

You just have to use the right Tool

by Tricia Romano

When Tool played Vegas with Pornos for Pyros last year, many left the Huntridge mesmerized by their set. Some liked Tool's groove, others took to their energy. One thing was certain, no one could forget the vision of the lead singer, Maynard James Keenan, slithering along the stage with an almost reptilian grace, his mohawk punctuating his intense face.

Tonight, Vegans will receive the chance to catch Tool with opening act Failure at the Huntridge.

In the past two years, Tool (Danny Carey, drums, Paul D'Amour, bass, Adam Jones,



guitar) has risen above the muck and amassed itself a hardcore following through its release of the EP *Opiate*, and most recently, the full-length *Undertow*. It is one of the bands with a coveted position in the Lollapalooza festival this

summer, and Tool has worked and toured with the likes of Pornos for Pyros, Rage Against the Machine and Henry Rollins (who shows up in a guest spot on a track off of *Undertow*.)

Onstage Keenan is like a giant, his penetrating gaze focuses on the audience. In person, and in conversation, he seems to withdraw. He comes across as being highly private and extremely guarded. It seems the only time he lets you in to his mind is through his songs.

"There's more of a dream quality that's happening with the lyrics," he said. They're not really meant to be specific. Let the subconscious wan-

der where it wants to wander."

Keenan says his songs are, "about different situations, feelings, relations, overwhelming circumstances, and cycles that are incomplete."

Keenan first got involved with singing through high school, opting not to play an instrument because, "I couldn't find my way on a guitar to save my life."

From his high school days when he used to listen to AC/DC, Judas Priest and Tom Waits, Keenan is finding himself on the other side of the performer-fan relationship.

"I think there's a fine line between fans and admirers," said Keenan, who described fans as being the obsessive types, who take a band and make that the focus of their life.

"If the music motivates them to do something, motivates them at work, whatever, then they are an admirer. They (kids) want to be part of what the band is doing."

After its tour with Failure, Tool is playing Europe on various dates with Living Colour, Fishbone and Rage Against the Machine. Once the

European excursion is through, Keenan and the rest of Tool will take part in the third formation of the Lollapalooza tour which tentatively also includes, Babes in Toyland, Primus, Alice In Chains, Arrested Development, Front 242, Rage Against the Machine and Fishbone.

Keenan commented on the tour, which has gained slack for going too "mainstream," saying "It's a lot more aggressive this year," citing the participation of Rage and Tool.

"I don't think it's too mainstream," Keenan said. "It exposes people to stuff that they wouldn't otherwise be exposed to, that other forms of the media tend to ignore. It's not too much of a commercial tour with bands like Primus and Fishbone."

And what if people point to Tool and shout "sell-out" because of its participation in the tour?

"Let me just say right now that we are sell outs," said Keenan. Just so you guys can go ahead and hate us. So even if we only sell three records we're still sell outs."

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stardom playing small clubs, McCartney enjoys the larger stadiums.

"I quite like these big places," he said. "You can do a spectacular show and still manage to keep some sort of intimacy."

"When you get playing the songs it kind of closes down really."

And it did. With "We Can Work It Out," the lights dimmed and the whole band gathered at the front of the stage, crooning to the Bic flicking audience.

McCartney will stop his rather large tour to do a ben-

efit for National Earth Day, at the Hollywood Bowl, April 16. This will mark his first return to The Bowl in 25 years.

"It's the best cause you can get, the earth," said McCartney. *Although he said that there are many viable and important causes, "without the earth to do it on we are lost."*

McCartney uses his fame to better help subjects which he feels "are very important to the future."

"There is a lot of attention here," said McCartney, pointing to the multitude of cameras and tape recorders mounted around his single conference table saying he only wanted to "use it decently."

Audience members leave a McCartney show bedazzled by the legendary musical talent and show extravaganza and a conscious raising issue. McCartney wants his audience to "leave with something to think about which hopefully compliments the music."

