

5 MINUTES
WITH...

MICHAEL STARR

(STEEL PANTHER,
VOCALS)

AS IT WAS THE AMERICAN ELECTION TONIGHT, DO ANY OF YOUR SONGS HAVE POLITICAL SUBTEXTS?

"We have politics within the band. Like, I like cheese pizza, but Satchel, Lexxi and Stix all like pepperoni. So I get outvoted every time and have to eat fucking pepperoni pizza. It sucks."

THAT'S LIFE. LET'S CHANGE TOPIC, THEN. WHO'S YOUR FAVOURITE FRONTMAN EVER?

"It's got to be David Lee Roth. Back when he first came out with Van Halen, he was the ultimate showman. Has he still got it? There's a different vibe now, and I think there's a Samson and Delilah thing going on. It's hard to look at your hero and all you're thinking is, 'Grow your fucking hair and put some spandex on!'"

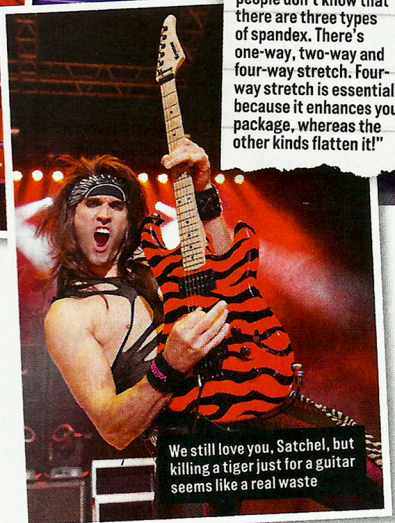
TALKING OF SPANDEX, ARE YOU KEEPING THAT INDUSTRY AFLOAT?

"That's a good question, because spandex is really important for what we do. Most people don't know that there are three types of spandex. There's one-way, two-way and four-way stretch. Four-way stretch is essential because it enhances your package, whereas the other kinds flatten it!"



Lexxi Foxxx wasn't about to let a K! caption box ruin his cool

Michael Starr showing off his sensitive side



We still love you, Satchel, but killing a tiger just for a guitar seems like a real waste

STEEL PANTHER

PLUS: **FALLING RED**

CIVIC HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON. 06.11.12

KKKKK

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS PHOTOS: ASHLEY MAILE

LA METALLERS PARTY FOR THEIR RIGHT TO, WELL, PARTY...

TONIGHT the eyes of the world are on America, where the Presidential race is reaching a dramatic conclusion. Apart from in Wolverhampton, where all eyes are fixed on four Americans who are singing about sex and have all the (apparent) political awareness of a rhododendron bush. Steel Panther play dumb so well you can't help feeling they're probably pretty damn smart. For an hour and a half, however, the illusion is complete, and tonight is a night for checking your brain in at the door. Do that, and few things in life are more fun than a Steel Panther show.

Carlisle is a world away from Los Angeles' Sunset Strip, but northern rockers Falling Red have a similar cock rock strut, albeit filtered through the raw sleaze-punk of the Backyard Babies. The riffs are served with barbs and the hooks are ground glass in honey, marking them out as definite ones to watch – and watch out for.

Meanwhile, Steel Panther's time has come. The last time they played this venue, they were supporting blues rock legends ZZ Top. Now they're headlining, and the place is jam-packed.

The ridiculous In The Future intro builds the tension, and then guitarist Satchel appears in front of a floor-to-ceiling curtain to whoops of delight. When the curtain drops and the rest of the band are revealed in all their spandex-clad glory, Wolverhampton goes absolutely wild.

The banter is a huge part of any Steel Panther show. There are times when they push the envelope of good taste and there are times when they lick it, attach a stamp, and post it to Don't-give-a-fucksville, USA. They also play some songs occasionally, too, and the curious thing about this band is that they're far better musically than most of the '80s hair metallers they appear to want to be. Satchel's solo spot – incorporating snatches of songs by Iron Maiden, Judas Priest and Black Sabbath while he keeps the beat on a kick drum – is genuinely stunning. The comedy metal likes of Girl From Oklahoma and It Won't Suck Itself are drilled out with flawless precision and, as the night draws to an end in a blur of staged stage invasions, the smell of Steel Panther's triumph overpowers the lingering scent of cheese.



Here's a Babycham: Falling Red
(l-r) Dave Sanders, Shane Kirk,
Rozey, Matty Penn.

FIRST GLANCE

Falling Red

Wild Cumbrian four-piece giving Sweden's sleaze rockers a run for their dirty money.

WHILE OVER IN Sweden the sleaze rock scene is boiling over with talent, as the likes of Crashdiet, Hardcore Superstar and 69 Eyes continue to prove, the only real notable UK exponents of the genre would have to be Cumbria's finest, Falling Red.

