

COLDPLAY

DECEMBER 2005 EZINE [16]



THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS.....

As 2005 draws to end, it may mark the end of the year, but Coldplay show no signs of letting up. This year has been one of their busiest yet and 2006 will continue in a similar manner. We have so much to look forward to and so much to look back on, so here we'll round up the year and catch up on what the boys have been doing since the last ezine.



Photo credit: Amy Leggett

The album X&Y arrived in June and debuted at #1 in 32 countries upon its release.

We have been treated to an extensive 1st leg of U.S dates, a European tour, 2 rounds of U.K shows, an amazing Glastonbury headlining slot, several award show and television appearances and 3 great singles (with videos to match). The album was voted Q's Album Of The Year.

Atlanta tends to be a memorable show not least for the amazing guests that have joined the band onstage. Elton John back in 2003. This year Michael Stipe of R.E.M came along for the encore to do a rendition of Nightswimming, (he also came along to the taping of Austin City Limits).

In Barcelona however they may have outdone that duet as during Talk they were joined by none other than Los Luniza popular Spanish version of The Muppets!

December has been particularly active starting with a rare band TV interview on the UK's Jonathan Ross show (2nd) as well as performing Talk.

The band then visited the U.S for a string of appearances including a 2 song performance on Conan

O'Brien (7th Dec), KROQ's annual Almost Acoustic Christmas show (11th), Jay Leno (12th) and the airing of the hour long Austin City Limits special aired on PBS (17th).

The band then returned home for the UK leg of the tour.

Wed 14th - Fri 16th	London Earls Court Arena
Sunday 18th	Newcastle Metro Arena
Monday 19th	Manchester Evening News Arena
Wed 21st	Belfast Odyssey Arena

Thursday's London show was particularly special with the addition of both Shiver, Trouble and Green Eyes as well as an acoustic version of Madonna's Hung Up.

Support came from Richard Ashcroft (www.richardashcroft.com)

Guy appeared on Steve Lamacq's BBC 6Music to follow up from the summer's 'Rhythm Diaries' series. This took place on December 16th and he chatted briefly about the Earls' Court shows and tentative plans for the 4th album.

Steve's show can be found online as an archive, as well as the original Rhythm Diaries at www.bbc.co.uk/6music



17TH DECEMBER

CD:UK showed a pre-recorded performance of A Message.

The new single Talk was released 19th December. It is the third single to be taken from Coldplay's multi-platinum third album X&Y. Borrowing the riff from Kraftwerk's Computer Love, the utterly hypnotic Tal' is driven by Will Champion's insistent beats and Jonny Buckland's chiming guitars.

Talk is available as a two-track CD, a DVD and 7 inch. The CD includes the brilliant new song Sleeping Sun. The DVD contains Coldplay's version of Gravity, a song they wrote whilst on tour in 2003 that became a huge hit for Embrace last year. The DVD also includes the Anton Corbijn-directed video for Talk, the Mark Romanek-directed video for Speed Of Sound, and some new behind-the-scenes footage of Coldplay on the Talk video shoot.

The video was shot in a studio in London and premiered on the Coldplayer simultaneously with a Channel4 exclusive on 22nd Nov. You can view the video on the Coldplayer by clicking the blue square against that date. (You must be a registered member for this).

Anton has directed videos for U2, Depeche Mode and The Killers to name a few. You can visit his website www.antoncorbijn.com

Chris and Jonny went into the Maida Vale studio on Dec 22nd to perform in the Live Lounge segment of Jo Whiley's Radio 1 show.

Jo's show goes out 10am-1pm and can be found at 97-99fm or you can listen online (as archive) www.bbc.co.uk/radio1. You may remember the band performed Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas on the same show in 2000, the song then became part of the exclusive rare Mince Spies CD in 2001.

Photo credit: Amy Leggett



On Sunday 6th Nov Channel 4 aired a programme charting the biggest selling UK artists since 2000. Coldplay notched up an impressive 28+ million albums sales giving them the No2 position behind Robbie Williams.

AWARDS

Coldplay have won a clutch of awards over the past few months. They performed Talk at the MTV Europe Music Awards and took home Best Song for Speed Of Sound and Best UK and Ireland Act.

