

# COLDPLAY

E-ZINE • ISSUE 5 • 09.02

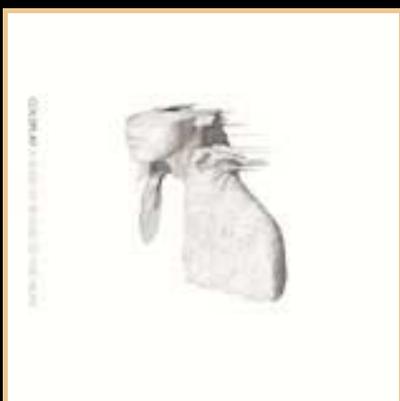
News Updates

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Will's Journal

# HEAD RUSH



On Sunday 1st September, the second album from Coldplay 'A Rush Of Blood To The Head', stormed to the top of the U.K chart beating the number 2 by thousands!

The album sold close to 274,000 copies in it's first week making it the highest sales in the first week of a release this year, beating both Eminem and Oasis.

It gained number 1 status in 12 territories including Canada, Germany and Norway amongst others and a significant chart position – number 5 - in the U.S.

The band were in the UK this week after a small tour of the States (where they returned recently) and performed a gig at the Forum in Kentish Town – London – attended by fans, friends and celebrities. It was an almost identical set to recent shows, with the addition of "Lips Like Sugar" – the Echo and the Bunnymen track - , Chris singing "Warning Sign", a short solo cover of "Shining Light" by Ash who were present at the gig along with comedians, musicians, actors and D.J's but the coolest guest of the evening has to be Dave Grohl from the Foo Fighters. The show was broadcast live on Radio 1 on Steve Lamacq's show.

Top Of The Pops also featured a live rendition of "Daylight" to coincide with the album release.

On the Sunday the album went to number 1 (Sep 1st), Chris, Guy and Jonny joined management, record company, publishing reps and myself in Primrose Hill to celebrate. Chris was pretty speechless but Jonny had this to say "Tottenham are top of the league and we're number 1, this is the best day of my life!"

All Stories Edited by Debs Wild, 2002

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## IN THEIR PLACE

'In My Place' gave Coldplay their highest single chart entry to date, debuting at Number 2 in the official U.K charts. In the first week, this single sold 326 copies less than 'Yellow' did in it's first week of release. They sold around 17,000 less than the man who kept them off the top spot. Darius, a finalist on the UK Pop Idol show, who admits he bought In My Place stayed at Number 1 for a second week.

Coldplay, however, rose to top the UK Radio airplay chart receiving a total of 1900 plays in the week prior to release.

## LIVE

Reviews of the U.S tour dates have been appearing on the News section of Coldplay.com as well as the usual magazines. The New York shows have attracted more attention as there have been celebrities in attendance including Oasis' Gallagher brothers and Hollywood actress Gwyneth Paltrow.

The following October dates on the forthcoming U.K tour are now sold out:

- 14 Brighton Centre
- 15 Bournemouth Int' Arena
- 17 Plymouth Pavilions
- 18 Port Talbot Afan Lido
- 20 London Wembley Arena
- 21 London Wembley Arena

## FUTURE FORESTS

There is a link on the website which will take you to a very interesting and worthy website. Future Forests is all about putting a little back into nature. Here's what the site says:

As a result of making the band's eagerly anticipated new album, 'A Rush Of Blood To The Head' (released on Aug 26th) Carbon Neutral, Coldplay have created their own forest with enough trees to absorb all the carbon dioxide (CO2) created during the production, manufacture and distribution of the CD.

The Coldplay forest is in Bangalore, India where Future Forests will plant 10,000 mango trees this August to offset around 7,340 tonnes of CO2. The forests will also provide a sizeable food source and income stream for the local Indian farmers.

The more albums Coldplay sell - the more trees are planted. Coldplay fans can get involved by [clicking here](#) Each will receive a branded certificate and map, and the trees will be planted in the 'Coldplay forests'.