Formed in 2006 by lead vocalist/guitarist Rozey and rhythm guitarist Shane Kirk, the blueprint for Falling Red was put in place when drummer Dave Sanders joined. As Rozey explains: "We brought Dave in not too long after Shane and I got the first incarnation of Falling Red going. We were fortunate to have recruited one of the best rock drummers in the UK."

It was this initial line-up that would eventually record the band's debut album *Shake The Faith*, an eight-track tour-de-force, for Rocksector records. The label couldn't believe its luck in finding the Fallen ones, a story that Rozey is only too happy to tell: "Yeah, we were in the right place, at the right time. They turned up to one of our quietest gigs ever. But they couldn't believe our energy on stage, and were intrigued to see more."

What they saw and heard that night was just a glimmer of the band that recorded the *Shake The Faith* release. With said album garnering them plaudits from all the right places, tours with Sebastian Bach, Dirty Penny and Vains Of Jenna helped them cement a reputation as a band of distinction.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE



Falling Red have been influenced as much by bands' wild and crazy partying antics as they have by their music. But one band in particular has spoken volumes to Rozey - Guns N' Roses. "Yeah, if I could go back in time then I'd love to be around for *Appetite For Destruction*. The shit they got up to... and they still managed to create one of the greatest albums of all time. I wish I could've been there."

However, it clearly irks Rozey that his band seem cast in the shadow of certain aforementioned Swedes, vehemently jabbing his finger in my direction. "Fuck yeah! It bothers me that any band gets more press than us.

We work really fuckin' hard, we're out on the road, but it's more about how to market a band these days. If you have Gene Simmons bank-rolling you, you'll do alright!"

Having recorded a brand new EP, the marvellous *Hasta La Victoria Siempre!* [Latin translation: 'Onward to victory 'til death'], to keep momentum flowing, it sees them in riotous form, containing the anthem *If You Ain't Down With The Rock...*, a song the frontman is rightly proud of.

"It's definitely our anthem for a new generation of rockers out there. Shane's not one to mince his words, that lad; he wrote the lyrics as an ode to all the back-of-the-room posers. If you ain't down with the rock... fuck off!"

The live circuit in the UK is very important to Falling Red, but they've seen it diminish drastically over the last two years, with some great clubs and venues having folded during the recession. Rozey has one last message to the gig-going punter.

"Music fans need to get behind smaller bands and promoters and share the money out to the up-and-coming bands. Don't just give it all to major festivals... or there won't be a club scene in the future, and there won't be bands like Falling Red." **RE**

Falling Red's EP Hasta La Victoria Siempre! and their debut album Shake The Faith are available via Rocksector records.



DIRTY PENNY FALLING RED

Satan's Hollow, Manchester – 6 September 2010

Playing 'in the round' at the wonderfully named Satan's Hollow tonight were two of the finest exponents of the UK/USA sleaze scene, namely Dirty Penny and Falling Red. Whilst it may not have been 'in the round' a la Def Leppard, as it was actually slap bang in the middle of the pub floor, it was 'in the round' nonetheless. You have to give credit to both of these bands for this tour, as they've played in every conceivable toilet all over Europe to get their message across.

In Falling Red, the UK has one of the best examples that the current sleaze rock scene has to offer. On record they are impressive but live... that's a whole different ball game. Their energy levels throughout this short set never dipped below frantic with lead singer Rozey and guitarist Shane Kirk being the main driving force behind this band. The likes of "How You Feel (On Me)", "You Were Out To Get Me" and "Out Of Control" are riotous slabs of hard edged sleaze that remind me of bands like Guns N' Roses and Skid Row, but with the attitude of the Sex Pistols. One of the finest live bands I've seen this year. The same could be said of Dirty Penny. It's been three years since they burst onto the scene with their debut album "Take It Sleazy". Having toured the States relentlessly, it's now the turn of Europe to get a dose of sleaze disease from these Californian bad boys. With the main body of their set culled from their decadent debut, Dirty Penny started this show with a ferocity that didn't let up until the end. Their music might be out of fashion, but it's wonderfully delivered in a true eighties style. Their party hardy attitude is perfectly summed up by the likes of "Midnite Ride", "Running Wild", "Vendetta" and "Sleeze Disease". It's like Black N Blue never called it a day. If the eighties was your decade, then this lot will help you relive your youth, and then some. Simply fantastic.

POWERPOINTS ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨

WORDS BY ROB EVANS, PICS BY JEFF PRICE

VEINS OF JENNA FALLING RED

Club Alter Ego, Manchester – 10 September 2011

Occupying a small, well formed yet hot as hell club, this show was a sleaze fan's wet dream with backcombed hair and black eyeliner wearing punters crammed into the venue to witness Swedish/American act Veins Of Jenna and local firebrands Falling Red.

