

GLENN HUGHES

Legendary vocalist Glenn Hughes is preparing to undertake an epic world tour, promising to play selections from his amazing career, covering Trapeze, Deep Purple, Black Country Communion and his sprawling solo work. To make the idea even more appealing, none other than former Whitesnake guitarist Doug Aldrich will handle guitar duties. James Gaden talked to Glenn to hear more...

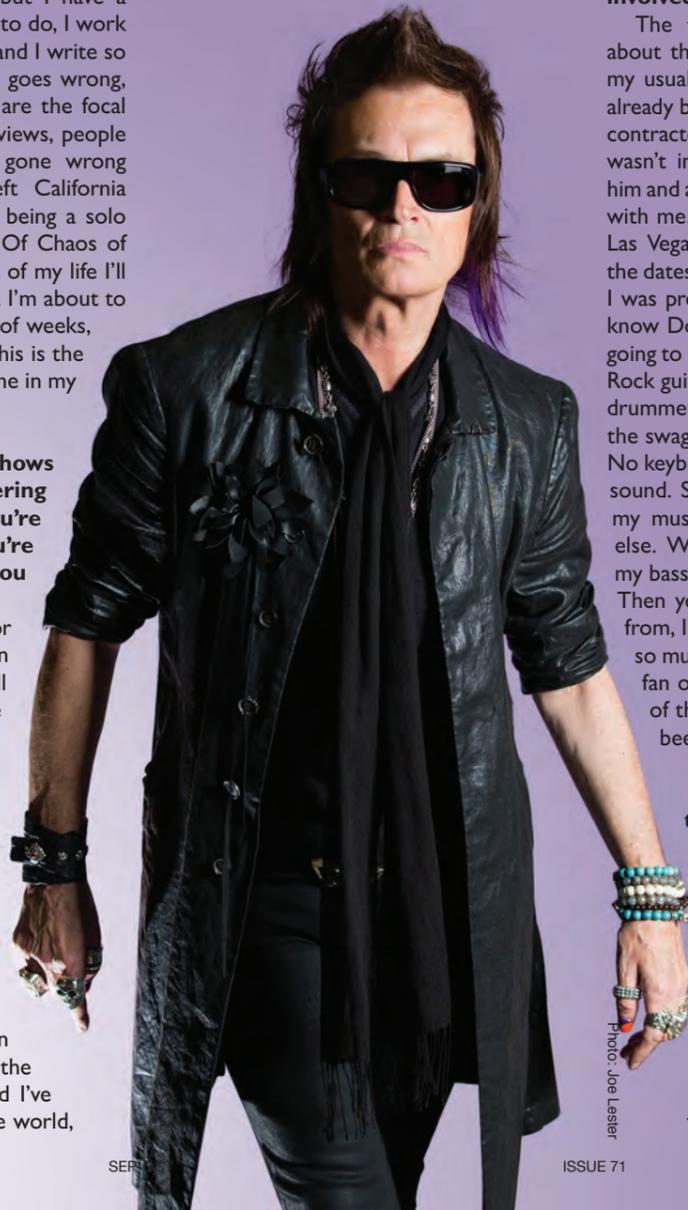
What have you been up to in the last few months?

Well, I've been planning on getting back to my original life, which is Glenn Hughes solo. It's very apparent to people like you, who are fans of my music and my friend, you know exactly what I've been doing for the last ten years. I've been making records with Chad Smith, working with Tony Iommi doing 'Fused', I did Black Country Communion and the band broke up... then wait a minute! He's got a new band with Jason Bonham... and that broke up too. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to think "Surely Glenn, who is now in his sixties, should stick to the Glenn Hughes brand". What I'm trying to get to James, is I love working with new guys, famous guys, friends... but I have a strict pedigree of things I want to do, I work to deadlines, I'm a workaholic and I write so much music. When something goes wrong, and you're in a band and you are the focal point, the one who does interviews, people think "Oh, it's Hughesy, it's gone wrong again." I decided, when I left California Breed, that I would return to being a solo artist. I'll still play with Kings Of Chaos of course, but I think for the rest of my life I'll be a solo artist, with my brand. I'm about to start a world tour in a couple of weeks, in South America, and James, this is the biggest world tour I've ever done in my entire life.

