

# CHEAP TRICK COMPETITION

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ALL 5 CHEAP TRICK LPs.  
POSTER.  
T-SHIRT.  
BADGES.

**PRIZES**  
2 3 & 4  
'DREAM POLICE' POSTER.  
T-SHIRT.  
BADGES.

**PLUS**  
DREAM POLICE /CHEAP TRICK BADGES FOR 20 CORRECT ENTRIES.



**QUESTIONS**  
1. THE PHOTO ABOVE IS ON WHAT ALBUM COVER?

2. NAME THE TRACK ON DREAM POLICE PETERSSON SINGS?

3. WHO HAS PRODUCED 3 OF THEIR 5 ALBUMS?

YOUR NAME?

AND ADDRESS?

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO RIU PO BOX 5689, AUCKLAND 1 BY OCT 27. (THE DAY ENTRIES ARE OPENED)



# DREAM POLICE

of people liked it, that was the way I think it should be.

"I mean, we don't just stand there and expect people to go nuts, we entertain our audience, and they like our music."

## BREAKTHROUGH

Whatever the reasons, "Budokan" sold a bundle in Japan, as expected, but then it started to do very brisk business on import in other countries, including the USA. Suddenly, Cheap Trick began to get that vital AM radio airplay. The decision was made to hold up the release of "Dream Police," which had already been in the can several months, and release "Budokan" worldwide instead.

The decision was a wise one. "I Want You To Want Me" was lifted from the album, and Cheap Trick suddenly had their first Top 10 American single.

All in all, the rise to the top has been far from easy. The band's distinctive visual appearance, two good lookers and two weirdos, has undoubtedly been a contributing factor, though Nielsen is loath to call it a major one. The visual side, he says, was unplanned and simply evolved from the four personalities.

"If we had a plan, what did we take so long for?" he asks. "I've always felt I should have been a baseball player, but I know how to play guitar better, so I've always worn a baseball cap. Robin's not in the band because he's good looking, but because he sings great. I always find it weird when people think the band is put together."

## DEMOCRACY

Over the years, the band has become a very democratic organisation, as shown in the songwriting credits on the new album. They may go into the studio with 20 songs, and the final selections are mutually agreed on. Nielsen says the studio work can be 'pandemonium' at times, with arguments over all aspects of production. But the band always has the final say, and in fact they took Werman's final mix of *Dream Police* and re-mixed it themselves because they weren't satisfied. The packaging concept is theirs, too. However, their manager, Ken Adamany, claims to have a certain degree of autocratic control, at least when they're on tour.

The toll call bill to the United States is looking threatening, so we decided to call it a day. But we still don't really know the real Rick Nielsen. So now comes the 64 thousand-dollar question: Is his on-stage persona an extension of his real self?

"Well, the whole time I've been doing this interview I've been hanging by my knees from a tree, and strumming a guitar with my toes."

Say goodnight, Rick.  
Duncan Campbell

*Dream Police*, Cheap Trick's long-awaited fourth studio album, marks a crossroad in the career of a band that's made a living out of walking crooked miles.

The Cheap Trick 'sound' is established beyond dispute with this record, and the next step will prove very interesting.

Nielsen says it could well be the time for a change, but they've still yet to decide whether to use Werman as producer again.

Compared to many bands, Cheap Trick's recording process is brisk and businesslike. They only spend a couple of days in preparation for recording, and all their studio albums have taken little more than three weeks to lay down.

Experience tells too, and there is no hesitancy in *Dream Police*. It's a confident, energetic platter with tons of clout.

"We don't want to go to the mainstream," Nielsen says. "We want to have the mainstream come to us. It's easy to make records that sound just right for the AM radio, but I think it's more difficult to have your own sound. Maybe because of that, radio will have to go in your direction, rather than you going in its direction. When we go in to record, we do what we like."

This uncompromising stand is now paying dividends. One of the most popular tracks on *Dream Police*, radio-wise in America is "Gonna Raise Hell," a highly orchestrated tour de force which runs for some nine minutes and 20 seconds at the end of Side One.

"People would say to us: 'No-one would ever play a song that long,' but they do," says Nielsen, with a trace of satisfaction. "Songs like that and 'The House Is Rocking' (a real steamer with a very memorable riff and Jagger-like vocals from Petersson) are a long way from 'I Want You To Want Me.'"

"The House Is Rocking" is a joint Petersson-Nielsen composition. Nielsen had the lyrics and the melody line, but he didn't like them. Petersson produced the guitar riff, they combined the two and found another winner.

Petersson also co-wrote "Need Your Love," a slower number which closes the album. "I'll Be With You Tonight" is the first number to be billed as a complete group composition.

"I actually wrote the song, but we'd been doing it for years. We nearly threw it out. I decided that everyone had contributed his own part to that song, so we all got a credit."

The title track is set to become another standard and just screams 'hit single'. It's got enough hooks to equip a Kontiki, and cooks in the best traditions of "Southern Girls" and "Surrender". It also features some of Nielsen's best lyrics:

You know talk is cheap and rumour ain't nice,

And when I fall asleep I don't think I'll survive the night ...

"I wrote the first version of that tune over 10 years ago, but I never liked the complete tune, which was not like the way it is now."

To these ears, it's a classic putdown of paranoia:

"... And when I fall asleep, bet they're spying on me tonight ..."

Sort of the reverse of the "Reds under the bed" syndrome, digging at every closet radical who ever thought he was a worthy target for the CIA, Nielsen agrees that's part of it, but by no means all.

"It's like your conscious and your subconscious, the devil on one shoulder, telling you to do it, and the angel on the other, saying 'Don't do it.' The Yin and the Yang, the yes and the no, the positive and the negative, the moral and the immoral, just about anything else you can think of."

"... They persecute me, they're the judge and jury all in one."

So how's your ID these days?

Elsewhere, "Tonight" features a murderbus guitar riff that would be frightening on stage, while "I Know What I Want" steals just a trifle from "Anarchy In The UK." Just listen to the title words, which make up the hookline. They say the greatest compliment you can pay a man is to copy him. Take a bow, John.

The other killer, though, is the very un-typical "Voices", an achingly lovely ballad, which Zander handles superbly (he sings better than ever throughout the record). The harmony is very reminiscent of "Nowhere Man", from the Beatles' "Rubber Soul" period. God, it's beautiful. Wait till those little Japanese girls hear Robin sing this one. He may not get away alive.

Rick couldn't pick a standout track, he likes them all equally. Whether it's the best thing they've ever done is debatable, but for sure, it's the one everybody has been waiting for. Advance orders in the USA topped the three million mark.

*Dream Police* will make these boys rather rich and only the cruelest of fate will keep it out of most top tens. A guaranteed earthshaker, it thunders along like a steamroller on corrugated iron, and is sure to liven up the odd party.

Ere long, we will be treated to the aural and visual experience of Cheap Trick. This band has worked too hard and too long to risk disappointing, and trying to avoid them would be a big mistake.

For the future, they just want to conquer the world. *Dream Police* will help them on the way to domination. Tricky Ricky and the boys sure do make arresting music.

Duncan Campbell