

EXCLUSIVE LES PAUL INTERVIEW
SLASH TALKS ABOUT HIS TIME WITH THE LEGEND



AUSTRALIAN

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GUITARIST TO WATCH

MO MAYHEM

Currently playing with: Hell City Glamours
Currently based in: Sydney

Usually found playing at: booze dens all over this fair land of ours
Years on the fretboard: 12 years now but I was more skilful 8 yrs ago!
How would you describe your playing style? I like to take the best bits of my favourite players and mix it in with my own style. Guys like Malcolm Young, Brian May, Scott Gorham and Brian Robertson (Thin Lizzy) influenced me heaps – but I take little bits of them and add in my own flavour. I think it's key to have your own personality on the instrument. Hard'n'slinky rhythm playing and melodic solos and mix liberally with booze.

First axe: Ibanez Roadstar 2 – awesome strat copy (wish I never sold it).

Current axe: Gretsch Electromatic (two of them – they're cheap, sound good and withstand a BEATING – I've broken both necks and they still sound rad) and soon I'm getting Fernandes Monterey which I am super excited about.

Rig/pedals: Marshall JCM 800 100 Watt (2203), Fender tuner and a Twin Boost Pedal (for solos and heavy bits).

Secret weapon: there's no secret really, Gretsch into a cranked Marshall with the mids turned all the way up. It's rock'n'roll as all f**k. But if anything I think the secret weapon is how hard the guitar is hit. I can go from clean to dirty with picking dynamics – that effects a lot of it. Oh and not over distorting things – let the power amp work hard.

Favourite guitarist of all time: Malcolm Young – he is AC/DC. Notable mentions to Steve Cropper and Keith Richards. BB King also because I saw the way he wiggled his fingers on TV when I was little and that's how I learnt vibrato! I like guys who make the song move with their rhythm playing – even though I play heaps of leads I really think a guitarist isn't worth his salt if they're not a strong rhythm player. Everyone can play a blues scale fast and sound like a pale imitation of the greats but few can lock right in and really MOVE a song. For solos, guys like Brian May where the solo is a song within a song as opposed to just being someone jerking off on the fret board. You know where you can sing the solo? I love that.

Favourite current local player:

Blackie from the Hard Ons – the man has supreme control of his instrument – he knows every sound he can make out of it by hitting it a certain way. Also Bow and Davis from Front End Loader. They're not flashy players but their guitar parts always compliment each other perfectly which is what me and Oscar try to do.

Web details: www.hellcityglamours.com, www.myspace.com/hellcityglamours.



SNEAK PEAK AT THE NORMANDY

Winner of the Best In Show at the recent Nashville NAMM show, the "virtually indestructible" aluminium Normandy guitars are not far from arriving in Australia.

Here's some background on these sexy chrome beasts: you get classic arch top curves with a vintage Bigsby vibrato tailpiece on an aircraft-grade aluminium body which produces smooth warm tones with maximum sustain. The pickups are Normandy Old School Humbuckers with Alnico 5 magnets, overwound to 12K ohms for higher output, powerful midrange and driving tone. The chrome finish is triple-electroplated, the School Bus and Army Green are powder coated using a special "baked-on" finish and the Candy Apple Metal Flake finishes are far superior to the standard paint, stain, or varnish typically found on guitars. These things are said to keep their shine forever. We'll give you an update on pricing later in the year. Until then, drool on.



HAMMETT'S ULTIMATE RIG WINNER



In a year with a new Metallica album due (*Death Magnetic*), and the release of a new line of Randall Kirk Hammett signature amps, Australian Randall & ESP distributor – CMI Music & Audio – thought it timely to give the guitar-and-amp-buying public the opportunity to win the 'Ultimate' Kirk Hammett rig comprising a Randall RM-100KH, two RS-412KH cabinets and an ESP/LTD KH-202 Kirk Hammett signature guitar. The lucky winner was Gareth Remington of Melbourne, who could not believe his luck at winning a prize with a retail value of over \$10,000.

Gareth – a guitarist of two years whose favourite Metallica album is *Master of Puppets* – placed his entry through Cranbourne Music's Melbourne city store after purchasing another ESP/LTD model guitar and a smaller Randall amp there. To get an upgrade so soon will see Gareth having to move his bed to make some room in his inner-city apartment! *Australian Guitar* sends our congratulations to Gareth (put it to good use son!) and sincerest apologies to his neighbours.

VYPER PREVIEW

Here at *Australian Guitar* we had the pleasure of getting a sneak preview at the new Peavey Vyper range. Soon to arrive in 15, 30 and 75 watt solid state combos, this an amp that is truly revolutionary and had us picking our jaws off the floor. And after we had heard the pricing we had to do so again. There are almost too many features for us to list but the main thing: they sound great and are extremely easy to use. The depth in the distortion is worth the asking pricing alone. For starters you're getting four footswitchable channels with 11 "stompbox" effects and 11 "rack effect" as well as a built in looper and chromatic tuner. It's also set to come with a five year warranty. Watch this space as we'll be talking with one of it's creators as well as spending a weekend locked in the garage with this beast real soon.

