

arts/entertainment

Blackheart 'reputation' not like Jett's Runaways

By Pat Higgins

"We want to play for the American people—that's what's important. New York and Los Angeles are too much of media

centers. We want to go where Ted Nugent is a star," said Joan Jett in a telephone interview during a stopover in Los Angeles.

"We just played a college in Knoxville, Tennessee and we had the campus cops

dancing by the third song and we're looking forward to coming to Lincoln."

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts are currently on tour to support their first album, *Bad Reputation*, and they will be at the Drumstick March 26. *Bad Reputation* has been garnering more favorable attention than anything Jett did with her previous band the Runaways, a group of teenage girls that received some of the worse press of their day.

"Our manager, Kim Fowley, came up with the term 'jailbait rock' and we never lived that down," said Jett, "because we were all girls everybody thought we were either sluts or lesbians. You believe how many journalists I've had to physically eject from motel rooms for being obnoxious. I had to spend an awful lot of the time on the defensive. It made people not take me seriously when all I wanted was to be in a rock and roll band."

Jett was a rather precocious youngster. "I was fifteen when I joined the Runaways. My parents were a little skeptical," she said, "Now they're real proud of me."

Fifteen-year old 'Runaway'

Jett released *Bad Reputation* initially on an independent label, but the record was picked up by Boardwalk Records, which is affiliated with corporate giant CBS. Boardwalk's president, Neil Bogart, previously ran Casablanca records from whence Donna Summer and Kiss sold millions.

"We're on the *Billboard* charts with a bullet this week which is more than the Runaways ever did. Boardwalk has been real good for supporting us, we're doing real well on college radio stations," said Jett. "We did put a single out but we're aiming more for album-oriented FM most of the songwriting. The album feat-

Bad Reputation has about an even split between covers and originals, but Jett said in the future she would prefer to do most of the songwriting.

"We recorded all but one song in England and Blondie was touring there at the same time so I called up drummer Clem Burke and guitar player Frank Infante and we did Woody Bully, the Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs classic in about 20 minutes," Jett said.

Also making the English scene were two alums of the notorious Sex Pistols.

"Paul Cook and Steve Jones played on a song on the album. We'd go out and have drinks and stuff but they were total professionals in the studio," she said.

Girls and guys

Asked about the difference between the Blackhearts and the Runaways, Jett is laconic.

"That was with girls, this is with guys. I'll tell you, though, it was seeing Suzie Quatro at a show in Hollywood that gave me the courage to get up onstage," she said.

Jett and the band have since opened for Iggy Pop and the Bus Boys, but headlining to promote her own album has been a welcome outlet.

"I'm getting more favorable press because people look at me and say 'she's looking and playing better than ever, she's a survivor,'" Jett explained. "I really believe that this (*Bad Reputation*) is a good album."

According to Jett, the split up of the Runaways was an amicable one.

"It was totally friendly," she said. "It was just that a couple of the girls wanted to go heavy metal, but I didn't, so I quit."

Still Jett is hesitant to settle on a label.

"We're not New Wave, we try to appeal to everybody," she said. "On the East Coast we get people showing up in mink stoles."

Jett says the East Coast has been good to her band, because New York radio stations have picked up heavily on her album. But she also saves a good word for the often-maligned West Coast music scene.

"A lot of people put L.A. rock down, but L.A. has a great rock scene now," Jett said. "It's the most intense that I've seen since I left England. There are kids as young as 14—the so-called 'surf punks.'"

Jett promises an energetic show Thursday night. "Everybody likes to dance, drink, and have fun," she said. "So we're going to put on a totally hot and sweaty show."

Opening for Joan Jett will be local rock band The Eyes.