They also performed at the Nordic Music Awards in Copenhagen and were awarded Best International Group.

The UK Festival Awards 2005 received more than 30,000 votes from festival fans. In the Anthem of The Summer category, Coldplay came 3rd with Fix You (1st - Kaiser Chiefs - Oh My God and 2nd - Foo Fighters - Best of You).

The 48th annual Grammy Award nominees list was announced for recordings released during the Eligibility Year October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. Coldplay received 3 nominations.

Best Rock Performance By A Duo Or Group Speed Of Sound

Best Rock Song - Speed Of Sound

Best Rock Album - X&Y

Coldplay, Foo Fighters and U2 earned top nominations in the Rock Field. All three are vying for Best Rock Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocal with Speed Of Sound, Best Of You and Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own, respectively (alongside Franz Ferdinand's Do You Want To and the Killers' All These Things That I've Done). Best Rock Song nominees are Speed Of Sound, Foo Fighters' Best Of You, U2's City Of Blinding Lights, Rivers Cuomo's Beverly Hills (Weezer) and Bruce Springsteen's Devils & Dust. And Best Rock Album nominees are X&Y, In Your Honor (Foo Fighters), How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb (U2), A Bigger Bang (the Rolling Stones) and Prairie Wind (Neil Young).

http://www.grammy.com/news/academy/2005/1208_nominees.aspx



Photo credit: Paige Hill

TALK THE TOUR

Developed by Coldplay and the tour promoter Clear Channel Music Group, www.talkthetour.com marks the first time ever that a tour has been virally announced.

The special website got fans talking about the second leg of Coldplay's 'Twisted Logic' U.S tour and the bands new single Talk. In fact, Coldplay fans deserve all the credit for announcing the North American tour, it only took you 51 hours to reveal the 26 dates.

(More dates have since been added, so please see below or check the tour section of the website). The site was forwarded approximately 384,000 times!

Talkthetour.com contained a special video message from the band, a map of the United States that progressively revealed tour dates, exclusive buddy icons and 'forward to a friend' capability via e-mail or instant messenger addresses. Anybody who registered at the site and forwards alerts to friends receives the chance to win prizes.

One grand prize winner receives front row tickets to a show, the opportunity to meet the band and a trip to the 2006 Grammy® Awards in Los Angeles. In addition, 25 winners will be chosen for an opportunity to 'Talk' to the band via a private conference call.

U.S TOUR DATES 2006

Dates for the second leg of Coldplay's 'Twisted Logic' tour are as follows:

DATE	CITY	VENUE
1/25	Seattle WA *	Key Arena
1/26	Vancouver BC *	GM Place
1/27	Vancouver BC *	GM Place
1/30	Sacramento CA *	ARCO Arena
1/31	Oakland CA *	Oakland Arena
2/1	San Jose CA *	HP Pavilion @ San Jose
2/3	Las Vegas NV	MGM Grand Garden Arena
2/4	Los Angeles, CA*	The Forum
2/6	Anaheim, CA*	Arrowhead Pond Of Anaheim
2/19	Denver CO *	Pepsi Center
2/20	Omaha NE *	Qwest Center
2/22	Detroit MI *	Palace of Auburn Hills
2/23	Louisville KY *	Freedom Hall
2/25	Houston TX *	Toyota Center
2/26	Dallas TX *	American Airlines Center
2/27	Oklahoma City OK *	Ford Center
3/2	Washington DC *	MCI Center
3/4	Orlando FL *	T.D. Waterhouse Centre
3/5	Tampa FL *	Ford Pavilion
3/20	Cleveland OH +	Quicken Loans Arena
3/22	Toronto ON +	Air Canada Center
3/23	Toronto ON +	Air Canada Center
3/25	East Rutherford, NJ +	Continental Airlines Arena
3/26	Uniondale, NY +	Nassau Coliseum
3/27	Uniondale, NY +	Nassau Coliseum
3/30	Chicago, IL +	United Center
3/31	Chicago, IL +	United Center
4/3	Manchester, NH +	Verizon Wireless Arena
4/4	Uncasville, CT +	Mohegan Sun Arena
4/6	Philadelphia, PA +	Wachovia Center

* Fiona Apple supports www.fiona-apple.com

+ Richard Ashcroft supports www.richardashcroft.com

Please remember to check the website for updates, news and tour dates.

