

INTERVIEW DE PETE WILHOIT

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Je m'appelle Pete Wilhoit. Je suis...

So you speak French too !!!

I'd love to learn more and ..The more we come back and the more we learn...so that's good

So you have to practice

I should try to practice.

Any languages is..

I last learnt when I was in Amsterdam, the Deutch, it's good.. I lived in Holland when I was 3 for 6 months, I have images in my head.

How do you feel about the way the tour is now.....

It's been really good. It's a very exciting tour to be on. There's a lot of energy and excitement around every show even though the longer it goes the less mystery there is from our perspective, we know what is gonna happen, the stage is the same every night, the drums are the same every night ; but shows like *Stade de France* are amazing because a lot of the stadiums are so big there's not an intimacy there. And you know, feel the energy back from the crowd. But in *the Stade de France*, there was so much energy...even before we go on stage. So it was great, it was quite a pleasant surprise. Both nights were the best stadium shows we've ever had by far, close second was Holland.

We had the sensation that on the second show in the Stade de France, you had more confidence..

Did you feel that ? It's very tough for me to know what is being portrayed from each audience member cause I think we hide things well too...like when something's going really bad, you might not know it.. sometimes when something's going really good...you might not know it. I think both shows, we had a lot of fun. (Cause any time you get...) For us, anytime as an opening band, you can get a crowd to get into you, even for brief moment, it's quite special. Cause you know you're the one more band with the supporting act and people are really there to see The Police understandingly and we have to steal them just for a moment to kind of take them away just for a little bit and it's a great feeling. We were really excited for both shows..

What do you do before entering the stage ?

Right before we play ??

Yes..to be cooler..

It depends

Do you do something special ? Sport...do you lock all the doors...or

Ah ah...it varies from gig to gig...The one I try to do is warm up. As a drummer it is very physical, it could be very hard on your tendons and your muscles. So depending on the temperature outside. I really have to warm up. Like yesterday it was not cold but not necessarily warm so about 45 mns of warm up. And you know, we've done that so many times that you don't really focus on it until we're behind the stage and when you think about what you're about to do. You know, it's all very positive 'cause we'd done it so many times, so we're prepared. So it's exciting, you get energized and we give ourselves a big hug and say let's go play and then you work out and then the crowd keeps cheering at the reunion...you're performing at that point.. These first pre-shows rituals are .. sometimes I'd be eating, sometimes playing videogames, sudoku or talking to my wife on the internet...different stuffs...it varies.

So this life is not easy for the family life ...How do you deal with that ??

It's not. I have a lovely wife. We've been together for 15 years, married for 6.. almost 6 in 2 weeks. It's tricky. You really have to go extra-mile, going home when you can get home...When we have time together we really have to make the most of it. You know this is a special tour and it's one you just couldn't pass of ..and my wife knows this is what I do. We're both away from each other as little as we can be but we just have to make the best of it.

What did you do before Fiction Plane ?

I was in a band for 11 years called "The Cutters".

And before that...What kind of studies did you do ??

I've always done music and lots of sports. I swam when I was younger, I played soccer, baseball, basketball, I little picked up football, tennis all sorts of things.

We can see that ! Obviously..

And when I was 8 years old I also played drums with a friend, he played piano and I played drums, I played piano and he played drums and we sort of writing around songs...And then we played at school when it was raining, everyone would come inside in the band room where we played the songs. And then, they sort of singing, knowing our songs and I think it was the 1st time I was really like "whaouh, it's fine to perform" and the reaction I get is really energizing, so that was how I really want to be a musician , so ever since then, really music is a big part in my life. And then I studied music in university. I learned a lot about music probably too much at times !! But it's been music really.

What are your hobbies ?

I like to play cards, poker, I love watching movies, any kind of movie, I love a good comedy, I like science fiction too, I love all the "Star Wars". I love going on vacation, funny as it seems, this is really what a holiday ..this seems like a vacation but in a way it is but my sense of vacation is like very family orientated. Going home to see my parents, my sister, my wife...It is necessary.

Vital ?

So that's what I like to do.

You were talking about "Fiction" what about the name Fiction Plane ?

Originally it was a song. It was spelt differently : "Plain". As in like a place, but in English language it can also mean "Boring" that's why the band changed it into "Plane". Which sounded more interesting. I did not choose the name for I wasn't in the band, I joined the band after they chose the name. That's what it means, a fictitious place where you can create what you want. I was born and raised in Indiana which is..

Hoosier state ??

Yeah, that's very good..

I know 'cause I love John Mellencamp

I took lessons from his drummer Kenny Aronoff .

Really ? Whaouh...

He lives in Bloomington, Indiana where I am from... Kenny is really one of the reasons why I'm in the band. Kenny gives Shawn Pelton (ndlr : he is his friend and former teacher) who was also my teacher. Sean called me and said they are auditioning drummer for this band. So I listened to and loved the music. Drove 13 hours to NYC & went to rehearsal studio and played with the band.