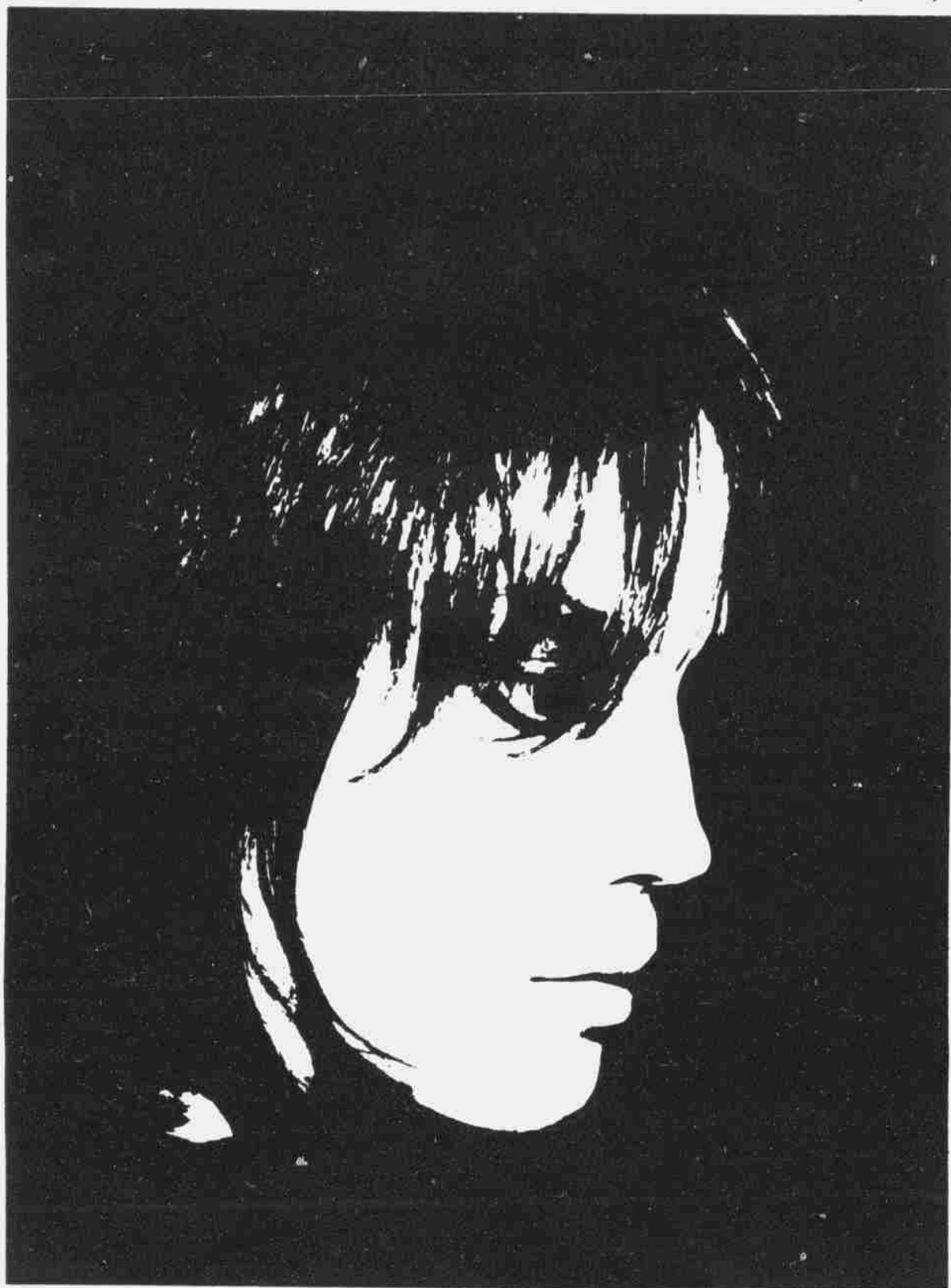


Photo courtesy of Michael Bloom

Joan Jett, formerly with the controversial Runaways, promises an energetic show for her first Lincoln appearance.

Everyone regrets the Barrett, Snyder team-up

It's bound to happen sometime. *Tomorrow: Coast to Coast* will not be able to hunt down any guests. So, Tom Snyder and Rona Barrett, our coast-to-coast hosts, will be forced to interview each other.

(The scene: *Tomorrow: Coast to Coast*. The disco music that opens the show starts to fade out as the camera focuses on Tom Snyder.)