The Australian tour dates are all now sold out. See site for details. Youth Group support all shows
www.youthgroup.com.au

E-SHOP / MERCHANDISE

If you haven't taken a look at the Coldplay shop recently, we now have a whole host of new Twisted Logic merchandise in stock including tour t-shirts and accessories, including limited edition prints.

Debs' diary:

Tuesday 25th

October ANTWERP

A car arrives to take Vicki and I to the airfield where the plane awaits to whisk us off to Belgium for the first date of the European tour. The reason behind this is to see the changes that have been made since they played the UK. I haven't seen the boys since then either, so I am really looking forward to hanging out and of course seeing the show.

When we get to the tiny airstrip, Chris is already there and when our driver goes to show our passports, Chris jumps in the car and moves it; still the prankster full of high spirits! The band didn't know I was joining them so it's lovely to be reunited and catch up.

We wait in the lounge and Guy and Will are there drinking coffee and eating breakfast of some sort. We chat about the normal everyday things and of course how it's all going with the website. Jonny joins us and then we are alerted to the plane. "Have you seen the plane?" someone asks. We all rush to the window to look out at a small jet with COLDPLAY TWISTED LOGIC emblazoned on the side. It's clear everyone is impressed.

We then proceed to security, for the usual x-ray bag check procedure and walking through the sensor.

When we board, it's even more impressive to see that the headrests are adorned with the X&Y Baudot Code (there'll be at least one missing as I took one on the way home!). It says Twisted Logic too. (I cannot work the code out myself, but you can just tell, by way of an educated guess).

We take off and the sole stewardess performs her safety ritual guide and then we settle back into the seats.

It isn't long before we have climbed several thousand feet and are being served food and drinks. Blimey, there's a luxurious variety of delights on my plate and Belgian chocs. Unfortunately it was at this point that the turbulence kicks in. Oh my you really feel it with small planes but it suddenly felt as if we had been hurled sideways. It was like a rollercoaster ride. Everyone was gasping and talking, trying to laugh, but there's an air of nerves and maybe even fear? Will ended up with a lapful of coffee, hot coffee at that. It really was a scary flight and apparently the worst yet. (Cheers!)

Thankfully we land within an hour so once on solid ground, everything returned to normal, laughing, joking and thanking anyone who'd listen that we were alive.

I spot some long lenses pointing out of office windows at the tiny airport, so clearly there'd been a tip off. No-one else notices or cares. There are three cars waiting to take us to the venue and the luggage to the hotel.

I travel with Jonny and Will. I was telling them how I'd been listening to the Safety EP on the train the day before and although I wasn't told then, I was in for a treat later....

The crew had arrived earlier to set the stage etc and we were arriving the day before the show day to give the band an opportunity to test all the production elements and to practise various things. Jonny tells me that they were going to be rehearsing some old songs today too for possible inclusion.

We arrive at the venue and it's unbelievable. It's like a village within concrete walls. The cars had driven down to the back. We get out and walk down a ramped path. There are steps to the right leading to offices for all aspects of staff; production, management, tour manager, personal assistant and accountant spaces. The opposite side of the path are steps leading left with a security guard stood permanently. You have to show him the correct pass to allow entry to this area.

This side leads to catering, band's dressing room, guest room, two rooms used for several things including ironing the band's stage gear. There's also a couple of rooms for Goldfrapp. Stairs lead to the crew area; a huge room with a TV, a fridge and sofas. (Not that they had much time to use any of it!)

The entry path is also access to the back of the stage. Walking down into total round the clock darkness trying to avoid the cables, wires, equipment, flight cases and people running around is a mean feat! Once I'd navigated myself past the array of technical paraphernalia, I am in a vast empty hall. The mammoth stage glistened silver, looking like the jaws of a huge creature.

Crew members are rushing around, setting lights and climbing ropes; activity everywhere getting things just right.

There's a table and chair in the middle of the hall, so I sit myself at that and wait.

That's something I noticed over the two days - depending on your role, there can be a LOT of waiting!

