



Falling Red

Meet the British rockers who are conquering the planet one town at a time.

FALLING RED'S TOUR diary could double as an A-Z of Britain. Night after night, for three years the Cumbrian rockers have prowled the motorway, slept in the van, emerged with perfect hair, converted another clubful of punters and left on a tidal wave of sweat and goodwill. "Aberdeen, Manchester, London... any gig we get, we'll damn well take it," says lead singer Rozey. "We hit the stage every night and play our arses off. We just think, 'Fuck it, we're going out there to kick ass'. You've got to spread the word."

And the word is 'rawk'. Rozey was nine when a wayward uncle dropped a bag of tapes into his lap, and today you can hear elements of each one in the glorious sleaze-punk of his band.

"My uncle is to blame for what I do," the vocalist laughs. "He's the evil uncle in our family. One of the tapes was The Clash's Combat Rock, another was Whitesnake's Slip Of The Tongue; there was Poison's Open Up And Say... Ahh! and Guns N' Roses' Appetite For Destruction. That was it. The seeds were sown. It's that 80s hard rock scene that gets us going."

No doubt it also inspired the band aesthetic. Rozey and co-founding guitarist Shane Kirk look like they've been peeled off the carpet in the Roxy, while newer members Dave Sanders (drums) and Millsy (bass) complement the Strip vibe. If you have

daughters, these guys' leather and curled lips seem to say, best lock 'em indoors and throw away the key. "After we play, we like to have a good time, let our hair down and chat to everybody," says Rozey. "At the last festival we played – the S.O.S in Manchester – we were the most wasted band there. And we did scare a few people."

Yet there's plenty of blood and sweat to go with all the beer. Shake The Faith, their debut album released in March, may sounds effortless (it was largely recorded live), but it's a deadly serious mission statement, providing the ammunition for the band's furious live shows.

"We definitely like audience participation wherever we play," grins Rozey. "We try to get everyone with their hands in the air, showing us the horns, getting us drinks. I do the lead vocals, but Shane likes to get up front with the crowd and give it the old guitar-in-the-face attitude. We're trying to make everybody there feel like part of the show, from the front right to the back."

Ultimately, great rock'n'roll is about sparking a reaction. And Falling Red get one every night – even if it's pious outrage.

"Coming to a gig?" Rozey muses. "Then you'll have to see if you can get past the religious protesters. We've had a few messages on MySpace from Christian groups, saying 'Devil worshippers, repent your sins!' Just cos our album is called Shake The Faith. We were a bit shocked, but never mind. It's cool. It shows we get a response from all sides." **HY**

Shake The Faith is released on March 1 on Rocksector Records.



Destruction when I was about nine," Rozey says, "and loved it, especially Nightrain, one of my favourite Guns N' Roses tracks. And obviously the swearing appeals to you when you're that young. I probably listened to it about a month ago. We have a big if Pod in the van. It's a cracking album