I've seen the amount of shows you've booked, it's a staggering amount to commit to. You're playing everywhere, you're back in Japan where you haven't been for ages...

I haven't played there for fifteen years. Y'know, I'll do an American tour next spring, I'll be back in Europe in April, late May and June is festival season in Europe so I'll be doing those, then I'm off to Malaysia and Australia. I'll be on the road basically from August 2015 to October 2016. Right now, we're looking at that and things can change in the Rock N' Roll business, but I don't think I've ever said to anyone, ever, that I wanted to do something like this. I reckon I've got ten years left of doing the live thing, in Rock at least, and I've got the greatest manager in the world,

a great agent, a great team of people around me – it's a new group and they're encouraging me to go for it. The global response has been overwhelming. I've got to tell you the truth, I really dug being in Black Country but you and I spoke about why the band broke up. I love Joe Bonamassa, he's a good friend, but he just didn't want to play shows with BCC. I don't want to be in the situation again where I can't play because somebody else can't commit, so I'm running my own thing and surrounding myself with friends to tour the planet! I've had such a great career, I've come back from drugs, from alcohol, I had open heart surgery and almost died, we haven't discussed that but that was scary and I came back from that.



I've been a fan of you as a solo artist first and foremost anyway, so I'm delighted you're back doing your thing. I was disappointed California Breed didn't go further, but if it means you're back solo, I'm happy with that.

You're the first person I've spoken to in the UK about this... when Jason left Cali Breed, he left right after we were announced as support for Slash and Alter Bridge and the tickets were on sale. People were buying those tickets and for some reason, Jason didn't want to tour. I said to myself that I couldn't disband Breed, because people had bought tickets and we were advertised. So I stayed and I actually handed my notice in four months before we finished up. I knew after those shows, I'd be finished. It wasn't the same without Jason. It was just me and Andrew Watt out front, who is a very talented guy, but an unknown. I thought people would want to see me solo, so I figured I'd get out, get a new agent, new manager and it's been very easy to march forward.

The other major attraction to your huge solo tour is having Doug Aldrich as your guitar player. How did he get involved?

The tour started to be put together about three months ago, but unfortunately, my usual guitar player Soren Anderson had already booked himself on a tour and he was contracted and not available. I knew Doug wasn't in Whitesnake anymore, so I called him and asked if he fancied doing some shows with me. He said "Absolutely!" He's busy in Las Vegas at the moment but he could do the dates from August through to Christmas. I was proud to announce him and now you know Doug is coming out, you know this is going to be a ROCK show. Doug is an intense Rock guitar player, it's a trio with Pontus, my drummer from Gothenburg. It's going to be the swaggery Rock Glenn, that sort of style. No keyboards, back to more like the Trapeze sound. Sometimes when I put keyboards in my music, it starts to become something else. When it's the organic mix of drums, my bass and a Les Paul, it's more aggressive. Then you think of the songs I can choose from, I've written about 400 songs. There's so much to choose from and Doug is a big fan of my work, and I love him, he's one of the nicest guys in the business, so it's been a long time coming.

How on earth are you going to settle on a set list, when you want to cover stuff from all over your career?

I think I've got the setlist, I'll do bits and pieces from Trapeze and Deep Purple, some BCC stuff, a Cali Breed song and some solo songs, 'Soul Mover' kind of stuff. It'll be a set heavy on Rock stuff. Doug is a Hard Rock player and a good foil for me. I've been trying for years to get back to a trio, you

could see that's where I was heading with Cali Breed.

Will it be a set list that changes?

Not really, it'll stay much the same because we rehearse next week. I wrote down 40 songs and I will choose about fifteen from those. I've got an idea what I'm doing and I plan on doing a couple I haven't done in years, which are important to me. I'll definitely tip my hat to Trapeze on this thing. I've changed direction a lot, but this is a trio, it's organic, it's aggressive and it's ROCK. I think you'll agree with what I'm doing, James. I will play some Purple stuff. People have said for years about MK III getting together, it can't happen now Jon Lord is gone. David Coverdale has done Purple stuff recently, but I can honestly say I've never lost sleep over the fact MK III didn't ever get back together.