Imagine my delight when after a while the band start to play something. Instantly I sit up and hairs stand on end. Oh my Gosh, were they really? Yes they were playing Such A Rush! I could not believe it, one of my favourite Coldplay songs that I probably hadn't heard live for more than six years (?) and here I am, an

audience of one, having a private rendition. Surely I'm the luckiest girl in the world? The fact that they must have attempted a run through of it about eight times doesn't bore me at all. It was thrilling. It doesn't get better than this. And then it almost did. They only go and play How You See The World, my current fave. Christmas has definitely come early.

I miss lunch as I can't tear myself away and sit there for around five hours.

During this time there are tweaks and pauses to set things up and decide on changes to the set. They also run through Daylight and X&Y that hadn't appeared on this tour so far.

Also Square One and Yellow.



I was taking photos when I could, although my camera isn't the greatest for dark live shots. It's ok as Penny (Howle) their trusty on tour photographer is at hand, so I can always get better ones (see below) Just when you think things can't get any better, I sit there mesmerized at first thinking 'is this a cover of something I don't know?' but after a couple more, realize I am indeed being privy to new song ideas. There must have been four being worked on. Who knows if I will ever hear them again, as is typical of Coldplay, hundreds of songs will get written and ditched so watch this space.

It was then dinner time, I sit with Guy, Jon, Will and Vicki (Chris is going through some more light changes with Brian). Dining on the road with Coldplay is an experience in itself. A village worth of staff work all day to prepare the most amazing culinary delights for the enormous crew. The menu is mouth-watering and it really is just amazing.

We then leave for the hotel. We weren't actually staying in Antwerp, but Brussels, so there's an hour or so in the car. I again travel with Jonny and Will. We mostly talk about cars and football (I know enough to get by).

I also talk about the rehearsal I had just witnessed. Sadly Jon informs me that Such A Rush had proved difficult to re-work; the ending wasn't going right, so it wouldn't be added after all.

I get to my room (beautiful), shower and change in record speed and we meet in the lobby for a night out.

The group comprises me, Vicki, Will, Jonny, Franksy (Tour Manager), Dan (FOH), Dan (trainer) and Estelle (manager). We find a charming bar and sit outside drinking, chatting, laughing (as is usual with this crowd). Guy was having an early night, Chris was doing Yoga, having dinner but joins us for a quick drink later and a debate about the Arctic Monkeys and talk of Ricky Gervais.

The group diminishes over time and then there were four. Vicki, me, Jon and Will go on to several places and make a night of it. I get to bed at 4am feeling a little tipsy, but happy, it had been such fun. It was just like old times.

I don't feel so great in the morning though, but it's show day, so it doesn't matter.

The day's a lot more structured, we arrive at the venue (there are already fans out front) and the band is quickly sound checking. They run through the new additions (How You See The World and X&Y) again as well as White Shadows.

The venue is different today, as now there are people putting up barriers and of course Goldfrapp and their crew have arrived.

There band have interviews to do, phoners, pieces to camera, meet and greets with the label etc. It's like a mac city with almost everyone tapping away on apple mac lap tops working away, attending to business. And it's a big business now. The end product is still those four men performing the songs, so whether listening to a CD or watching a show, it's easy to forget that this is all going on behind the scenes. The band has their creative performing and writing, but there's also the promotion side to keep up. Not to mention the scores of people all working on countless other aspects.



Photo credit: Debs Wild

Thankfully I have the company of Dan (trainer) today in-between me also joining the mac pack.

Dinner comes around again (hurray!) and then it's not long 'til people flood in and Goldfrapp take to the stage.

Coldplay are on at 9.45 and minutes before I still haven't decided where I want to watch the show from. I settle on seats and take to my chair after the lights have already gone down. I'm so excited and it doesn't disappoint. It's a fantastic atmosphere and the changes work well. There's new screen footage during The Scientist and Talk. There are balloons, new songs (also including Jonny Cash' Ring Of Fire that had appeared during the U.S dates, but I think it was to be dropped after Antwerp).

Coldplay are doing what's known as a 'runner' after the show which basically means as soon as they have taken their final bow, they rush off stage into waiting cars, engines revving to leave for the plane. As I had opted for a seated view, I made my way backstage during the encore, so sadly I miss the highlight of In My Placenot that I will tell you as there's the chance it will happen on all the forthcoming shows!

