

music

Back to rule the world again

Iconic '80s band Tears for Fears, out on tour, preps for new album

By Matt Arado

Daily Herald Correspondent

It's been more than 30 years since new wave/pop band Tears for Fears conquered the world with the monstrously successful record "Songs From the Big Chair," but don't call them an oldies act.

Curt Smith and Roland Orzabal, the longtime friends who lead the band, are preparing to release a new album this summer, and Smith says their creative energy is as vital as ever.

"We have a different kind of angst now, of course," Smith said during a recent telephone interview. "We're both getting older, our children are starting to leave home. But I can say that I'm just as passionate a

songwriter now in my 50s as I was in my 20s. But instead of talking about the general kind of angst that I felt as a teenager, I'm writing about more specific issues."

The as-yet-untitled new record will come out after Tears for Fears finishes a North American tour with fellow '80s heroes Hall & Oates. That tour brings them to Rosemont's Allstate Arena on Monday, May 15.

Smith said he hopes that the band can preview some of the new material during the tour.

"We're still working that out," he said. "As you know, as soon as you play something, it winds up on the internet, so there is some concern. But I do hope we can play a few of those songs."

Tears for Fears were part of what rock critics sometimes call "the Second British Invasion" — a slew of British bands popular with U.S. audiences during the fashion-conscious, MTV-dominated 1980s. The band's first album, "The Hurting," came out in 1983. As a result of the record's moody, synth-laden singles "Mad World" and "Pale Shelter," Smith and Orzabal were popular pinup material inside the lockers of legions of American high school kids.

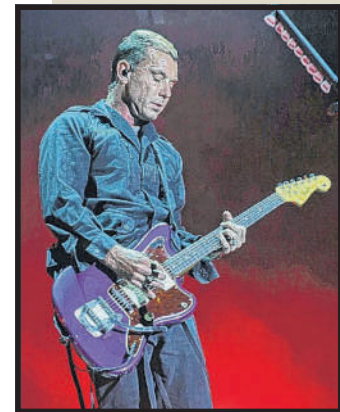
A couple of years later, "Songs From the Big Chair" made Tears for Fears a household name. Hit singles like "Everybody Wants to Rule the World," "Shout" and "Head Over Heels" were inescapable on pop and rock radio (as well as MTV). The album hit No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 and is viewed as a key document of 1980s pop.

The sound of Tears for Fears' early work — a shiny mix of synthesizers, samples (a new development back then) and irresistible melodies — continues to resonate decades later. "Head Over Heels" was prominently featured in the 2001 cult film "Donnie Darko," and current artists like Lorde and Kanye West have covered or reworked Tears for Fears songs.

"Technology was changing just as we were getting started," Smith said. "You had these

'Everything Zen'

One of the biggest bands of the mid-'90s, Bush had a tight hold on the airwaves (and MTV) from 1994 on.



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But all good things must come to an end, and after four albums and numerous tours, Bush called it quits. Frontman Gavin Rossdale dabbled with

a new project for a bit and took up some hobbies, like being married to Gwen Stefani and acting. (I was pleasantly surprised by his inspired turn as a less-than-angelic supernatural being in the Keanu Reeves-led thriller "Constantine.") In 2010 Bush re-formed, dished out a new album and attempted to reclaim many of their former fans, now with presumably less flannel. Relive your former grunge days when they play the Riviera Theatre, joined by Chicago indie rock band The Kickback, who has been accompanying Bush on a national tour this spring and has a new album due out this summer.

8 p.m. Monday, May 15, at Riviera Theatre, 4746 N. Racine Ave., Chicago. \$35-\$250. (773) 275-6800 or rivieratheatre.com.

United for the kids

Wheaton's Bobby de Maria and the United-2nite crew are back in the charity game, bringing some talented artists to town for a benefit for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicago and Northwest Indiana. Dance to tunes by a full lineup of local talent while raising money for RMHC, which assists families of hospitalized children.

10 p.m. Friday, May 12, at Annex Nightclub, 1958 W. North Ave., Chicago. Requested donations start at \$5; table packages available. (630) 291-5986 or afterlifechi.com.

