

## INTERVIEW DE SETON DAUNT

01/10/2007

*Introduce yourself:* My name's Seton DAUNT, I play the guitar in a band called Fiction Plane. I was born in Hastings and I've been living in London since 15 years.

*What did you study at school ?*

I've been a student in Art for 10 years. But I did not like it.

*Why ?*

Because it's been said I was made for this, that this was the best thing I could do. I was quite good at painting, but I did not like it anyway, it was boring. But your parents and school say it's your way, you now...

*Do you still play football?*

No, no, I just wanted to play football to be normal, like the other kids. Now, I like surfing and skiing...

*Who's Halima ?*

She's my wife.

*Do you have projects together ?*

Yeah. With my brother, her and some friends it's called the Daunting. It's like desert folk music. Yeah, it's just a nice thing to do 'cause I listened to and I grew up with a lot of folk music. My father, my uncle played folk music. But in this band we play mostly rock music. I really like rock music. But sometimes when I'm at home I play a lot of acoustic guitar. So it's a nice outlet. It's good for everyone to do as much music as possible.

*Do you sing ?*

Yes a bit.

*Let's talk about the **Left Side of the Brain** album, you became a threesome band.*

*There's more space to the guitar now...*

Definatelly, yeah, there's more space and it's more fun. It's more a challenge as well because when Joe would play guitar and we would play together, it is easier to be a bit lazy...for both of us. Because you think I play this and you play that together, Whatever I play has to service the song in the right way. But you can't just play boringly, it has to be interesting cause it's the only guitar. But at the same time, it needs to be for the song, not for me. I think all of us play for the song not for the ego. There are moments when you know, they like Seton playing guitar solo or Pete playing drum solo but in some ways it's like the band **saying (??)** to each other for this moment "shine". This a good moment. It's always been not egoistical. We try to.. you know ...the song is the most important thing...

*So the star is the song itself ??*

For example, the song "Drink", we played this song in many different ways, like electric, big drums, low instruments, the best way for the song is Joe with an acoustic guitar.as the main thing..so it is for the vocal, the lyric, the most important thing. I have no problem not playing very much. As Pete doesn't play a whole song but that's not a problem...We are happy because the song sounds good. I think.

I played with other musicians before and when they don't play, they're like "I'm bored. I wanna play" you know ..and it's different. The star is the song... The song is important.



*We found out that in the "Left side of the brain album" there was a huge part to your guitar. This is better and it rocks quite well!*

Thank you. I'm really glad you like it..

*This album is very different from the "Everything will never be ok" one.*

It was more reserved.

*This 2<sup>nd</sup> album is more mature, more creative...*

Well, you know, also, we've been trying to make a record for 3 years. We were bored. Bored with politics of record companies, the industry of business. We wanted to make music so when we made this record, we didn't know whether we've ever made a record again! We don't know, I don't know what's going to happen ?? What the Police tour is going to be like ??? We don't know whether we would be successful or not...who knows ?? (*I certainly*), when I made the record, I thought : this is the last record I make, I wanna play, I wanna play...I think Joe did the same and Pete did the same, I think we all thought we gonna do it the way WE want it to. Well before it's more like, you have a record company saying : this song should be more like blah, blah, blah and the producer is saying this. With this one we were completely free. I love the producer Paul Corkett, he's good friend of mine. He's a brilliant producer. The record company had not interfered. The manager did not interfere. Even Paul, he's just helpful, he would help us. He said : "make the record you really like"!

*We really love this album...It's incredible how successful it becomes without any promotion ?*

I'm glad some people like it.

*We realized that even people who did not know you found out that your music was great in the Stade the France !!*

It's fun, this is very special . It's the best stadium audience by far..

*Really ??*

France is the best.

*Are there so much differences between the audiences ?*

Big, big differences.

*What is the worst ?*

Los Angeles. Awful It's the worst crowd in the world....Because they've seen everything. They're very arrogant in terms of they show up late they're not really interested, they phone etc..... they have so many bands come to LA, everybody plays in L.A...So there's nothing special. You know, we played in ARRHUS Denmark : Incredible ! 40 thousand people, they don't get as many shows as London or Los Angeles do, so when you have a big show comes through, people become crazy...

Paris was incredible. The big difference is that in Europe, there's no seats in front of the stage. People stand ..so much better. In America & in England there are seats, it's really boring ! It means that there's no interaction between people, it's like they're physically closed. Because you have your space and your seat, everyone's like very polite and reserved... When people stand, they spill beer, they laugh to each other, they meet each other... say hello, how long have you liked the Police ? What's your favourite Police song ? Have you ever heard of Fiction Plane ? Where are you from ? They talk to each other...And they get excited about seeing the show.....

As last night there was an atmosphere like the football was about to start...there was an amazing atmosphere. And it is not definitely like that in some places ! So Paris was very good...very very good.

*What about the show of tonight ?*

We don't know if anyone's coming !!

*Really ??*

I have no idea. If it's full I'd be very happy. It might be. But we don't know !

*We found out that yesterday, before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Police show, you felt more comfortable than for the 1<sup>st</sup> one ??*

The whole band...May be....I don't know. I enjoyed both.

*We particularly liked the new song called "Sadr city blues" ..great song really...*  
Glad you like it.

*Many people in the audience like it.*

It's becoming a good song. We wrote it on this tour. Joe wrote the verse, the music and the vocal, just before we started recording Left side of the brain. And I wrote chorus with them. And then, Pete started playing right stuff. The middle section happened in America on the 1st part of the tour. And we started playing it. It's kind of evolved. I think it is still involving a little bit.