## COLDPLAY MEDIA WATCH

With the recent arrival of the album, reviews have been popping up all over the place. Tabloids, Broadsheets, Q magazine, NME, as well as trade magazines Music Week (U.K) and Billboard (U.S) as well as online. By and large the reviews have been more than favourable and it is averaging at a 4/5 rating. In general, most say it is a safe comeback record and although cite their more obvious influences, don't feel it is too different from "Parachutes". The Guardian summed it up with the following conclusion: "A Rush Of Blood To The Head achieves precisely what it sets out to do. It sounds like an album ready to take on the world and win".

Whatever your personal view, I'd like to hear from you. Email me your thoughts at [debswild@btinternet.com](mailto:debswild@btinternet.com) There are many features, interviews and audio files available on the web at the moment. Amongst them on [www.bbc.co.uk/radio1](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio1) an interview with the band on Steve Lamacq's evening session, where the guys play tracks from the new album, their personal favourites by other artists, talk to fans on the phone and take part in a quiz about each other. Coldplay have featured heavily on MTV and MTV2, hosting 120 Minutes and the broadcast of their recent \$2 bill show in Chicago. They will be repeated, so don't worry if you missed it.

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INTERVIEW  
WITH RADIO 1'S  
STEVE LAMACQ

Steve Lamacq is a DJ on BBC Radio One and has always been involved in showcasing new talent from emerging bands. He was a very instrumental figure in the early Coldplay days indeed he still is. Recently he has had the exclusive plays of "In My Place" brought in to him personally by Chris and Jonny and was the first to air tracks from "Rush Of Blood To The Head". I caught up with him and asked him questions that I think you'll agree he answered with a genuine passion for the band. It is clearly a labour of love being Steve Lamacq.

**Chris famously exposed on their first evening session that you received a copy of the 'Safety' E.P. and you hadn't listened to it, so can you recall how and when you first heard Coldplay?**

The story goes like this. Simon Williams from Fierce Panda, who's my best mate, says "Have you heard Coldplay?" No. Are they any good? Simon says they're worth going to see. I grab my friend Computer Mark, who I sometimes have a drink with after the show, and convince him that it's worth yomping up to Camden to see this band that neither of us know anything about. We bowl up and stand in the backroom at the Camden Falcon and Coldplay go on.

And honestly, and this doesn't happen very often, but honestly we stand there aghast, with our jaws hitting the floor as Coldplay play to 40 people, many of whom I suspect are there mates because they appear to know all the words to the songs and at the end of the set we just gawp at each other. Finally Mark says something like "Excuse me if I'm wrong, but are they the best thing I've seen in months..." I was speechless. Because you really don't see a lot of bands who are so 'ready'. You see groups who you think might be good in three months, or six months, or even a year, but Coldplay were the finished article.

It was pure joy. It was like going to a cashpoint and finding somebody had left £100 just sitting there. After all the nights where you go to see bands on a tip-off and invariably they're either a letdown or just OK, but there was Coldplay.... unassuming but really, really, very good.

It was the most excited I'd been in ages. So I went into work and said we should get them on.

**That evening session was voted best of that year at the NME Awards, can you describe the atmosphere and their performance back then?**

We did a live session first for Lamacq Live, which was the first time we'd ever had an unsigned band on Lamacq Live. Then they did a session for the ES, which I didn't go to, but it was a chilling first set. A real spine-tingler. It sounded like they took to the recording studio situation very naturally.

**You did find the E.P. which thankfully hadn't been designated to the bin, what are your thoughts on it as a self financed demo and why do you think it slipped through your net?**

We get so much material, you just can't get through it all. I do three hours a day and five hours on Sunday, but that's still not enough to listen to everything. But going back to it, the EP sounds alright. I still don't think I would have been as excited about the band though if I hadn't of seen them live, because it was their composure and humour and general stage presence that helped make them what they were at the start.

