

growing pains the cranberries



The Cranberries have topped charts around the world with their often sweetly melodic brand of pop, but the Irish quartet don't always have the sweetest disposition when it comes to interacting with the music business.

They've actually become part of showbiz lore in Toronto by cancelling no less than four gigs in just 14 months. Not always their fault, as reasons ranged from Simon Le Bon's laryngitis (The Cranberries were supporting Duran Duran at the time), to immigration problems, to singer Dolores O'Riordan's thyroid problems. Along the way, however, they managed to annoy local promoters, radio stations and their own record label, with their somewhat prickly attitude.

Anyway, they finally fulfilled their gig obligations in Toronto in December, and squeezed in some interviews, albeit reluctantly. Lead guitarist Noel Hogan made it clear he'd rather have been home Christmas shopping and downing pints with his Limerick mates, but here's what the lad had to say for himself.

"We've been on tour about four months, and everyone's really tired. We leave early tomorrow and get back home for Christmas. Next year we'll leave all December free. We don't have time to do shopping or anything. Everything is a rush."

Will you get to play Downunder in 95?

"Yes, March — Australia and New Zealand. [The single has] really gone well down there. 'Zombie' is No. 1, we hear."

Your second album, *No Need To Argue*, has come out pretty fast. Is that to prove you're not a one-trick pony?

"What happened was that we recorded the first album, *Everyone Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We*, two years ago, but it wasn't released in North America for a long time. Then it took months to grow. So that's a two year span between when we did it and when it hit, so we already had a second album ready. We hadn't recorded it, but had all the songs. This time last year we were at home and knew we weren't going to tour till the summer, so we had January to March 94 to do this album."

Was it an easy process, having worked with Stephen Street as producer before?

"Yes. We were used to each other, and were really good friends. Since we did the first album, every time we were in London, we met up with Steve. That made it so much easier."

Has he had a big influence on your sound?

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