The latter impressed from the get go, delivering a fantastically upbeat performance with drummer Dave Sanders looking particularly animated behind the kit as the band bashed out "Up All Night" and the monstrous "Bad Man Bangin'" like their lives depended on it.

Having been a staple on the live scene for a couple of years now, it can't be long before Falling Red get the breaks they so richly deserve. The constant touring has honed them into a watertight rock machine that really knows how to work an audience. "Last Kiss Goodbye" gave the crowd a brief chance to catch its breath before the rousing finale of "Ain't Down With The Rock" drew their set to a close. Let's hope Manchester gets another dose of Falling Red very

soon.

Mixing classic rock with rhythm and blues, glam rockers Vein Of Jenna put on a strong performance but the bombastic power of their support act was somewhat hard to follow. Nevertheless, numbers like "Enemy In Me" were entertaining, accessible salvos but the covers they threw in such as Cee Lo Green's "Fuck You" did feel a bit unnecessary. Vocalist Jesse Forte is a lively frontman whose vocals serve up powerful hooks like the chorus of "Everyone Loves You When You're Dead" but tonight was an evening where the Brits took the title of sleaziest and most energetic act on a very entertaining bill.

POWERPOINTS ①②③④⑤⑥⑦

ROSS BAKER

FALLING RED "Hasta La Victoria Siempre"

Genre: Sleaze
Rocksector Records



Falling Red's "Shake The Faith" was in contention for my top ten of 2010; it didn't make it, but it's the thought that counts. They now return with a short (under sixteen minutes) sharp shock that takes their game to a new level. "Hasta La Victoria Siempre" translates to "Keep fighting until victory", which is an apt motto for the band and allows

me to overlook the Ché Guevara influences normally spouted or worn by the sheepish-chic which grate so much. The style is very much an update of the 80s heyday of sleaze. "Come On Down" and "My Little Vice" sound like a nitro-fired Crue, whilst "The Last Kiss Goodbye" has strong Tuff influences. "If You Ain't Down With The Rock" is clearly aimed at the younger crowd with the counterpart refrain of "You can fuck right off." Clichéd and banal it may be, but it's catchy and you can guarantee it will form an audience participation section of the live show. The merits of a four-track EP can be widely discussed, but this is one I'd recommend to all sleaze fans.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧

MATT STEVENSON

DIRTY PENNY

PLUS: FALLING RED

CENTRAL, NOTTINGHAM

04.09.10

KKKKK

THE NEW WAVE OF GLAM
METAL PUCKERS UP IN
NOTTINGHAM

IT'S NOT exactly hard to scoff at the post-Steel Panther resurgence of glam and all its sleazy, back-combed attachments, but you'd have to be a bit dead in the head not to notice the electricity coursing through this packed venue this evening. Playing in sauna-like temperatures, the revival's newest hopefuls are, figuratively if not literally, on fire tonight. UK mob Falling Red are emerging as potential genre champions, and their venomous anthems are unleashed in a speeding flood of riffs and hooks. Their 30-minute blast of eyeliner-smudged punk 'n' roll is simply ace. California's sleazy Dirty Penny have also captured their own little corner of a genre that peaked two decades ago, but now sounds fresher and more exciting than it has done since those days. Fronted by the brilliantly named Binge Daniels, the great thing about this lot is that they may be serving up big plates of cheese, but their crotch-level riffs and fuck-the-world hooks are so genuine and well aimed that it simply doesn't matter. Push Comes To Shove and Rock are like a more primal Mötley Crüe, while Scream & Shout is a middle finger thrill ride that will please glam metal fans young (like tonight's crowd) and old. They're joined at the end by Falling Red for a thunderous cover of the Beastie Boys' (You Gotta) Fight For Your Right (To Party!), concluding a fantastic night where all you can do is party like it's 1989.

STEVE BEEBEE

22 KERRANG!

SEBASTIAN BACH

PLUS: FALLING RED

ASSEMBLY HALL,

LEAMINGTON SPA

15.10.10

KKKKK

FORMER SKID ROW SINGER
LETS RIP IN LEAMINGTON

THERE HASN'T been a young band playing sleazy rock 'n' roll with such black-hearted purpose as UK upstarts Falling Red for many years. Snotty, slightly aloof and snarling with energy and hooks, this is one band who aren't merely selling a faded salute to glam history – this is their lifeblood, and they're among the best the UK has to offer. That the same can be said for Sebastian Bach – by his own admission old enough to have fathered his own guitarist – tells you something of the man's irrepressible spirit. In the UK to support Guns N' Roses, Seb's having even more fun at his own shows, and his passion for all things rock shines through in both his demeanour and his long set list, which he changes and adds to as he goes along. Still blessed by a superhuman set of pipes, Seb is little changed from the swaggering, headbanging motormouth that had hits in his youth with 18 And Life, Monkey Business and Youth Gone Wild – all played tonight to thunderous response. Heavier fare from his relatively stop-start solo career finds favour too, and bodes well for the new album and UK tour promised for 2011. Though not as farcical as GN'R, Seb's former band are ineffectually lumbering on like a two-legged horse. The man himself, meanwhile, is clearly still having the time of his life.

