

Vine, women and song.
Hamish Rosser, far right.

THE VINES

WITH A NEW ALBUM AND A WORLD TOUR ON THE HORIZON, HAMISH ROSSER'S DRUM KIT IS ONCE AGAIN UNDER THREAT FROM THE VINES' ON-STAGE MAYHEM.

We can thank McDonald's for the existence of The Vines: bassist Patrick Mathews and singer/guitarist Craig Nicholls bonded back in 1991 whilst flipping burgers in an Australia branch of the fast-food chain. By 2002 the two had been joined by guitarist Ryan Griffiths and drummer Hamish Rosser. The Vines were formed and soon found themselves at the centre of a media frenzy. Well before debut album *Highly Evolved* hit the shelves, the UK rock establishment were

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enraptured. Raw, raging, and reliant on a maximum of four chords per song, The Vines earned a reputation for live mayhem with the drums often bearing the brunt. On *The David Letterman* show in the US, Craig dived into the kit and smashed a guitar over it. Hamish simply kept on drumming.

By 2003, it wasn't just the instruments that were getting battered. Craig and Patrick ended up fighting on-stage during a gig in Boston, tumbling into a bewildered audience. Ordered home to Australia by their record company,

The Vines took time out, ready for their live return and second album, *Winning Days*.

How did the recording go? "I really believe in the album," says Hamish. "We made it in Bearsville studios near New York. Patrick, Craig and myself played live in the room, and Rob (*Schnapf*, producer) would want to get three or four good takes and then move on. The live bass and guitar parts would be re-recorded later, but it was good to have those other guys in the room." The recording wasn't entirely stress free for the laid-back drummer. "I was

actually threatened with session drummers on the first day of recording before we'd even started. I wasn't too impressed. On *Highly Evolved* my predecessor (*Dave Oliffe*) played on about seven songs – the other five were shared between three different session drummers. I think the record company wanted session drummers on the second album because the only other studio stuff I'd done with the band had been sprung on me with about a day's notice. They got me to do some B-sides which I'd never even played

before, I was rehearsing on tape. So from those recordings I don't think they had a lot of faith in me, but I showed them."

It's not surprising, considering Hamish has a substantial playing career behind him. He initially picked up the sticks to avoid recorder lessons at high school but soon progressed to playing professionally. "I've been in heaps of bands, sometimes I'd have three bands going at a time. Right before I joined The Vines I was in a covers band called Sixties Mania. We used to play for a month in Hong Kong and the rest of the time we'd be playing US casinos. We'd do gigs as a show band with dancing girls and everything – that could be four sets a night, six times a week. It did a lot for my playing."

With another global tour imminent, Hamish won't be home for over a year. "Occasionally I get homesick – the worst thing is going to the northern hemisphere in winter when it's freezing cold, and I know that everyone else is sitting on the beach drinking cold beer. But I know it's all waiting for me – there will always be beaches and cold beer when I get back." *JB*

Winning Days will be released on March 8, preceded by single 'Ride' on February 23. The Vines play London on February 19, supported by *The Duke Spirit*. A full UK tour will follow in March/April.

**BREAK
BEAT**

KIT LIST

Drums: Premier Series (one birch, one maple) 24"x16" kick, 13"x9" rack tom, 16"x16" floor tom and 14"x5 1/2" snare.

Cymbals: 14" Zildjian K Custom hats, 18" K Custom and 19" K Thin crashes, with a K Dry ride.

www.thevines.com