

THE BANGS

BY ERICK WATKINS

The Bangs are: Debbie Peterson, Vicki Peterson, Susana Hoffs, and Annette Zilinskas. This interview was taken at the Whiskey, the last night before they closed. They closed because the big ol' bands, Chron Gen and Vice Squad came, and some alleged skinhead began belly-flopping on the hoods of the cop cars. Riots broke out, squad cars...so they closed for remodeling to have a dance club (trendy), that won't work out, so they'll go back to booking "punk" bands next month. Present were Sue(S) and Debbie(D).

E: Who writes the songs?

S: Vicki Peterson and I, Susana Hoffs, write most of the songs, and we write words and music and Debbie wrote 1 song that's gonna come out on the EP that we worked together on.

E: Hmmm. Where do you get the ideas for your lyrics?

BANGS: Anything.

D: It's like whatever somebody feels at the time, or some personal experience, or you know, about somebody they know personally, or something that happened.

E: Which are your favorite songs- of yours, and in the world?

D: Well of our songs, I think, "The Real World".

S: You like that one?

D: Yeah, and "I'm in Line".

S: Yeah, it's a soul song more than anything else.

E: How many members in the band, four, right?

S: There's four, yeah, Debbie Peterson plays drums, and I play rhythm guitar, Vicki Peterson plays lead, and Annette Zilinskas plays bass; and Debbie, Vicki, and I all sing.

E: How long have you been playing as a group?

S: About a year and a half.

E: Where do your musical roots come from- what bands influenced you?

D: Well, actually, our roots are a lot of 60's male groups, really, like the Beatles, Yardbirds, the Kinks....

S: The Byrds.

D: The Stones.

E: I love the Stones.

S: A lot of people call us a girl group, you know, but we aren't so much influenced by the classic girl groups of the 60's, we're more influenced by the male rock bands.

E: What bands do you listen to?

S: Well, I listen to alot of 60's stuff, you know, but I also like a lot of the bands around now, like Salvation Army (now named 3 o'clock), Dream Syndicate, you know I really like them alot.

D: Alot of local bands.

E: Who's your favorite?

S: The Dream Syndicate, and 3 o'clock, and Red Kross (laughter, for Red Kross were in the room).

S: And our favorite movie is "Beyond the Valley of the Dolls" (laughs).

E: Who are your favorite movie stars, like personalities and stuff?

S: Dennis Hopper (someone yells "yah!") and David Hemming, we like all those mod guys from the 60's, you know.

E: The Who?

S: Oh yeah, we like old Who, I love old Who.

D: I love old Who, love old Stones.

S: Before Ron Wood (laughter).

E: Yeah, yeah I hate that guy (laughs).

S: Mick Taylor I like, Mick Taylor was cool.

E: I didn't even like him that much, though Brian Jones I loved.

S: Yeah, Brian Jones was cool.

D: Yes, he was definitely cool.

S: So...we just recorded a 5 song EP.

E: Do you like it?

D: Yeah, it turned out really well, it sounds alot like us live.

S: Yeah, as opposed to sort of a real slick pop sound, we wanted a real live sound, dig drums.

E: No synthesizers used.

D: No, none at all.

S: We had some pianos, we got like a harpsichord sound on one of the pianos.

E: Have you done a lot of interviews?

D: Recently we've done a lot.

S: N.Y. Rocker, Bam, Trouser Press, alot of stuff.

D: Yeah, it's really been great.

E: I like those clothes you wore in the Bam photo.
 S: We're getting them like designed now, we take old clothes and get them designed, yeah, cause we wanted to like have a look.
 D: We want to have a look that's not vintage 60's, but it's like taking a bit from that and modernizing it.

E: Warholesque.

S: Yeah, kinda Warholesque, kinda op-art look in clothing, like real geometric, like with shapes and things like that.

E: I love Warhol.

S: Yeah, me too.

E: Did you see "Ciao, Manhattan" yet?

BANGS: YES!

E: Did you see it, wasn't that good?

D: That was great.

S: Yeah, we love, I love all the old Andy Warhol movies, not the ones he produced, but the ones he actually directed, like "Chelsea Girls".

E: That was sooooo good.

S: Isn't that great, with the 2 screens happening and Nico and everything?

S: Love the Velvet Underground.

E: Me too.

S: Love the Velvet Underground, I love the Lovin' Spoonful.

D: Oh, yes.

S: A lot of those N.Y. groups, the Blues Magoos,

you know, also I really like the Ramones, early Blondie, and Richard Hell and the Voidoids, and those kinda bands, and like the Hollies for the big vocal sound.

D: Oh, yeah!

S: Mamas and the Poppas, of course.

E: Where are you from?

D: We're all from here.

E: You pain to travel anywhere, cross-country?

S: We're gonna go to N.Y., we think.

D: Yeah, in December, hopefully.

S: We're hoping to hit the East coast, do like a little mini-tour with the EP, depending on how it goes, we're gonna be on 3 TV shows, 2 London shows that are gonna be viewed all across England, Nation-wide British Television, and we're gonna be on TV Tokyo for Japanese TV.

E: Do people slam at your shows?

BANGS: Sometimes.

D: Yeah, like we played our first show as the Bangs at the NO-MAG party.

E: Yeah, my friend was there, did you see a skinhead? (laughter)

D: Yeah, those skinheads were slamming; it was great.

E: Yeah, he said they slammed the shit out of that place, it was wiillld!

S: Yeah, we played with the Descendents and Channel 3, it was fun. And of course we really like Rodney, he's helped us alot, and we're gonna come out on Rodney on the Rock (KROQ) volume 3, with a like instrumental song, a cross between surf music and "Eight Miles High" kind of...(laughter)

E: What do your parents think of the band, do they like it?

BANGS: All our parents love it, they come to alot of our shows.

D: It's amazing, they support us, you know really.

S: They're really behind it, mine makes movies, she's an independent filmmaker, and she put us in her new movie, which is called the "Haircut" which is cool 'cause we have bangs (laughs), and you know, and, umm... John Casavetti (Italians are the best), he's starring in the movie, it's gonna be cool when that comes out.

E: What do you dislike most about being a female? (laughter)

D: Well...(laughs)

S: Nothing much- I like being a girl.

D: It's cool, you know, it's fun to be a girl, and to be up there playing away, just cause it's different, and it's also saying to alot of Chauvinist people around... saying, "Hey, look- we can do it too", it's not like we're all feminists or anything 'cause we're not.

S: And it's not like we just started playing our instruments, because we've all been playing for a really long time, I know I've been playing since I was a kid. And Debbie's been playing one thing or another since she was a kid; she's been playing drums since she was an early teen.

E: What's your goal as a female?

BANGS: To be happy.

D: To be rich. (laughs)

S: To be successful, hopefully.

E: What do you all intend to do with the band, like where are you gonna go from here?

D: We'd like to get our songs on AM radio, get AM back to what it used to be in the 60's, and just really revolutionize the radio, so that when you turn it on, you hear these much better songs, instead of hearing slow-ballad-boring-drippy songs.

S: Yeah, 'cause everybody listens to the radio, people at work at their boring jobs and they have to listen to boring music at their boring jobs, that's terrible.



SUE AND DEBBIE

ERICK WATKINS

E: How do you feel when you're out there on stage?

S: GREAT, we all feel much better than we do normally.

D: It's incredible.

S: The best feeling.

D: Knowing that you're making people, like people are out there watching you and they're having fun, you know, just making people have a good time, that's exciting, too.



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