There was the next best thing, when

JARED JAMES NICHOLS

Supporting Glenn Hughes on his UK tour is newcomer Jared James Nichols, a fiery guitar player/vocalist with a superb debut album 'Old Glory And The Wild Revival' out now. James Gaden spoke to Jared. Photo by Laurence Harvey.

Tell me about the title 'Old Glory And The Wild Revival'. Is that a nod to the sound of the album? It's not really a throwback, but it does have a lot of Hendrix in there and there are a lot of Classic Rock influences from the 70s.

It's actually got two meanings – it totally refers to that, because the sound, like you said, that I want to build on is that 70s sleazy Classic Rock sound, with some Blues. It also comes from 'Old Glory' which is a guitar a bought, a 1950s Les Paul. I bought it from a guy who really needed the money, and I got it the day we started recording. The whole record was done with that one guitar. I called it 'Old Glory', it's so beat up and trashed, it reminded me that the guitar had played so much great music, it had basically had been on tour it's whole life. And the 'Wild Revival' is taking this music to a new level, it's not dead. As long as people are playing it, it's alive.

I really liked the superb balance of Blues, Classic Rock and hooks in your songs, it's such a great mix.

Thanks man! Before I wrote those songs, I was busy worrying what I was going to do on the record. Then I realized I should just write stuff I think is cool, and that's what I did, so to hear from a guy like you who hears new music all the time that you're into it, that's great. It gives me hope for the future, because I've almost got another record written!

You got Eddie Kramer on board for production as well, which was something of a coup, what was he like?

I got lucky, all the old Zeppelin and Hendrix

you joined Whitesnake on stage a few weeks back and sang with David.

Yeah, I went simply to give David a hug, and he gave me a microphone! He said "Let's do this!" We wrote the songs, and I'd have liked to have rehearsed them, but I went out and it was very respectful, to be on his stage and in front of his fans. There was a lot of emotion there. David and I have been very close for 40 something years. It was nice to do that, but I'm happy living in the moment.

Will you record any of these solo shows, as Doug is with you?

I take recording stuff with me on pretty much every show and I film stuff, so it's possible. Maybe not on these dates, maybe the ones next year, as I'll be on the road for a year. Tell everyone in the UK it's been too long, I can't wait to come back and play a good ol' Rock N' Roll show for you all!

GLENN HUGHES UK TOUR 2015

Saturday 17th Oct
Southampton, Engine Rooms
Monday 19th Oct
Norwich, Waterfront
Tuesday 20th Oct
Newcastle, Tyne Theatre
Thursday 22nd Oct
Belfast, Limelight
Friday 23rd Oct
Glasgow, The Garage
Sunday 25th Oct
Holmfirth, Picturedrome
Monday 26th Oct
Bilston, - Robin 2
Wednesday 28th
York, Fibbers
Thursday 29th
Manchester, Club Academy
Sunday 1st
London, - Electric Ballroom

Further info: www.glennhughes.com



Saying about vocals, it says on your promo sheet you sang out of necessity. I thought you sang great, but you didn't consider yourself a singer?

You got that right man, I was never thinking about that, but nobody else wanted to! About three years ago, I came to L.A. to start my own band. I thought about hiring a singer but there was the thought of that lead singer bullshit, other people's ideas, so I just worked hard, I still work my voice every day. We just did like 66 dates in Europe and my voice is getting better, so that's exciting. If you come to see me on the Hughes tour, you'll probably think the songs sound better live than on the record.

How did you get hooked up with supporting Glenn?

I've been gigging since I was fifteen and the first gig I played in London was this past April. There was a guy there from a booking agency and right after the set he comes up to me, said "I love what you do, I want to book some gigs for you!" I said "Great!", put him in touch with my manager and about ten minutes later I was told I would be opening for Glenn Hughes. I love Glenn so it'll be a real treat to fire things up for him!

Read more from Jared in the full length interview on Rocktopia.