

Titbits

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AUSTRALIA 35c
NEW ZEALAND 35c
SOUTH AFRICA 30c
MALAYSIA 90c
MALTA 8c

WIN
SUPER
HOLIDAYS
FREE **2**

It's got to come,
says Bill Neech
—the time when you'll

Do it
ALL
Yourself

CURSE
OF THE
PHARAOH
GOES
ON



Please
Sir, Carol's
Carrying On!

CENTRE PAGES

EVEN NOW WOMEN
ARE TESTING...
The Pill to
end all pills

The Lizzy in a tizzy about his dad!

AS the front man of Thin Lizzy, one of the toughest rock bands in the country, you wouldn't think there were too many things Phil Lynott can't handle. But he has a problem.

"I don't know where my father is. I haven't seen or heard from him since I was four years old. He could be anywhere."

Phil's parents never married, though they were together for four years.

"My mother doesn't talk too much about him. I know he had a lot going for him and a lot of girls after him. He even had a nickname, 'The Duke'. He was South American and a pretty flash dresser. She tells me I've got most of his looks—he was fairly tall and a good dancer—and most of her characteristics. She said he was a good geezer and I should be proud of him."

Phil, 25, doesn't resent his father's departure because he had a great time being brought up by his grandmother in Dublin.

"She's fantastic. Now I watch her growing old and people treating her as if she's old, but I still treat her as an equal and she likes that."

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On stage, family problems fade away and Phil Lynott becomes mean, raunchy and violent like the band's new LP called *Fighting*.

"I'm very aggressive on stage. I always get excited. I work out all my hang-ups I think. I'm sure I'd be in nick now if I wasn't in a group. Basically we're a fellas' band. The fellas get off on our music. The girls come to look at us."

And not only to look. There's usually quite a crowd of hopefuls backstage.

"I don't think any of the girls who follow Thin Lizzy would class themselves as groupies because they can talk about our music. I'll come off stage and they'll tell me that I've sung the wrong verse or missed out a word."

Phil writes most of the band's songs. He's also had a book of poems published called *Songs For While I'm Away*, many of them romantic. Maybe he finds it easier to put his feelings into words?

"I'm very bad at saying what I mean. I used to be very honest when I was young. I'd crack up and say 'I love you' but it didn't hold the

chick if she didn't fancy me. And when I saw it didn't work, it made me very hard on the outside."

With his frantic life style, it's just as well there's nobody at home keeping his slippers warm. They'd have a long wait.

"I've got a flat in Hampstead I share with Tex, a roadie for Genesis. Then I often flash over to see me grandmother in Ireland and my mother has a hotel in Manchester called The Biz. She really brings me down to earth. 'Philip, look at your nails, you haven't cleaned them!' she'll say. She's great, my mother. I met Georgie Best through my mum. He likes coming in to her place. She keeps the football fans out!"

Phil is an only child. His mother never married but she's been living with somebody for 15 years. Is he anything like Phil's long lost father?

"He's a great guy. I hope my father was like him, I really do."

Jan Etherington

Phil Lynott, right, comes out fighting with his mighty rock numbers. Below, with the other lean, mean Lizzies



their own room at his Maidenhead, Berkshire, home.

When we talked in Johnny's dressing room at London's Victoria Palace, where he is appearing in the Mike Yarwood show, you could hardly hear for the birds' chatter. "They do shut up," he said.

He walked over to their large cage and said, "Shh!" There was immediate silence—for half a minute.

The red-haired magic man grinned and said: "They've even got a union—they plan revolutions against me! The one who comes out of my top pocket is the ring leader."

Johnny and his menagerie—his act

also stars two doves, a cockatoo called Sam, a Persian cat called Fluffy, three Samoyed dogs and a Pyrenean mountain dog—have become world famous.

Northern lads

Preston's successful son started when he was 18. He took a week off from technical college, where he was studying chemistry, to enter a Magic Circle contest in London. "There were lots of kids with their parents. They'd all been trained and were favourites," he said.

"Nobody had heard of me. I was just somebody up from the provinces

who did tricks as a hobby. I was with my little brother. We were two Northern lads determined to win, and we did."

An appearance in TV's *Sunday Night At The London Palladium* followed—and Johnny's schooldays were over.

"I got into the business at the right time," he said. "I've worked with people such as Bruce Forsyth, Ken Dodd, Danny La Rue and Morecambe and Wise, who are products of the music hall era.

"You can't learn about the theatre in the same way today. The only place to learn is clubs, where people are

drinking and you have to force your act down their throats. That's why you get young performers who are aggressive and bitter because they've had to struggle to get anywhere."

Birds and animals—a horse is joining the team this year—are not the only attraction in Johnny's act.

Until the Victoria Palace show Johnny's wife, Lorna, was his assistant. She's now retired to look after their daughter, Sally, 11, and 16-year-old Beverley Frances, a former Lionel Blair dancer from Ongar, Essex, has taken over the job.

Douglas Marlborough