

## Life, the Universe & All That Jaz

Interview: Jaz Coleman, Killing Joke

Killing Joke have had a dedicated following in New Zealand and, apparently, a huge cult following in Europe. Now they have a new LP, *Night Time*, and a strong desire to break into more commercial markets. Jaz was here visiting relatives-in-law and I talked to him between heaps of other interviews. I had expected him to be big and rather intimidating — after all, that's what Killing Joke's music is like! He's neither. He's friendly and willing to talk, and after the interview I knew there was much more to Killing Joke than I ever suspected (or p'raps bothered to find out). So read on ... 'cos this is the world according to Jaz Coleman, keyboardist, singer and songwriter with Killing Joke.

**What were your original intentions when you started the band?**

"Our intentions were the same as they are now. We feel that the band has the capacity to be the musical summary of this decade. That might sound like a considerable aspiration, and the band has a long way to go, but I think it's within our capacity. Our other objective was quite simply to be in total control of our environment. We use Killing Joke as a vehicle for our own freedom. I take advantage of the media available to promote something that I believe in. That is my life's work. I think that through our music we seek to draw some kind of perspective on the environment and time we're living in — the pre-upheaval atmosphere — and drawing perspective by illuminating a possible future. By pre-upheaval I mean that I think the earth is going to literally throw up."

***Night Time* has been described as your most focused album so far — would you agree?**

"I think it is our most focused. We decided to mix Geordie's guitar to get that very bell-like quality out of it. If you hear us live it's an enormous sound — intense, but unlike Motorhead or other high-energy music, the quality of our live sound is very important to us. We mixed the new album for the radio. We made a conscious decision not to use the press in the *Night Time* campaign. We decided to concentrate on regional airplay, national airplay and television. It seems natural to manipulate the situation so that people could actually hear our work as opposed to reading about it. One can be grossly misinterpreted by the written word — it's always through someone else's eyes, and we want people to make up their own minds. I'd say the same to any young band starting — take no notice of the press."

**Why did you choose Chris Kimsey to produce the LP?**

"We met Chris on a social level first, at a friend's place. He was dead entertaining. We were drinking and doing a lot of everything, and after slag-

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