**What is it about the band that compelled you to be so pro-active?**

I don't know really. It's just gut instinct. I think one of the reasons I liked them - which isn't very punk rock -

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## INTERVIEW WITH RADIO 1'S STEVE LAMACQ CONTINUED

is that they could really PLAY. I remember the first time I saw Blur in a crap pub in Kennington, when they were still called Seymour, and they were a bit of a mess, but they could really PLAY. And the thing about that is, you just know they can go on to get better and better. Some bands you see, and you're secretly aware that they won't progress very much, because they're limited by their ability. And sometimes that's OK. I never wanted the Ramones to be fantastic musicians for instance... But Coldplay are a kind of different entity - and they gave you something for the present, but a real vision for the future as well.

**You have championed Coldplay throughout their career, inviting them to support Catatonia at The Forum in the early days, what highlights stand out for you?**

Well, the Forum gig was good, because originally Catatonia didn't want a support band, or wanted to pick their own. So we had to dig our heels in to get them on...but I think the best moment was when they played at Harlow Square, which was another Radio 1 gig. I used to live in Harlow, and the Square used to be my local venue, so going back there was quite a big deal for me.

And not a lot of people really knew them at that time, but the gig sold out a couple of weeks in advance, and that was when I knew it was beginning to take off.

They still had the globe on stage at that point, and they still had a lot to prove, but the mixture of affability and tenacious songwriting won the crowd over and if they could do that in Harlow, they could do anything.

**You attended many of their early shows, from the Barfly to Glastonbury, have you a particular favourite gig?**

Apart from Harlow, it was Glastonbury the first time. It was gorgeous. It was Chris' day really. In-between songs he was a) a bit cheeky, b) a bit cocky and c) the most self-effacing singer on the planet. He was taking the piss out of the crowd one moment, and then ripping himself to pieces the next. It was a perfect Glastonbury appearance, which basically said "We're good, and that's why we're here on this stage, but actually we're no different to you lot watching us."

And the sun was in the right place, and I stood with a bunch of my mates...oh, I could very sentimental about that one.

**Were you surprised by the phenomenal success of 'Yellow' debuting at No.4 and Parachutes at No.1?**

I'm a terrible pessimist. I could almost out pessimist Chris at times. So part of me was surprised at the success, but another part of me was thinking, 'well, that's about right'. The weird thing about 'Parachutes' was that I was in America when it went to Number One, and for a couple of days I genuinely thought that I should resign from Radio1 there and then.

I was probably a bit mad, but in my own head I thought, 'here's a band we've championed from nothing to Number One in the album charts and nothing will ever be this good again'.

**Do you think they can sustain this level of success?**

Definitely. And more. Having heard the new album, I think this a record which will take on a life of its own again. The production's more dense, and it took me a while to get to grips with a few of the tracks, but that's good, I think. If you can grasp a record in one play, there's very little to challenge you over the coming months.

The new record is very detailed. There's a lot of depth to it - and Chris' lyrics are getting better all the time. I think the best is still to come from him. He's learnt a lot about how to express himself over the last year - both on and offstage and...

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## INTERVIEW WITH RADIO 1'S STEVE LAMACQ CONTINUED

...his mindset is much better. So - long answer - but yes.

**Their arrival on the music scene seemed perfect timing, do you think any sooner or later & they may have had less impact?**

You see this is something I disagree with a little. I think Coldplay were still a little out of time when they first started getting noticed. I mean various A&R types passed on them because they couldn't see where the band fitted in... and when we started playing the record there was some dissent from listeners who didn't get it at all.

I'd like to think that whatever moment they emerged, then we would have picked up on them sooner or later and so would everyone else.

**Do you think the current trend of American bands and the heavy rock scene may be detrimental to the re-emergence of Coldplay?**

No. Coldplay were an alternative when they first sprang onto the scene, and it's the same now. One of the reasons American radio first played them was because programme controllers were becoming sick to the teeth of copycat rock bands. I know that because I spoke to someone at a pretty big, influential station in the States and they couldn't wait for the Coldplay album.

**How do you think they will fair in America this time round?**

Good I hope. I don't want to tempt fate, but I sense there's quite a bit of goodwill toward Coldplay in America and I think this record could capitalize on that. It's funny really, because they sound very British to me - and that's usually used as a derogatory statement in America - but I think people in the States like their sensitivity. Amazing really. America is sensitive shocker. Usually playing the sensitive card will get you as far as the top of the College Radio charts, but as soon as you get to Texas or somewhere your luck runs out. But I guess Coldplay have a sense of humour as well.

