

RHYTHM

March 2005

THE THIEVES

The Thieves' drummer **Jamie Dawson** really did pilfer to get where he is today. Quite an appropriate name then...

What have The Thieves been up to?

"We've been in LA recording with Richie Kotzen who was in Poison. We've also been out on the road working the new EP"

Describe The Thieves' sound?

"If you take some Bowie and TRex and mix in some AC/DC for good measure then you're getting close."

How did you start drumming?

"I would play my dad's Zeppelin records and become hypnotised by John Bonham. I found my dad's old kit in the loft and practised along to said records. I stole my brother's paper-round money to buy a Premier Jazz kit, and then I was hooked."

Who are your main drumming influences?

"John Bonham is top, then Keith Moon, Phil Rudd, Dave Grohl, Phil Collins, Stewart Copeland and my room-mate Chris Slade."

How and when did the band form?

"For a Spinal Tap covers gig at an Oxford club. After that everyone said we should do something together, but I was with a band

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called Narco who had a deal with EMI so I couldn't. The boys went to the US and played with various session guys. It wasn't working with Narco so I went to LA, we jammed, changed the band name, recorded new tracks and got a deal."

What is the best drumming performance you have ever witnessed?

"I recently met Taylor Hawkins at a small gig he was playing in Malibu. Chad Smith was in the audience so he got up and did a song. He's a hard hitter. It was a great night!"

Describe your current set-up?

"I have a '69 Gretsch and '67 Ludwig kit which I use for recording, but live I use a Tama Starclassic with 24" kick, 13" rack and 16" floor tom with various snares. I also use a Zildjian 24" A ride, 18" and 20" A Medium crashes, 22" K Dark ride with three rivets, 22" Oriental and 14" Mastersound hats." *Chris Barnes*

The Thieves: Someone stolen your chairs, boys?

