

What's Going On

Terry Reid & Rick Rosas of The Flew

by Pat Kramer

Picture this: a band whose members have performed and recorded with **The Rolling Stones, John Lennon, Tom Petty, Don Henley, Neil Young, The Eagles, Roy Orbison, Bonnie Raitt,** and the list goes on. Each band member is equally proficient, all like each other and all are in it for the fun of it! The band is called "**The Flew**" and features **Joe Walsh** and friends. As they prepare for their upcoming shows at the **Ventura Theatre** April 30 and **The Coach House** May 1, I talked with band members **Terry Reid** and **Rick "The Bass Player" Rosas** about their image, their music and what it's like to work with **Joe Walsh**. Rick "The Bass Player," as he likes to be called, has worked with **Joe Walsh** since 1985, touring the world several times and playing on his last four albums. Over the last three years, Rick's been on tour with **Neil Young**. With that work finished he thought it was time to join **Walsh** again for another band project. **Walsh's** idea was to revive their 1986 band, **The Flu**, which featured **Waddy Wachtel** and **Rick Marotta**. After a slight name change, **Walsh** decided to ask **British rock singer Terry Reid** to join the band. **Walsh** played on **Reid's** solo album **The Driver** last year and liked his style of singing and his great sense of humor. According to **Rick**, humor is a key feature in this band. It creates a spirit of unpredictability and freshness in their show, making **The Flew** different from other bands' "staged" shows. **Walsh** is, in fact, well known for his spontaneous antics on stage and his portrayal of a drunken rock star. **Rick** says this is not really the way **Walsh** is. Rather, it's a character that he hides behind. "That's just **Joe**. He's very, very aware of things. He's really very together."

Walsh's act certainly hasn't hurt him financially. Since touring with **Ringo Starr's** "All Stars" last year and on **Ringo's** previous tour a



RICK ROSAS



TERRY REID

few years ago, he's been producing a New Zealand band called **The Herbs**. Last November, he performed on the bill with **Glenn**

Frey for **Frey's** L.A. show. And now, he's gearing up to work with **Pete Townsend** on some showcases **Pete** will be doing for his new record. With **The Flew**, **Walsh** and the band will stay busy playing around L.A. and will be recording a record together later this year. Joining the band on keyboards is **Nicky Hopkins**, known to many for his work with **The Rolling Stones, John Lennon, Jefferson Airplane** and **Jeff Beck**. Both **Reid** and **Rosas** agree that **Hopkins** is an impressive addition to the band. Said **Reid**, "you can always tell when **Nicky** is playing cause his style is so unique. All the different things that he plays, whether it's a ballad or a shuffle, whatever he's doing, you can tell it's him." **Phil Jones** rounds out the band on drums. **Jones** just finished work with **Tom Petty** on his album **Full Moon Fe-**

ver. His credits include work with **Stevie Nicks, Roy Orbison** and **Del Shannon**. With their collective time playing in great bands, the show promises to be an exciting one. There is also a great chemistry between them, said **Reid**. "You can try to put bands together and sometimes it's a real pain. This one just kind of fell to-

gether." Because they are all professionals and know each other's music, **Reid** said they don't need to spend too much time working

out arrangements. The material **The Flew** will be doing could include songs from any of the bands **Walsh** has been involved with, or it could feature **Reid's** soul-drenched vocals from his six solo albums. **Reid** said his favorites are the R&B classic "**I Can't Stand the Rain**" and **The Waterboys' "The Whole Of The Moon."** Then again, **Rosas** said they may just do songs they like such as **Steven Stills' "Rock and Roll Woman"** or some great soul songs. Of course, when you're playing with **Joe Walsh**, anything can happen. At their show last month in **Las Vegas**, **Walsh** wandered out on stage with his guitar a full hour before the show was supposed to start. Not one to be outdone, **Reid** said he joined **Walsh** and began singing. "I saw **Joe** on stage so I just followed him out there. People had just started coming in. There's all these people saying, 'the show doesn't start for an hour'. The surprise set went off fine with **Walsh** and **Reid** making it up as they went along until the rest of the band joined them on stage. There is also a good chance that the audience will get to see a slide show which **Walsh** and **Rosas** have put together. **Rosas** said he and **Walsh** share the same "sick sense of humor." "Throughout America, **Joe** and I have taken slides of toilets and we show that. We'll go out to a shopping mall and take pictures of funny people too. That, to us, is funny." The upcoming show in **Ventura** will be **The Flew's** sixth show. Their opening show last month was described by one reporter as "generating enough hot licks and inspired moments to compensate for **Walsh's** bad jokes." It's clear this band project is important to **Reid** and **Rosas** as it provides an opportunity for the band, and any celebrity friends that might be backstage, to keep their musical talents sharp. Said **Reid** on the band persona, there is a definite charisma working here. "That's what's good about this band, it's got a bit of fire to it because everybody's got some energy going on. There's real good chemistry between us." With the talent and liveliness of the crew in **The Flew**, there's no doubt it will make for an interesting and entertaining show. **The Flew** bring their all-star line-up and demented sense of humor to the southland for two shows; Friday, April 30 at the **Ventura Theater** and Saturday May 1 at **The Coach House**. Tickets for both shows are available at **Ticketmaster**.