

Whilst Rush were over in the UK recently putting the finishing touches to their new album due out very soon now, Rock On! spoke to bassist and vocalist Geddy Lee to find out a bit more about the band who despite their huge following still remain a bit of a mystery to their fans . . .

ROCK ON! How long have you been over here and when will you be going back to The States? GEDDY LEE: Seems like

we've been here for ever (he laughs). Seriously we've had lots of hassles and hold ups lots of hassles and hold ups and we've been here getting on for six weeks now, working our asses off from early till late to finish the album off. Alex has already gone back to Canada 'cos he hasn't seen his kids for ages but Neil and myself will be here for at least another week another week.

BO: So when can we expect to see the new album in the

shops.
GL: Well hopefully by the fall (autumn, to us lot) but we're not sure yet.
RO: Will you be doing any British dates to coincide with release?
GL: Unfortunately we've got

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too tight a touring schedule back home this year,hopefully early next year though. (Leans into tape microphone) Hi all you fans. Hope to see you

RO: Can you tell us a bit about the new album. Any

startling new innovations ... what's it going to be called? GL: The title will be Hemisphere. We've perfected some new effects in'the studio which we hope Rush fans will like. We've perty learned with the studio which we hope Rush fans will like. We've perty had been with the studio which we hope Rush fans will like. We've perty had been with the start where the start was the start where the start was the like. We're pretty pleased with

it.
RO: Is all your songwriting very much a group effort?
GL: Yes everything we do, we do as a team. We're an extremely tight unit.
RO: Has the fact that you're such a tight unit made you reluctant to expand your

line-up?
GL: I think you could say that.

We've toyed with the idea of adding to the line-up but basically we get on so well and collaborate so much on and collaborate so much on ideas and things that we think new members might interfere with that. Anyway there's always one of us who can play any extra instruments needed. RO: Does the fact that your fans—particularly the British ones—know so little about you want wou warry you at all? you worry you at all? GL: No not really. Our music speaks for itself and tells the speaks for itself and tells the fans all they really need to know. Go to a Rush Concert or buy one of our albums and you'll know us (he laughs). That sounds like a sales pitch if ever I heard one. RO: So you don't think having an image is very important?
GL: No I wouldn't say that. Obviously it works well for

GL: No I wouldn't say that. Obviously it works well for some bands—perhaps they wouldn't survive without it. Not for us though. We really don't think we need an obvious one. We're all very low profile people. You won't see us at all those parties and press receptions with our arm round so and so from such and such a band. That's all shit. We don't think it's necessary. We're very private people. We're very private people.
RO: Don't you think it's important to check out other



bands on the music scene? GL: Of course but all you have to do is buy their record or go to their concert. That's what the fans do isn't it. We don't believe in all this hanging around.

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RO: Don't you find it difficult to avoid all the trappings that go with success?
GL: Well the scene in Canada

is very different from that of New York or even London. It's

much quieter, much easier to be yourself. RO: Do you hang around with the others much when not recording or touring? GL: Yes we are very close. Music is an essential part of our lives. Rush music that is—so it's always a point of common interest between us. There's no getting away from

RO: Your albums are often very ambitious with regard to concept. How do you manage to make the transition from vinyl to stage successfully?

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a long show so that we can do large segments from our concept pieces. But then we have lots of numbers that we can lift without losing any of the impact. RO: **Your tours must be**

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RO: Your tours must be pretty exhausting

particularly when your sets are up to 2½ hours long.
GL: Too right. That's why we've stopped flying everywhere. Now when we tour we hire a luxury bus and just cruise from gig to gig. That way we have far more time to relax.

RO: What are your plans when you get back to Canada.

GL: Well we've got a mammoth tour of the States lined up but before that we're all gonna take a long holiday. You know something I don't even wanna hear any music for the next month or so. This is one time I'm gonna get away from it completely.

With that Geddy departed for the great blue yonder. Not before promising to return to his British fans as soon as possible though...