Local Battle at Hard Rock

Cheer on some awesome local talent when Chicago's Hard Rock Cafe hosts the Hard Rock Rising Battle of the Bands. Joliet psych-rockers Arbor Creek, Downers Grove

See **NOTES** on page 30



Iconic 1980s pop band Tears for Fears will perform Monday, May 15, at Rosemont's Allstate Arena as part of a double-bill with Hall & Oates.

COURTESY OF TEARS FOR FEARS

Tears for Fears and Hall & Oates

When: 7 p.m. Monday, May 15

Where: Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont

Tickets: Start at \$35; see ticketmaster.com

See **TEARS** on page 30

YOU'RE INVITED TO

An evening with
Troy Quin'Ton
COMING HOME

Quintz Production, INC.
presents

Troy Quin'Ton

May 19, 2017
Copley Theatre
7:30pm



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An Evening With Troy Quin'Ton

(Free Concert)

Troy Quin'Ton showcases electrifying renditions of all the classics from his three decades as a solo artist, and includes songs by legendary artists like Jeffrey Osborne, Kem and Teddy Pendergrass just to name a few. Troy's reach to spread love through R&B music has stretched throughout the Midwest during his career. It's no exaggeration to say that Troy's fans have been waiting for his return to the Copley Theater for a while now! He's Coming Home.

For reserved Seating e-mail tquinton@troyquinton.com

May 19, 2017 7:30pm

Copley Theater

8 East Galena Blvd. Aurora, IL 60506

Free Parking at Old Second Bank 1 1/2 Blocks W. of Theatre

For More Information www.paramountaurora.com (click on calendar of events)

After party immediately following at:

Two Brothers Brewery

205 N. Broadway Aurora, IL 60505

ph: 630.264.2739



Quintz
Productions Inc.

TEARS from page 27

records by people like David Bowie and Talking Heads and Brian Eno that took production into a whole new direction. That really influenced us, and pushed us to find that early sound we had."

Smith and Orzabal parted ways after the band's third album, "Sowing the Seeds of Love," came out in 1989. They reconnected in the early 2000s, releasing the album "Everybody Loves a Happy Ending" in 2004 and embarking on a well-received world tour a few years after that. They continue to collaborate on music regularly, despite the fact that Smith lives in Los Angeles and Orzabal in England.

"We work together as

often as we can, but we also do a lot of work separately and then share it with each other," Smith said. "That's one of the great things about technology."

The two longtime band-mates are happy to have the chance to perform live together this spring and summer, Smith said.

"We've got a great band backing us on this tour, one of the best we've ever had," he said.

"And it's nice to be sharing the bill with a band like Hall & Oates. It makes the whole thing a bit more relaxing, takes some of the pressure off," he said. "And honestly, we've been doing this a long time, and we're better at it now. I think our fans will definitely enjoy it."



The Barenaked Ladies head to Waukegan's Genesee Theatre Tuesday, May 16.

NOTES from page 27

pop-punksters Gallery-81, St. Charles-based alternative rock band The Giving Moon and Panic Switch, a hard-rocking outfit out of Chicago, will musically duke it out for a chance to win \$1000 and move on to the next level of competition, where even bigger prizes await.

9 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at Hard Rock Cafe, 63 W. Ontario St., Chicago. Free. (312) 943-2252 or hardrock.com.

Outdoors with Aldean

Jason Aldean headlines a set of some of the biggest names in country music — Chris Young, Kane Brown and Deejay Silver — on his "They Don't Know Tour." He's in town to promote his latest album, "They Don't Know."

7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at the Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre, 19100 Ridgeland Ave., Tinley Park. Tickets start at \$36. (708) 614-1616 or tinleyparkamphitheater.com.



Barenaked in Waukegan

1998's "One Week" made the Barenaked Ladies a household name, especially on the college rock and alternative circuits. But what many Americans may not realize is the Canadian band has actually been kicking around up north since 1988. Nearly 30 years later, the Ladies are still touring with their bouncy, fun music and clever lyricism, which fans can experience in Waukegan next week.

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, at Genesee Theatre, 203 N. Genesee St., Waukegan. \$40-\$85. (847) 263-6300 or genesee theatre.com.

— Brian Shamie