Really ? I wouldn't have thought about that..I love Mellencamp for his rock'n'roll, you know, I like this guy...

He seems to be an honest man.

Just like your band..

Yeah.

Let's talk about the song "Hate": you're probably the wrong man to talk about it but..

I did not help write it. I just played it a million times. My interpretation of the song from an outside standpoint it's not for us to take the relay as the lyrics are a little odd ??? but for us it's more of an ideology that hate something...When I listen to song, it seems like it could be a jab as for certain people it could be about the media, like everybody finds a way to hate somebody so their job is more interesting when you write something down.... when you got a war you have to decide you hate the other persons in order to kill them. Honestly, Joe would be a better guy to ask !!

Let's talk about the "throwing of your sticks"..

Well definitely in stadiums you have a lot more space. You can throw it higher and higher. It's never something I've made a point of practice, It's just sometimes I feel like doing it. At giant place to do, it's just fun sometimes. It's about 50% of the time I catch it.

I saw videos where you missed it.

Oh yeah. Totally ! So I caught them last night.

I saw you were smiling..

Yeahhhh.

What do you think of the three-piece band ?

It was a question mark for brief second. Because back again it has always been traditionally a four-piece.

Do you agree with Seton that it's better to be 3 than 4 ?

I think so, in every sense of the word, it's better. I played in jazz trios and it's amazing how much more space you have as a trio. You can communicate like we are now a lot easier with 2 other people than 3..There's more space for the actual voices to be heard. This is one mess instrument but a tunnel, plateform in music, so when Seton plays something you can easily hear, when Joe plays something is a lower registrated, when I play something you can hear it. It opened up the band and I think there is more tendancy for us to play more groove and rock type stuff.

Do you think that the band will improve in another music register ? Are you going to another..

Plane or something ? Yeah, another Fiction Plane ! I'm just kidding !!!

No I mean in something totally different ?

Yeah. I think so. But not totally different but the band has improved. I think it has improved by being a 3 piece.

We realized it. The "left side of the brain" album is really different from the "everything will never be ok" one. Especially Seton's guitar part ! It's crazy..

It steps forward. It's a bigger sound even though it's a small round.

Did you change your way of playing drums too ?

I think it's more a chance to say something. I guess as a drummer, it's just more space like you know points when we're doing very improvised thing. We have a common goal at the end but how we get there it's different every night ! That's great, that's like a really pure form of playing that I really like. It's gonna be different every night, how we get there, we're not sure, could be great or could fall on its face. But when it's great, it seems like it's better than just playing things over and over. I like the 3 piece.

So you agree ?

"J'ai agree"..

Je suis d'accord. French is quite difficult, you know.

Very.

So let's talk about Drum solos : what do you think about it ?

It's kind of a fine thing that just started recently. I mean when I was ... as a jazz drummer, I do quite a bit. The jazz language enables the drums to communicating in that fashion.

With every instrument in fact

Yeah exactly. Through Rock it's rare that it makes sense to have a drum solo. So it was actually just in Boston we played, we did it and we were gonna do an 'Encore', we had a lot of time left .. so Joe liked us to do the drum solo. And I was like : alright I guess I'll do a drum solo...and actually it worked very well 'cause it gave way to another song and it was fun for everybody it was in the moment I think... and I think that's slowly, truly becoming like something we do in our club shows. Like may be we'll do it tonight, may be we won't, it depends on how it goes...Sometimes it's great and sometimes it falls on its face kind of like all improvised things. We'll see. It's something I enjoy sometimes and sometimes not.

Let's talk about Stewart Copeland and the fact that you are touring together !

It's funny you deal with drums your whole life when you get with another drummer like that. Sometimes it's the last thing you talk about. It's like we both experienced the physics of kicking the drums but as a career with experience different things, like he has a whole life of experiences that he's experienced I could never experience. Cool to have that in common and talk about it. But it's nice to hear the stories that go with those experiences just from him. And that's always interesting you know just to hear all these things that gone through. I remember the funny time when this happened or that happened. That's great to hear I mean that stuff's inspiring. You know, some day I ...

Did you try to play together ?

That'll be fun. But it's kind of physically hard on this tour because everything's so mapped out, the stage, his drums are behind underneath, mine on the raiser, when mine get moves, his come up and mine come out. So actually get us together on the same stage playing is kind of difficult. But it could be done. It could be done.

It could be crazy...

It'll be fun...It'll be great. I'd love having 2 drums at facing each other and playing with another drummer.

Yeah, that's a good idea !

I used to do that in school and when I used to teach other kids. It's easier to learn if you can see me doing it and then to try it immediately. Maybe that'll happened, I'll suggest it.

Let's keep fingers crossed !

I think I'll have to go now...Thanx.

THE END