STEVE BEEBEE

20 KERRANG!

Falling Red


Shake The Faith ROCKSECTOR

A British band to believe in. And so the dust settles on the 'new decade' hoopla to reveal that, actually, nothing has really changed; there are still no androids, dogs still lick their own bollocks, and the best rock'n'roll continues to be made by sweaty men in leather beating on wood and wire.

Falling Red are nothing particularly original in concept – just four blokes from northern England who enjoyed *Appetite For Destruction* – but *Shake The Faith's* Sunset schtick is bolstered by attitude, musicianship and some dazzling hooks, leaving you with the thrilling sense of having seen the past and the future. With no ballads and no let-up in pace, this feels like a reaction to something. And while it's difficult to imagine Falling Red single-handedly storming Simon Cowell's pop fortress, it's good to know the resistance is out there.

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Henry Yates



ON THE CD

FALLING RED

We're talking rawk'n'roll rather than rock'n'roll with this Cumbria-based four-piece, and they claim that there's no one frontman in the band, rather they're all frontmen. Taking their cues from vintage Guns N' Roses with a dash of 70s punk spirit and 80s Sunset Strip rebellion, Falling Red's debut album *Shake The Faith* is released on March 1.

• ON THE CD: Track 9 - *How Do You Feel (On Me)* by Falling Red

Falling Red

Falling Red: "Devil worshippers? Us?"

“At the last festival we played we were the most wasted band there. We scared a few people.”



FALLING RED

Cumbrian quartet with classic sleaze anthems

Do you miss the days when rock bands sounded like they were providing soundtracks to big nights of booze, beauties and bawling? If so, then you need Falling Red in your life. Rozey (vocals/guitar), Shane Kirk (guitar), Millsy (bass) and Dave Sanders (drums) may call Cumbria home but judging from their raucous, whiskey-soaked songs, they're sure to be blasting from your speakers in no time. With their debut album 'Shake The Faith' about to remind you why you fell in love with rock 'n' roll in the first place, they manage to harness the attitude of '70s punk and the decadence of '80s classic rock. Songs such as 'How You Feel (on me)', 'You Were Out To Get Me' and 'Out Of Control' show why the quartet compare their sound to a "decadent night in hell!" Falling Red's gigs are already famously energetic and unforgettable and their future is as big as their ballsy sing-alongs. Time to paint the town Red!

Falling Red tour the UK in February/March/April
'Shake The Faith' is out in March on Rocksector

ROCKS LIKE:

GUNS 'N' ROSES – Appetite For Destruction
AIRBOURNE – Runnin' Wild
MOTLEY CRUE – Too Fast For Love
myspace.com/fallingredband



FALLING RED SHAKE THE FAITH

(Rocksector)

Sex, rock 'n' roll and er...
sheep?

★★★★

This is high-octane sleaze rock at its filthiest – the kind that dirt-mongers Motley Crue would be proud of. Think powering, thundering rock that was made for ladies in skimpy undies to gyrate to, men to rock out to and for large amounts of whiskey to be drunk to. Yet despite their strong American sound that feels like it was destined for the sun-drenched coast of California (albeit maybe a good generation ago), this foursome hail from the less glamorous fields of Cumbria. Nonetheless, tracks such as 'Out Of Control' and title track 'Shake The Faith' are anthemic and energetic. Get down to a gig and shake your tail feathers.

Sarah Cakebread

NAME: FALLING RED

FROM: Cumbria

FOR FANS OF: Guns 'N' Roses, Motley Crue, Airbourne

INFO: In a haze of smoke, scantily clad women and JD bottles emerge the most thrilling UK sleaze rockers we've heard for a long time. Tapping into the Sunset Strip spirit and ignores passing trends and fads, but still sounding dangerous and dirty, Rozey (vocals/guitar), Shane Kirk (guitar/vocals), Millsy (bass/vocals) and Dave Sanders (drums/vocals) are the perfect soundtrack to cruising down a freeway on a Harley. Destined to make waves when their raw and energetic songs are unleashed on their debut full-length 'Shake The Faith' on Rocksector Records on March 1st, they're sure to win a legion of fans with anthems such as 'Out Of Control', 'How You Feel (On Me)' and 'You Were Out To Get Me'. Having recently

wowed Gun fans, their live show proves that these guys are the real deal and you'll be able to catch them live when they blaze a trail through your town on tour from February through to May and are confirmed for SOS Festival in Manchester on July 9th. Falling Red are here to shake things up and get you moving.

LISTEN AT:

myspace.com/fallingredband