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"Good evening, and welcome to *Tomorrow: Coast to Coast*," says Snyder. He pauses to light a cigarette. "Tonight we have a, well, shall we say, interesting show for you. I will be talking to Rona Barrett, a noted Hollywood gossip columnist who now shares air time on a late-night talk show."

"We'll be getting to the interview with Barrett in just a minute," Snyder continues. "But let me tell you about the crazy things that have been going on here at the studio in New York today. . ."

We can see Snyder's mouth still moving, but somebody in the studio has cut the sound. The next shot we see is of Rona Barrett sitting behind a desk. She notices that she is on the air, and breaks into a grin.

"Good evening, this is Rona Barrett in Hollywood. I

know that I am scheduled to talk with my colleague Tom Snyder, but I would be shirking my responsibility as a journalist if I didn't tell you viewers what has been happening in Hollywood today.

"Timeslot is still reeling over the news that famous Hollywood reporter Rona Barrett has been called upon to salvage the floundering ratings of the *Tomorrow Show*."

Barrett continues to talk, but the face of Tom Snyder reappears on the screen. We can see both faces talking, but hear no sound. Snyder is throwing his head back in laughter. Finally, we hear a voice.

"Good evening. You probably don't recognize my voice. I am the producer of *Tomorrow: Coast to Coast*. I am sure that you are aware by now that Tom Snyder and Rona Barrett were supposed to interview each other tonight, but I have talked to the two hosts and, believe me, we can kiss that idea goodbye."

"As you can see on your screens, both Snyder and Barrett are blustering along, talking about life in their respective cities, completely ignoring each other."

"As producer of this show, I have made some great mistakes in my time, I admit. One of the biggest mistakes was when I added Rona Barrett as co-host. Another was when I moved Tom Snyder to New York. About the only thing I did right was keep the two of them separated by 3,000 miles."

On the television screen we can see that both Snyder and Barrett have stopped talking. They are staring quizzically into television monitors.

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"Well, I see you two have finally shut up," says the producer's voice, addressing the two co-hosts. "Do you two think you can play nice and start the interview now?"

The two faces stare at each other on the screen. Finally Snyder speaks.

"Ju-ju-ju-just what the heck is going on here, Rona?"

"I don't know, Tom," says Rona in reply. "but Hollywood is still reeling over the incredible decision to team-up Tom Snyder and Rona Barrett to co-host *Tomorrow: Coast to Coast*. It's the dumbest move that this reporter has made in years, and I'm sure that goes ditto for you, Tom."

Grammy winners to appear in April

The Grammy Award-winning Imperials will perform April 2 at Lincoln's Pershing Auditorium.

One of the hottest acts in the fast-growing field of contemporary Christian music, The Imperials are successfully bridging the gap between secular and Christian music.

"The Eagle Song," from their *"One More Song for You"* album, generated airplay on pop and adult contemporary radio stations while becoming a top-selling hit on Christian stations.

Grammy-award winning producer, Michael Omartian, who produced 1981's Album of the Year, *Christopher Cross*, produced *Priority* and *One More Song for You*.

The Imperials have distinguished themselves in gospel and popular music since they began in 1964. They had worked as a gospel act exclusively until they began work with Jimmy Dean and Elvis Presley.

Tickets for The Imperials are available at Maranatha Christian Supply, Logos Bookstore, Agape Books, Serenity Family Bookstore, Pershing Auditorium, Miller & Paine and Magee's.

entertainment notes

The Organization of the Joyo Repertory Company has been proposed for the use of performing theatrical entertainment for the Lincoln area.

Audition times have been scheduled for this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Joyo Theater.

Eight to 10 persons are needed to fill vacancies for dancers, actors, singers, comedians, directors and techni-

cians. The company will be presenting a variety of plays.

Li Shan, the artist from the People's Republic of China, whose works are on display in the Sheldon Art Gallery, will give a demonstration of his painting techniques in the Sheldon Auditorium at 3 p.m. Sunday.

The exhibit of Shan's paintings in the gallery will continue through April 5.