



BLUES CREATION

Demon & Eleven Children, Denon Records, 1971, up to £800.



Some of the hard-rock albums that came out of Japan in the early 70s have become legendary, among them barnstormers by the likes of Far Out, Mops, Too Much

and, of course, Flower Travellin' Band. One of the most charismatic is this 1971 heavy blues rock monster from Blues Creation. Everything about *Demon & Eleven Children* has a certain charm, but what makes the album stand out is the blues-based proto-metal assault from guitarist and band leader Kazuo Takeda.

With the band having previously released an album of cool-sounding, fuzzed-up blues classics/covers a couple of years earlier, it's safe to assume they then added some Sabbath and Led Zep to their listening habits.

Having beefed up their sound and articulated their sonic attack, here Blues Creation rock like hell on tracks

'It's an avalanche of infectious riffs with a series of acid jams.'

like *Sooner Or Later* and *Just I Was Born*, coming across like a mix of very early Pentagram and Sir Lord Baltimore with an Oriental twist. Interspersed with the avalanche of infectious riffs are a series of acid jams which portray a very fluid band in action; tight rhythms, grinding bass and killer guitar solos. Singer Hiromi Osawa has a convincing voice, but it does seem to drop in and out of key. However, his character and enthusiasm sit perfectly with the exhilarating musical madness.

The name was later shortened to Creation and had they had a working relationship with Felix Papalardi, but the raw spirit of *Demon & Eleven Children* was never recaptured. **LD**



NEWS

Coverage of the 2012 **Classic Rock Roll Of Honour** will premiere on Sky Arts 1 HD on Tuesday February 12 at 8pm. Make sure you tune in and take a look at the event, hosted by Duff McKagan and featuring an amazing special live performance by Lynyrd Skynyrd.

A newly remastered 40th-anniversary edition of **David Bowie's** *Aladdin Sane* is released on April 13 via Parlophone. Bowie's sixth album, it was the last to feature the line-up of guitarist Mick Ronson, bassist Trevor Bolder and drummer Mick Woodmansey.

Tommy Aldridge has rejoined **Whitesnake** as replacement for Brian Tichy. Aldridge, the widely travelled former Back Oak Arkansas/Ozzy Osbourne/Pat Travers Band drummer was previously with the group from 1987 to 91 and 2002 to 07.



Due to be released later this year, the new album from **Michael Schenker** (pictured) will be called *Bridge The Gap*.

Guitarist Rob Caggiano has joined Danish band **Volbeat** just weeks after leaving Anthrax. Volbeat's upcoming album, *Outlaw Gentlemen & Shady Ladies*, is due for release on April 8 via Universal Music.

Grammy-winning group **The Mars Volta** have split up. Singer Cedric Bixler-Zavala says it's due to the refusal of guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez to take part in a US tour.



Tom Keifer: frightened and excited to finally be flying solo.



WELCOME BACK

Tom Keifer

The Cinderella singer talks about the band, his first solo album and the health issue that threatens his career.

HISTORY MIGHT LUMP Pennsylvania's Cinderella in with the 80s glam-metal scene, but that might be unfair. The down-home, mascara-free influences on vocalist Tom Keifer's first solo album, *The Way Life Goes*, place him worlds away from the LA Strip. But, as he tells *Classic Rock*, it's been a long road and he's received his share of life's punches.

You've certainly kept everyone waiting for your first solo album.

The concept started in the mid-90s, but got put on the back-burner when Cinderella got back together to make a record. Then when that fell apart we got involved in legal hassles with Sony and everybody started drifting apart. I finally started recording this in 2003.

Why did it take so long to finish it?

Cinderella tours took me away from it for months at a time, but provided objectivity. The beauty of Pro Tools is that you come back, hit a button and everything's right there as it was. I woke up one day and felt it was finished. It was a lot of fun but a labour of love.

It's a proper Nashville album in parts. Ask Me Yesterday in particular has the feel of a timeless country ballad.

It definitely has that flavour. I was first introduced to country by the Rolling Stones – *Far Away Eyes*, *Honky Tonk Women*. I've always been into American roots music and blues big-time. My ability to express that has grown progressively from the first Cinderella album. We were so green then. But you learn as you go.

Did you resent being associated with the glam-metal scene in the 80s?

I try not to think about that. I'm really proud of Cinderella. There were huge

positives to us getting played on MTV, but huge negatives too. It took the fashion of our decade and turned it into something that maybe people made too much out of. Some people listen to music with their eyes, not their ears.

What's the status of Cinderella now?

We toured hard the last three years so we decided to take a break. And the timing lined up perfectly for me to make this album. We'll still tour, but as for new music, every time we've tried there's been a roadblock.

You've described your album as autobiographical and observational.

That's the place I've always tried to write from. The title track is about the irony of life. So many times

you think something's going to last forever, then life gives you a left hook.

You've had your share of them, particularly with the ongoing problem with your vocal cords.

My left vocal cord is partially paralysed. But the bottom line is I was told I'd never sing again, and I've done seven successful tours with Cinderella and made this record. For 20 years it's been a daily battle, and always will be. But I'm always going to sing. I can't imagine doing anything else.

So some 30 years after forming Cinderella, you're finally going solo. How does it feel?

It's definitely exciting and scary. Cinderella's a comfort zone for me. I love those guys and always have a ball when we go out and play, and we have our thing down pat. But this is all new, man. It's frightening and really exciting. **GM**

The Way Life Goes is released in April on *Merovée*.