

Girls are back in town — with a new lineup, a new album and a new sound!

It's been over a year since Girlschool's last UK tour. Back then Britain was going "School-crazy". "Hit and Run" squirted into the album charts at number 5 first week, "Sounds" Reader's Poll saw the girls looming triumphantly and, of course, there was the enormous success of their team-up with Motorhead for the "Saint Valentine's Day Massacre" EP.

Since then there's just been their storming headlining appearance on the opening night of last year's Reading Festival. What have they been up to?

Just conquering the rest of the Planet.

In the last 12 months Girlschool have made sorties to Canada, France, Holland, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Sweden, Japan and their first visit to the States in April.

The gruelling touring sorted out the girls from Girlschool. On their return from Japan, bass-player Enid Williams left the band.

"Enid sort of grew out of the band," explained Kim. "She didn't like the way the band was going," added Kelly. "She thought we were a bit untogether. She just got fed up with it, I guess. It's a com-

...bination of lots of things, so we agreed to split."

While Enid went off to form a new band, Kelly, Kim and Denise started looking for a new bass-player. They advertised and auditioned a few, but 'twas none other than Lemmy who came up with a suitable candidate.

Enter Gil Weston!

Birmingham born Gil used to provide the racey throb for the Killjoys, one of 1977's better second division punk outfits. Lemmy could often be spotted peering over from the fruit machine and nodding approvingly at their gigs. (Incidentally, Killjoys singer Kevin Rowland now fronts Dexy's Midnight Runners). Lemmy scrawled Gil's phone number on a fat packet, contact was made and she clicked immediately.

"It just seems like I've been in the band since . . . ever!" she bubbled during a break in recording recently. "We feel like we've known each other for years. Gil fitted in straight away," enthused Kim.

The last Girlschool record to feature Enid was the recently-charted EP, headed by the surprisingly poppy "Don't Call It Love". As soon as Gil was in the girls were catapulted into Surrey Sound Studios to record a new album.

Seeing Gil's joining as a new phase, Girlschool set to work on a new sound, with Nigel Gray, who's worked with the Police and Siouxsie among others, producing.

They had a title track early on in the sessions — "Screaming Blue Murder". The rest of the album was done in their traditionally effective last-minute fashion, "I'll bang out some words while you lot go up the pub."

As momentum gathered steam, such gems emerged as "You Got Me", "Flesh and Blood" and a recklessly relentless treatment of the Stones' "Live With Me", which they've always wanted to do, plus a new version of the EP's "Wild Life".

And, yes, there is a change in direction.

Kim: "Definitely! It's more rocky now." "Yeah, more rocky as opposed to a mad thrash," agreed Kelly. "We felt we had to change a bit. After two albums doing exactly the same thing, we wanted to shift a bit. It's still heavy, but the ideas are different."

The girls agree that UK fans haven't had an overkill of gigs and records to munch on — that's been rectified now, right? — but think of the delirious expressions on little faces in Japan, America and all those other places as they witness Girl-

school's inimitable brand of hook, line and demolition for the first time! But dramatic events in Sweden nearly changed all that.

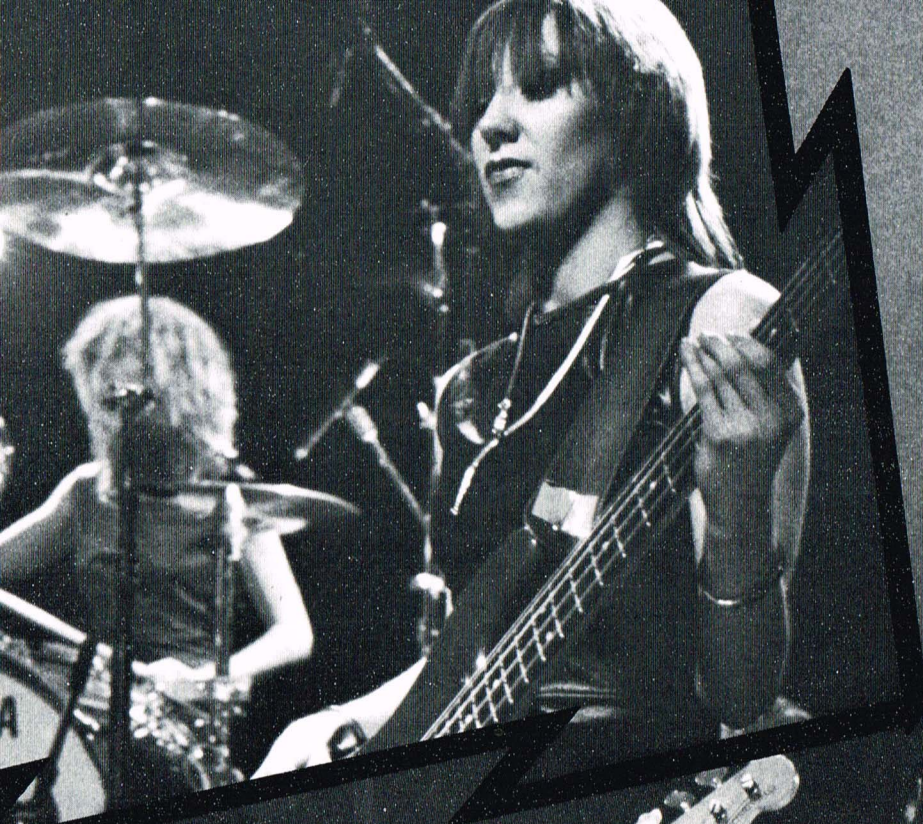
The girls, having driven over country for days and rather rumped at having all their stage gear nicked on the first gig, took the stage, burst in to song and encountered a vicious jolt of electric current, which hurled Kim onto her back. Once freed from the deadly volts, she was rushed to hospital for treatment and luckily fully recovered. A close one.