I was in a car with non-band members of the team and we neck a beer and chat about the show and stuff. The flight back is thankfully much smoother and we land safely in the UK in the early hours of Thursday morning.

Quick goodbyes as more cars wait to take everyone home.

I'm not sure I could tour on a regular basis, but it was fun. It did, as always, leave me with an empty feeling. The impact of such an intense time, being so close, having so much fun; it's hard to leave that. Until the next time, I'll make do with knowledge that at least I don't have the hectic timetable they all do and be thankful for some early nights!

INTERVIEW



Danny MacNamara Photo: in the studio working on the follow-up to last year's multi platinum number 1 album *Out Of Nothing* (Photo credit: thanks to jk Tony Perrin)

Danny MacNamara is the co-writer and singer with Embrace. He's also a close friend of the band, particularly Chris. I manage to talk to him about the early days and his recollections of Coldplay and the steadfast friendship.

Q: AROUND 10 YEARS AGO, EMBRACE WERE DOING THE UNSIGNED CIRCUIT. BACK IN 1996 WAS IT, THERE WAS A TIME THAT THE A&R BUZZ AROUND YOU GUYS WAS INCREDIBLE. I REMEMBER EVERY LABEL COMING UP TO LEEDS EN MASSE, ALL WANTING TO SIGN YOU, THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A CRAZY TIME?

We'd only done a handful of concerts because we thought it was more important to write than rehearse. It's traditional for bands from outside London to make the trek down to the city for showcase concerts. We felt that if a record company was interested they could come and see us where we live. We did three gigs at Leeds Duchess of York and everyone from Butch Vig to Youth and around 50 A&R people showed up. People flew over from America and Europe. We had quite a big local following at that point but we were terrible live back then. Fortunately the buzz was massive because everybody loved the demos we'd done which included *All You Good Good People*. And there was a big bidding war which was funny.

Q: BACK IN 2000, YOU PERSONALLY INVITED

COLDPLAY TO SUPPORT EMBRACE, WHEN/HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR OF THE BAND?

A friend of mine who's a DJ had *The Blue Room* EP and gave it to me. I loved it and immediately wanted them to support us at Blackpool.

Q: THEY COULD ONLY DO ONE SHOW, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE BLACKPOOL BALLROOM, WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES OF THAT SHOW?

I remember Chris having really big curly hair, and him dancing around the stage like he was trapped in a 70's timewarp. They seemed to have a really strong and completely fresh mood about them that didn't doff its cap to what was cool at the time, which really set them apart for me I thought that they were amazing. I remember *Trouble* been the highlight of the set

Q: YOU OBVIOUSLY SAW THEIR POTENTIAL, BUT WHAT WAS THE POINT WHEN YOU KNEW THEY WERE DESTINED FOR THE BIG TIME?

Afterwards Chris was asking me if we would have them as support on our next tour and I said that I'd love it but that they would be too big by that point. I didn't think it was going to be so big so quick but I knew they were going to be around for a long time.

Q: FOR A FEW YEARS YOU WERE RIDING HIGH AND INSPIRING THE COLDPLAYS OF THE WORLD, CAN YOU TELL US HOW AND WHY THERE WAS A PERIOD OF IT GOING SOMEWHAT WRONG?

We've never really been mercenary about it. You have to follow your own path no matter what ...I've always believed that. It's wonderful that so many new people are getting into us now though.

Q: DO YOU GIVE COLDPLAY ADVICE ABOUT SOME OF THOSE TIMES?

I feel like the most important thing any friend can do is to unclutter the issue. At the end of the day it's the small voice inside each of their heads that's important not what I think. If what I have to say helps them hear that then I've been a good friend...if not then I'm just another opinion and they've got enough of that.

Q: ALONG CAME A NEW DEAL; AND A NEW LEASE OF LIFE BREATHED INTO EMBRACE, HOW DIFFERENT DID YOU FIND EVERYTHING 2nd TIME ROUND?

I enjoy the ride now. I sent Chris a text one time saying that the best life has to offer comes not only from high achievement but from remembering to smell the flowers along the way. I try to live my life by that as much as I can.

