

GLOTH ROCK



It totally disillusioned me. It was in '85 that I realised I didn't like the Eighties."

Alright then, as I sprinkle some Indecator magic glitter about us, whisking us back to the early Seventies, what do you see?

"I see myself wearing checked Oxford Bags and a bomber jacket. I'd be watching 'Crossroads' and 'Opportunity Knocks'. I'd be reading 'Music Scene', which would have articles on Iggy, Captain Beheart and Alice Cooper in it, and 'Music Star', which had people like Bolan in. I'd be going to the Birmingham Odeon to see bands like T. Rex, Roxy Music, Cockney Rebel and, for some reason, Leo Sayer! Later in the decade, I'd go to my first night-club, Barbarellas, where I'd see my first punk band, The Killjoys, who were terrible! Punk was happening just before I left school. I rejected the past and all my friends because they had completely different attitudes to go on the dole was great, there was no stigma attached to it. I got my first guitar for Christmas 1977 and my first gig was with Felt supporting The Fall in 1980. We by-passed the whole Birmingham scene. We simply wrote to The Fall and Mark Smith wrote back and said 'come and play with us'."

That kind of thing doesn't seem to happen anymore. It all seemed easier around that time.

"After 1985 it all became too easy. You had all these bands who couldn't play. It was amateurish.

"The Seventies was full of moon landings and space exploration and bands like The Glitter Band were matching the music to the times."

Talking Heads and a latter-day Lou Reed. But what do I know? I thought we might back-track a little and discover Lawrence's motivations for getting into music in the first place. Was it through the tried-and-tested college route?

"No, I didn't go to college. I went to a hard comprehensive school and college was for hippies - Yes fans. Other kids got jobs, whilst we dossers looked forward to going on the dole. At that time Lawrence put the whole Denim concept together in New York, a city that suited him as, 'it was like walking into an episode of 'Kojak...'." It's obvious that, apart from the title track, which is pure Brit grit, America left its mark on the album. However, the lyrics are chock full of specific British references. Was there a danger that audiences wouldn't be able to relate to them?"

"I wondered about that. I wanted the album to appeal to everyone. 'American Rock' is for the Americans, I suppose. But you have to credit an audience with intelligence. I mean, we understand American culture easily enough!

It's all very well having a soft spot for the Seventies, but one must keep abreast of what's happening now, eh? What do you love and hate about the present music scene?

"I like underground black, electronic, music. I like faceless, cold, dark, metallic music. The rock end of things isn't for me really."

Which is odd, because Lawrence doesn't seem to be making this soulless, bloodless brand of music. Whilst listening to 'Back In Denim', I kept receiving subliminal flashes of The Only Ones,

