



Deadbolt  
in action

# Voodooillies

With innovative guitar niches relatively rare birds, and genre hybrids (psycho-folk, ska-core, etc.) getting more absurd every day, an inventive guitarist sure has got his work cut out for him. That's why Deadbolt's lead guitarist Harley Davidson deserves a hearty pat on the back.

"I grew up listening to a lot of surf music," Davidson explains, "but I got bored by it because it was all instrumental. I thought if I could put words to it and creep it up a bit, it would be creepy surf music with a story." And thusly was born the ultimate hybrid: "voodooobilly."

"Every band needs a title," he says. "Dick Dale is the King of Surf Guitar, Duane Eddy is the King of Twang. We bill ourselves the Kings of Voodoo Guitar: Bastard Sons of Rockabilly. I made up the name, and everybody else can fuck off."

Not that Davidson is especially proud of his technical prowess. In fact, he recommends just a few simple rules for jumping on the voodooobilly bandwagon. "First, break a couple of your fingers so you'll have to work in a real simple form. Then get yourself a reserve reverb tank—lots of reverb. Then slap it around a little bit and have a go at it."

On Deadbolt's latest recording, *Tiki Man*, Davidson remains faithful to his '65 Fender Jaguar "with a sparkly pickguard."

"We're mostly Fender men," he says. "It's the whole aura that feels good: the sound, the look, the whole package." Davidson has a '72 reverb unit hooked up to his Fender Twin.

"The day my Mom brought home 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly' [by Ennio Morricone] was the day I became totally obsessed with creepiness. Now I'm the Voodooobilly Man. And, oh, yeah," he remembers, "I play better when I'm drunk."

—Bob Gulla

# KEIFER madness

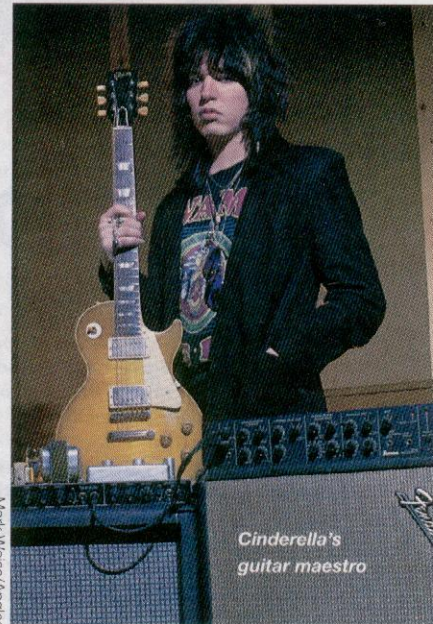
"Whenever you pick up a '59 sunburst Les Paul, it's just like picking up a Stradivarius," observes Cinderella's Tom Keifer, noted "purist" guitar collector and head axe-banger for Philadelphia's hard-rockin' Cinderella. "And you just can't beat that tone, either. Les Pauls are the basic component of rock'n'roll—the best all-around guitars for both lead *and* rhythm. But if you're looking for a dark, twangy, ballsy kind of sound, an early-'50s Telecaster ought to cover it."

If anyone knows how to mix balls and the blues it's Keifer, who flexes mightily on Cinderella's fourth platter, *Still Climbing*, which kisses the sky thanks to the Zeppelinesque slide lines on the title track, the buzzy drive of "The Road's Still Long," and the stunning "Hard To Find the Words," which was built around a multitracked wall of six Nashville-tuned acoustics. "I like that effect—it sounds like one big 12-string," Keifer grins.

Keifer recently added a few more beauties to his collection, including a mint-condition gold Jaguar with gold parts ("everyone should have one") and a '65 Gibson Hummingbird, but his favorite toy of the moment happens to be the Transperformance DTS-1 digital tuning system, a device built into one of his favorite Les Pauls that automatically tunes the guitar and stores up to 200 custom tunings; on *Still Climbing*, the DTS-1 was employed to provide the phased modulation shift that kicks in right before the solo on "Bad Attitude Shuffle."

Oh, and if you think Cinderella ought to be searching for its own glass slipper, Keifer's already found it: "Yeah, I've got a clear-bodied Dan Armstrong, too," he reports.

—Mike Mettler



Mark Weiss/Anjles

Cinderella's  
guitar maestro

## The Buzz

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another drummer getting the short end of the stick after **Soul Asylum** gave him his walking papers due to "musical differences." **Sterling Campbell** has replaced him and will do the honors on the group's next album, due out in May.... Since drum-

mer **Jack Irons** left **Eleven** to join **Pearl Jam**, his vacated spot is being filled by **Soundgarden** skinsman **Matt Cameron**, but only to cut some tracks for the band's next album.... That's **Dave Edmunds'** rendition of "Sabre Dance" by Russian compos-

er **Khachaturian** in those Nike TV commercials that feature baseball's **Ken Griffey, Jr.** of the Seattle Mariners. Edmunds will also be involved with Decca Records' **Buddy Holly** tribute album due this summer.... **Simple Aggression** and **Full Circle**