

The double issue

# SOMA



KEN LOACH: HUMAN BEHAVIOR  
MOSS LIPOW'S SPECS APPEAL  
JOAN JETT: LAST AMERICAN ROCK STAR



DANISH DESIGN + DEBAUCHERY  
CINEMATIC POTENCY OF WAR  
ANDREAS SLOMINSKI: ENTRAPMENT ART

Volume 17 Issue 4 Double Issue USA \$3.50

Canada \$4.50 England £3.00 Japan ¥500





"WE FLED THE 'SAMPLER DUO' STIGMA OF BANDS LIKE ROYKSOPP AND LEMON JELLY. BORING."

**Glyn Thomas** is one half of Alpinestars, the Manchester-based electronic duo that has harvested wheelbarrows of acclaim in the U.K., and more recently in the U.S., with near-simultaneous drops of its first two albums, *B.A.S.I.C* and *White Noise*. The former is the sonic equivalent of '70s abstract expressionism: simple, bright fields of sound against progressive rhythms, while the latter tips more towards a conventional pop structure.

**You arrived in Manchester in the late '80s. Quite a scene.**

From what I can remember it was like walking into heaven.

**You've integrated more live instrumentation on your second album [*White Noise*]. Why stray from a successful formula?** *B.A.S.I.C* was conceived and mixed in the same week using only two keyboards. The second time around we wanted to make it a bit more song-based; we were sick of doing gigs just the two of us onstage huddled behind equipment. We fled the "sampler duo" stigma of bands like Royksopp and Lemon Jelly. Boring.

**Do you think DJs are glorified samplers or legitimate musicians?**

I don't think it has much artistic merit. There's got to be something wrong when you turn up for two hours and get paid twenty grand to play other people's music. If someone offered it to me, I'd do it, but I wouldn't say it's legitimate. There are probably a few DJs you could call creative, but a lot of it has to do with the drugs the audience is taking.

**What's in your CD player?**

Neil Halsted from Mohave 3 has a new album out called *Sleeping on Roads*. Felix da Housecat. Bright Eyes.

**Placebo's front man Brian Molko lent you vocals on "Carbon Kid." How was that?**

It was a lot of fun. Placebo is actually playing tonight in Manchester, so we're going to go

have a few drinkies with Brian afterwards. He's a nice bloke, really professional, a good laugh. He's the dude, man.

**What job would you like to pursue besides your own?**

Footballer—soccer player to you.

**You're in a great city for that.**

Yeah, unfortunately I'm not in a great body for it. Smoking doesn't go with it. Next lifetime, I'll try and be healthy. ■

## ALPINESTARS

text Mark Von Pfeiffer