Q: IN OCTOBER 2003, CHRIS WAS PLUGGING HIS NEW FAVE ALBUMS AND HE MENTIONED YOUR NEW ALBUM. IT WASN'T FINISHED THEN, SO THIS WAS BEFORE GRAVITY WAS EVEN ON IT. TELL US, HOW DID YOU END UP RECORDING THAT SONG?

He played it me a long time ago and I loved it. He was always a bit ambivalent about it. In the end I think he thought it owed too much to Embrace for them to have on their album. I disagreed really strongly and when he rang me up to offer me the song I was really reluctant at first

We'd worked for three years on 'Out Of Nothing' and we were really proud of it. Then along came the argument that we'd be crazy to not at least record it to see if it turned out any good or not. The irony is I'd gone out of my way to not write that kind of song and now at the end of the session there seemed to be a hole in the album which 'Gravity' fitted perfectly. We had all the arguments that you would expect about doing a cover after so long away etc etc....but at the end of the day that seemed to be more about pride

and ego than what was best for the record .

Q: IF I MAY SAY, YOUR RECORDING OF THE SONG IS JUST SO BEFITTING FOR EMBRACE, IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH IT WAS INDEED WRITTEN FOR YOU.

When Chris heard it he thought it was too fast. He also thought that we were mad to release it as a first single. I remember him saying that he would support us no matter what. He said that we were mad but that if we wanted to walk onstage with buckets on our heads he'd cut holes in them so we could see. He really thought Ashes was a much better comeback.

Q: GRAVITY IS THE B SIDE TO COLDPLAY'S NEW SINGLE TALK, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT? IS IT A BIT WEIRD?

I think it should have been on their last album it's a beautiful song. I understand the philosophical reasons for not liking it. It's not exactly Aphex Twin...and the lyric could perhaps be seen as sentimental. But I think it's such a brave inspired open little song. When you get something as pure as that you have to accept you're not the bossit is.

Q: YOU ARE NOW COUNTED AS ONE OF CHRIS' BEST FRIENDS, HOW DID YOUR FREINDSHIP GROW FROM 2000?

Although I'm a common Northerner and he's a posh Southerner. We are actually quite a lot alike. We are both very young at heart. I thought I was a one off till I met him. Now I know there are at least two of us maybe more. Ha ha !!

Q: YOU ARE ONE OF THE NAMES CREDITED IN THE TOUR PROGRAMME AS 'CREATIVE INPUT', HOW DOES THAT FEEL?

I didn't know that. That's a really nice gesture.

Q: CHRIS TRUSTS YOU AND REPECTS YOUR JUDGEMENT. WE HEARD FROM BOTH YOU AND CHRIS IN INTERVIEWS THAT YOU WERE VERY VOCAL DURING THE END OF THE RECORDING SESSIONS OF X&Y, TELL US A LITTLE MORE OF WHAT INPUT YOU HAD.

I told him that he needed to postpone mastering and take time off over Christmas to live with what they had. I felt they needed a couple more songs and that the mixes could have been better. They'd just rerecorded the whole album in a month and were mixing it in a hurry. But I don't think I was saying anything he didn't already feel.

Q: DID YOU FEEL ANY PRESSURE IN THAT OPINION GIVING?

No....what kind of friend would I be if I held back

Q: I GET TO HEAR QUITE A FEW SONGS DURING THE PROCESS, SOME OF WHICH I MISS NOT APPEARING ON FINISHED ALBUMS. WHAT TRACKS, IF ANY, DO YOU THINK SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON?

I loved Turn Your World Around when it had the old verse. There's another song called The Water Flows Over that's really nice.

Q: TELL US A SECRET OR SOMETHING THAT WE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE BAND?

Guy is a real party animal.

Q: FINALLY, WHAT'S NEXT FOR EMBRACE?

We are playing some big arena shows at the end of the year. We play Alexandra Palace on December 15th , Manchester M.E.N arena on Dec 16th and Glasgow SECC on Dec 17th.

We've almost finished our new album which will be out early next year. I can't wait for everyone to hear it. Chris thinks it's easily our best.

Thanks so much for your time!

All that remains is to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year and to thank you for your ongoing support!

See you next year!

Debs