

IN THE NEWS



Thorogood (left) with Keith Richards

George Thorogood

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO share a stage with the Rolling Stones? We asked guitarist George Thorogood, ace exponent of Chuck Berry-styled, bar-band blues-rock. Thorogood should know—he and his three-piece group, the Destroyers, were the opening act for the Stones concerts in Philadelphia, Buffalo, Boulder, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco, and were scheduled to repeat the feat when the Stones tour swung through New Orleans on December 5th. We intercepted Thorogood in North Dakota, where he was beginning his own "Fifty-Fifty" tour—playing fifty gigs in fifty states in fifty days. His memories of th-

One thing led to another, and lo and behold, before you knew it, we were on a couple of the shows. It was a thrill for me, believe me.

You're a big Stones fan? You don't do any of their songs, though, do you?

They're all Stones songs, man.

The Stones' tour seems really well organized....

Yeah, very top-shelf. Probably the most professional scene I've ever been connected with.

Did they give you time for a sound check?

No. We were the sound check.

Did you hang out with Mick and Keith backstage?

No, but we became friendly with Ian Stewart, who came down and played piano with us at the Country Club in Los Angeles. He also played with us on the Stones shows in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Nice guy, too.

How did you get together with the Stones? Did they approach you?

No, no. Last summer, when I found out they were gonna tour, I talked to our booking agent and let him know how strongly I felt about being on one of the shows. Then he took it to Bill Graham's people.

Are you considering adding a piano player to the Destroyers' lineup now?

Well, we'd like to work with Ian again sometime, but it had more to do with him than with the instrument he was playing.

What year is that hollow-body guitar you play? It has a great sound and no feedback.

I know they stopped makin' this particular brand of guitar in 1970, but I have no idea exactly how old mine is. I just put gas in it, turn on the ignition and go, you know?

It really cut through the muddy sound at those Stones shows in Philadelphia.

Well, it's very flattering that people are still talkin' about those gigs, but they were nowhere compared to the shows we did in, say, Boulder or L.A. or San Francisco. I mean, the difference between us in Philly and us in San Francisco was like the difference between us ten years ago and us now. We just grew up that fast. You have to. It's like in a war—if you last one day, you're a veteran, you know what I mean? The Stones are the greatest, but they gotta get warmed up, too. I mean, everybody was rusty in Philadelphia. I thought the Stones were really good, but then, playing with them later on down the road, uh...that show in Philadelphia was just a shadow of what they warmed up to in San Francisco.

They've still got it. They can still turn it on....

Oh, yeah. They'll always have that, as long as they're breathing.

—KURT LODER

The Clash to release single, LP

FRESH FROM A WEST European tour that culminated in seven sold-out shows in London last month, the Clash are now busy at work on a new album, as well as a film about their seventeen-night stand in New York City last spring. In addition, the group is planning its most ambitious U.S. tour, which manager Bernard Rhodes vowed will carry them to "the towns that

people make fun of—and that we think should be taken seriously."

A twelve-inch single, "This is Radio Clash," should be out soon; the fierce, funky tune is filled with stark images of mushroom clouds, apathetic victims and "urban Vietnams," and pleads, "Please save us, not the whales." Meanwhile, the group is recording an as-yet-untitled single album, set for release in Feb-

ruary. Due to be included on the LP are songs tentatively titled "Know Your Rights—All Three of Them," a slick, savage critique of legal inequality, and "Should I Stay or Should I Go?," a mid-Sixties-style pop tune sung by guitarist Mick Jones.

The band is hoping that the LP and tour will help bolster its U.S. following. "We'd like to be the successes that Van Halen are," Jones said recently. "We want to make people listen."

—PETER HALL

Rolling Stone

Readers' Poll 1981

OFFICIAL BALLOT

The ballot below is for the Sixth Annual ROLLING STONE Readers' Poll. All entries must be submitted on the official ballot and mailed to Readers' Poll, c/o ROLLING STONE, 745 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10151, no later than January 4th, 1982. For this year's poll, only records released after November 1st, 1980, are eligible. The results will be run in RS 364 (March 4th, 1982). Have fun.

Artist of the Year

Album of the Year

Single of the Year

Best New Artist

Male Vocalist

Female Vocalist

Band

Soul Artist

Jazz Artist

Country Artist

Producer

Songwriter

Instrumentalist

Radio Station/City