

SHOWtime!

ON-STAGE HAPPENINGS, LIVE AND IN PERSON...

Zwan

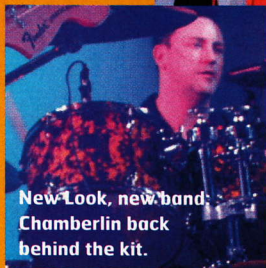
Shepherd's Bush Empire,
London.

All across London newsstands are screaming doom: the army have been put on alert at Heathrow and there's an unspecified terrorist threat to the capital. Inside the Empire, however, nobody seems too bothered as the crowd keenly anticipate Zwan's debut UK gig.

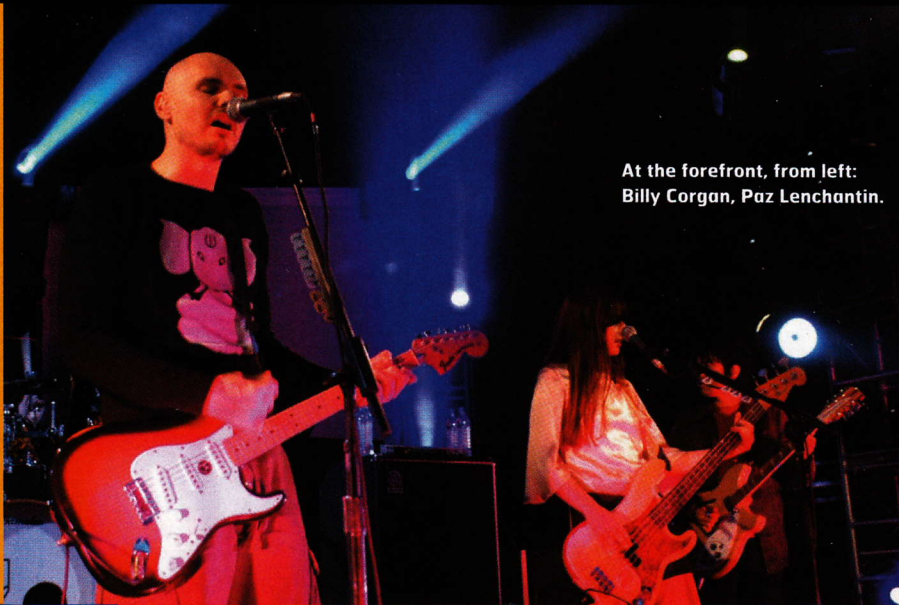
With Jimmy Chamberlin behind the kit and Billy Corgan's keening vocals piercing the wall of guitar unleashed by David Pajo (ex-Slint) and Matt Sweeney (Chavez), Zwan are by general consensus a happy-ending sequel to the Smashing Pumpkins' goth-grunge implosion.

The elegant figure of Paz Lenchantin (A Perfect Circle) continues the Pumpkins' tradition of vampish bassists and she proves to be a bit handy on the violin as well. Playing tracks from their

debut album, *Mary Star Of The Sea*, 'Lyric' and 'Settle Down' are particularly defiant, upbeat chunks of effervescent melody with



New Look, new band:
Chamberlin back
behind the kit.



At the forefront, from left:
Billy Corgan, Paz Lenchantin.

Jimmy's powerful yet subtle stick work forming the backbone.

The drummer sounds and looks great having traded his bleached-blond hair for jet black and his yellow kit for a darkly-mottled Yamaha. His

enduring musical bond with Corgan is crystal clear – in 'Endless Summer' the snare accents of a subdivided drum pattern lock tightly to

Billy's words. Chants of 'Jimmy!' echo through much of the set – and the drummer gets an amazing ovation when Billy introduces the band. But the screaming really kicks off when Zwan leave the stage. Back for a sizeable encore that veers toward a heavier sound,¹ Zwan rock out like the Smashing Pumpkins but they replace gloom with glee, histrionics with hedonism and morbid musings with a sheer joy that infects everyone the crowd.

Words: Jane Boxall, Pics: Redferns