*How do you create songs generally speaking ?*

They all change...As you know Joe writes all the lyrics...There are 3 songs on this album done with Dan (Brown) : 'Presuppose'.

It's a lie ?

It's a lie, was very different. It had no chorus. Joe, Pete and me, we wrote it in Los Angeles just before Christmas (2006). We were playing the song and then the all chorus happened. The songs evolved in different ways : "2 sisters" & "Death machine", Joe was by himself just over Christmas. The way of writing changes everytime. Joe wrote all the chords and merely the lyrics. The part he plays from bass in the middle section that was just that. And then you know we wrote the other parts, the guitar lines and stuff...it's funny what happens somehow when Joe writes the songs and what we get put through when Fiction Plane felt it. We add different parts or change beats or whatever.

"Anyone" was written altogether on the 1st day we've recorded "Left side of the Brain." In the studio, we just started playing and it just sort of happened in one hour.

There are so many different ways the songs process happens.

*Does Joe need a peculiar state of mind for writing songs ?*

I think to write lyrics it had to be alone. Sure. He just does his own way.

*Which instrument does he use ?*

Most of the time acoustic guitar.

*In your songs don't you think about adding some new instruments ?*

No not now because when we lost Dan...I don't think it needs it.

*We mean in the future.....?*

It's important 1st of all to play the songs live. And if there's a song in the future & I decide it to play another instrument instead of guitar ...then sure but if it means that we have to have someone else play the instrument for live probably not...3 piece we enjoyed the most ! it's much better than being a 4 piece !

*Why ?*

There's much more freedom. You're much more musically free.

*We thought it was the contrary ?*

When you have a 4 piece, you have 3 instruments which have cords. So when we improvised together it's more difficult. Because one person has to leave the way. And then the other 2 people have to play with that person. When there's only 2 instruments like for me and Joe, we bap to each other, I play that he follows, he plays that I follow ..we exchange, it's

much easier to have a musical conversation. 'Cause it's less people. Imagine, if you're talking to the 3 of us, it's easier to have a conversation than with 4 people.

*Let's talk about the Police : were you surprised about the Police to reunite ??*

Very surprised. I never thought it would happen. You know ... the thing Sting said : " I would be mad, clinically insane if it ever happens" .. I was kind of used to it.

*I saw you last year in Carcassonne on stage, it was marvellous.*

We had fun. I was happy ...

I'm happy about the Police coming back together.

*We too...*

I bet !

*Were you surprised too to do the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the Police tour ??*

Yeah, I was very surprised to be offered. We were very lucky 'cause Sting has been very supportive with our band. And you know very encouraging.

*When we listened to the beginning of "2 sisters", (We like it very much) we thought it was very much like "the bed's too big without you" Police song. It goes down and up...*

*And what about "Presuppose", you have U2 influences in it ??*

Sorry I'm confused...What was the Q<sup>o</sup> ??

*"2 sisters" sounds like "the bed's too big without you" Police song. It was going Up not down...*

No I don't agree...because "Bed's too big" goes down in notes. Dididididi (Seton chante la mélodie). So it goes up, down, up.

*So you're the professional !*

I am !

*"2 sisters" sounds like*

"2 sisters" down, up down...

*How did you decide to become a musician ?*

I was very lucky. I went to a school and there was 3 or 4 kids who played guitar. I was pretty shy at school. Not very sociable. And..

*Who wasn't ??*

I remember I was thinking about..one was very confident at school..There was a kid who was knid a star be cause he played the guitar and I asked him to show me how to play some of guitar. And he showed me.

Without telling anyone, I practiced, I practiced...I went home about months later and there was an old guitar that someone left at my mother's house. And I started playing and my mother said "Oh my God, where did you learn to play the guitar ??" And that Christmas she gave me my 1<sup>st</sup> guitar. I was very lucky..so I practiced, practiced, practiced...

*Where did you meet Joe and Dan ?*

I met Dan 1<sup>st</sup>. I met Dan through a friend of his in University. We were 18 and I met Dan, I was looking for a band and Dan was looking for a band I mean Dan was starting a band and .....

*Was it an ad ??*

No only word of mouth...I was with Dan and ...So all those bands rejoined together

*How long do you know Joe and Dan ?*

Thirteen years. And Pete five years.

*So you are good friends...*

We're very good friends...we're lucky, it's really nice !

*What are you going to plan in the future ? I read that you are going to make an LP about this tour...*

I think there is a lot of touring left for this album. , I mean we've got still next year you know I think our tour's still going next year.. there's Australia and Japan...

*South America with the Police ?*

No, we're not doing South America. We're going to do North America again by ourselves. We'll do it when they'll go to South America...I think we gonna tour a lot more and then see what happens...you know there's ...I think they want us to make another record but at the moment we only have one song for the new album : "Sadr' city blues" ...

*Oh yeah !*

That's the only song. I mean there's lots of songs but I think it's the only one that is really....That song is gonna be on the album

*What about the songs you have created between the albums ?*

I personally have let it go....I really want people to hear the songs. By then, I don't know. It's just how it is. I don't like holding on to songs Sometimes you want to, and sometimes it's ok but I think it's better to just keep and try them.

Olivier Garnier, their French manager arrives and tells us that we have to stop the interview ...But we won't let Seton go away without signing our tickets and telling that we will be at the Nouveau Casino to hear Fiction Plane play live !