice as hard and thinking twice as fast. Rehearsals are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, in between familial duties, musical extracurriculars and furious songwriting from which no member is excluded.

"With Ely, we would practice only twice a year," recalls Raimund, who took up the vocal chores for engagements they were obliged to fulfill after Ely flew the coop. His side project Sandwich is hard at work on its third album, while his incarnation as gunfire-spitting Squid 9 has been doing remixes for Itchyworms, Madd Poets, ChicoSci, Boldstar and Mojofly. In fact, the hardworking Gemini is the main arranger of most of the songs on the new EP, which they have gone over time and again to be able to play them live.

"It would be great to record an all-Raimund album," notes Buddy approvingly as one of Raimund's songs blare out of the speakers. Its nearly spoken-word singing and the chordal riffing hew more closely to punk than toward any other genre. Its sonic clarity hints at the author's passion for recording equipment and technology, and possibly a new direction for the band.

However, such breakthroughs had not been readily apparent for a long time, especially when the band was at its multi-platinum selling peak in the early '90s, although one intrinsically sensed a vortex of pent-up energies swirling beneath the klieg lights of fame and fortune. Looking back, one was aware that Buddy, with his boyish, intellectual, wide-eyed mien; Marcus, unaffected and tongue-in-cheek; and Raimund, handsome and intense, merited more than just fleeting interest.

"They are three of the best musicians in the music business now," acknowledged former vocalist Ely in a recent interview with late night talk show host Martin Nievera. But the public had instead trained its eyes on just one spot, the space left by Ely, inadvertently deflecting whatever opportunity there was for the band to be seen as individuals whose diverse interests occupied a much bigger space than the overlaps drawn by fortuity and talent.









For instance, when he is not doing session work with the legendary Pepe Smith, Marcus can be seen keeping company with fellow multimedia artists like Cynthia Bauzon, Arnold Arre and Roxlee. Kamon Kamon, his collaborative project with them, compiles web-based music videos and graphics in a VCD. Meanwhile, aside from co-producing songs with Raimund (they did the musical score for Quark Henares' sexy flick *Gamitan*), Buddy also composes and programs his own music for various audiovisual projects, one of which was a PETA production staged last year. He and wife Earnest Mangulabnan, a freelance writer, producer and manager, have a two-year old daughter, Veda. Meanwhile, Raimund is married to fellow musician and NU 107's Myrene Academia. They have a son named Atari.

Propelled by such personal and professional motivations, the headstrong males of the 'Heads have broken through, now more conspicuously than ever. They are opening up doors once boarded up by cumbersome pieces of fame, getting more sun and changing the complexion of their musical lives through renewed interactions on and off stage. Yano's Dong Abay and ex-Mojofly guitarist Rann Golamco are just some of the many they have shared their gigs with. And one other indication of this landmark glasnost could be their desire to change their name.

"We might change it," says Raimund. "But as of now, hindi pa buo yung plano. We might, kasi iba na 'yung lumalabas na tunog."

Ironically, Kris, the catalyst of this new sound, was bred on Eraserheads music. "I first saw them perform in 1993 at the UP Library and wow!" the film major recalls. "I was plenty apathetic about politics and

government until I entered UP (college) where Fatal Posporos started to write some songs that criticized balimbing trapos, as well as songs on love, hate, food and transport. And we loved the Eraserheads. I wanted to be ----'s girlfriend." Well, she now has three of them. Buddy and Raimund had produced Fatal's first album *Paperview* but this is the first time they are taking Kris on for the long haul. Aside from the 'Heads, the dusky femme fatale has other more binding commitments to her husband, Twisted Halo's Vin Dancel ("My Vin Diesel," she laughs) and their son, as well as a day job with a health education NGO.

When asked about their new vocalist, Buddy, Marcus and Raimund begin to tease her. "Si Kris, maganda...maganda ang gitara!"

Seriously now. "Si Kris, masipag 'yan," observes Raimund. "Walang arte-arte, basta game na."

One solid indication is her decision to keep Fatal Posporos burning at the same time. "Wala namang bangga. Nakakaadjust naman ako," Kris says of her dual role. "Para kang nag-bike at nagmaneho ng kotse."

Her versatility is put to the test during a recent gig at 70s Bistro. She sings old Eraserheads favorites like "Torpedo" and "Paruparong Ningning" in a higher key as she strums away on a shiny red guitar. The audience howls in recognition.

The place is half full, but the people are so noisily appreciative that they could have well numbered up to a thousand, clapping away at the memorable showcases. Buddy sings while playing bass; Raimund raps away; Marcus lets the blues out on his guitar, and Kris sways seductively to the beat of an ancient greatness. This is the new Eraserheads, loud and clear, no mixed signals, no cold shoulders and sudden departures, just three guys and a girl doing what they've always done best.