And in promo terms they're very self-deprecating and that always goes down well.

**Their follow up album is greatly anticipated, but do you think they're in for a media backlash?**  
I doubt the music press would dare would they? Not just yet anyway.

## COLDPLAY COMPETITION



Recently the band were presented with an award from EMI records to celebrate sales of 100,000 copies of 'Parachutes' in France.

One lucky winner will receive Guy's award, as he has kindly donated it as a prize for a competition.

All you have to do is write your name and address and send it to:

**Coldplay Competition**  
Unit 102  
Ducie House  
Ducie St  
Manchester  
M1 2JW

(The winner will be selected at random).

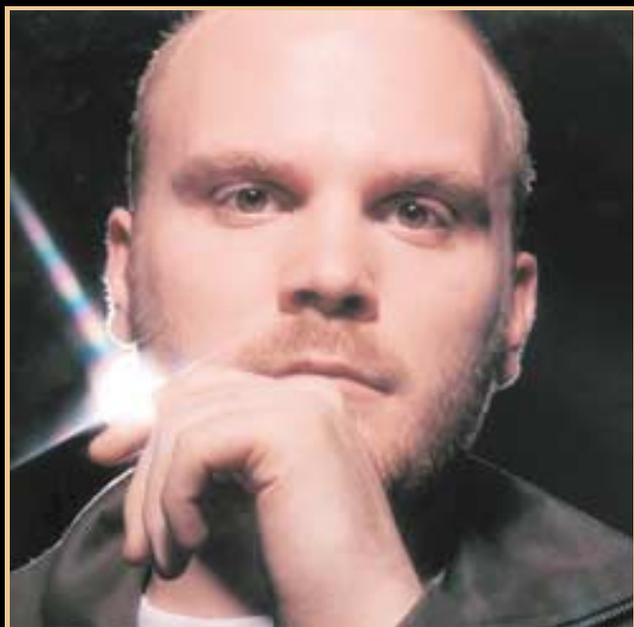
The album is out now and should be keeping you more than happy until next month's issue!

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## WILL'S JOURNAL EN ROUTE TO THE USA



### MERCHANDISE

Rush Of Blood To The Head was available to pre-order on line and the first 1000 orders in, received a **limited edition lyric book**. There was also the chance to receive a signed copy. The album is also available in two formats, both CD and vinyl.

The t-shirts that were available on the U.K mini tour are now available in the e shop. They feature the artwork used for Rush Of Blood... and girls vest are in stock as well as standard t-shirts. Take advantage of the free postage and packaging by shopping at the e-shop.

New additions to Merchandise include tracksuit tops, acetates and postcards.

[Click here to visit the Coldplay shop](#)

Well the waiting is over, its finally out and now there really is nothing we can do about it. That's the danger of listening to ones own records, there's always something that should have been done differently.

I stopped listening to it when I knew there was no way of changing it any more which was about two and a half months ago. The period of waiting that occurred between the finishing of this album and its release was possibly one of the weirdest times we've had for a while.

It was like waiting for exam results, knowing that we felt confident (sort of) in our own heads about what we'd done, but not having a clue whether our best was good enough. Feeling incredibly worried about how this record was going to be received we went on this small tour of the USA which was quite odd because we were bursting to play the new songs but knew full well that people wouldn't know them and might be disappointed, (Glastonbury deja vu).

We played them anyway and thankfully they went down ok. But playing at the Kentish Town Forum last Thursday was a real relief; for the first time we didn't have to apologise for playing lots of new songs, and we certainly felt more relaxed and played the best we had for ages.

Knowing the reaction to the album and how many people have got the new album has really blown us away. Knowing that people seem to be into what we are doing even if it is different to what we did before is really amazing for us because for a long time, we really didn't know. Thank you to all of you.

MAKE TRADE FAIR... W.

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