The Japanese visit holds more pleasant memories. They played four gigs, a rake of TV shows and effectively shattered the famous Japanese reserve to proportions of berserkness. One gig saw the stage in danger of total collapse.

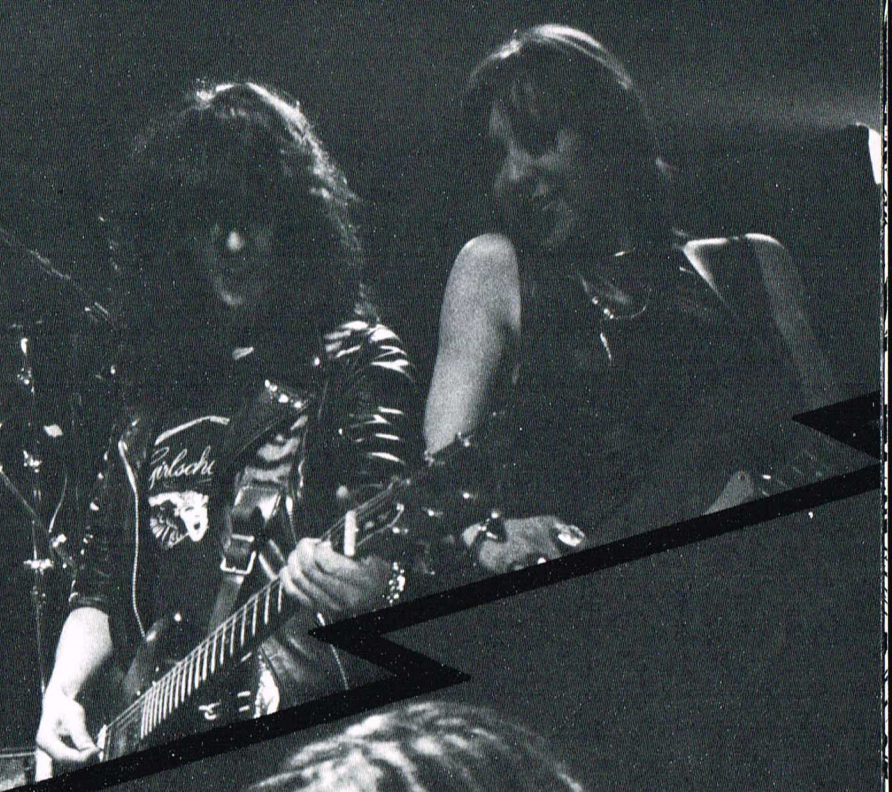
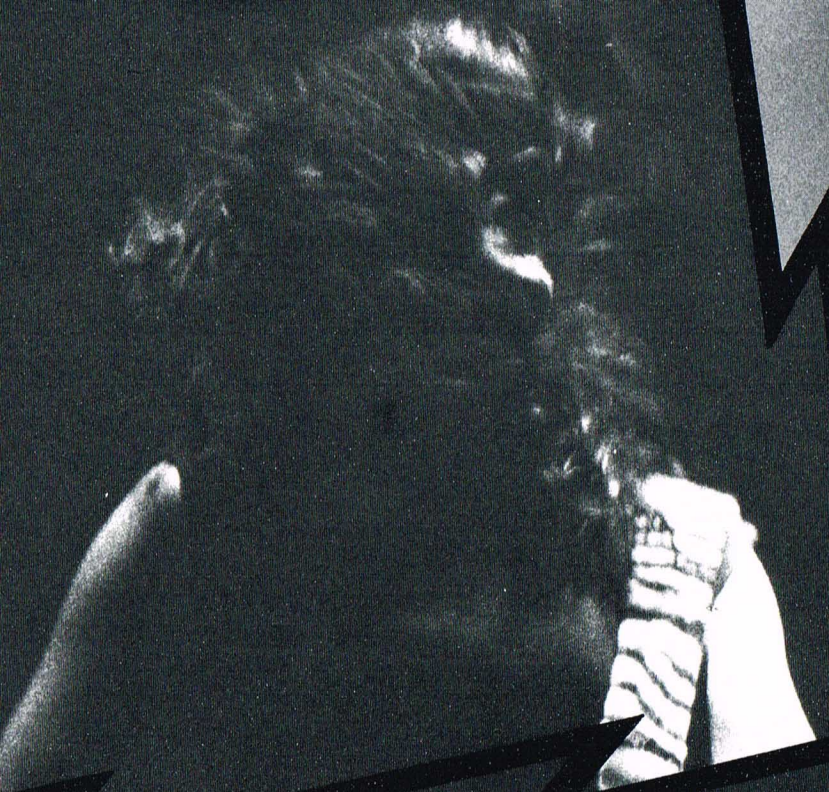
But that's enough of that. Now it's your turn!

Kristine Deen















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CHEERS YOU LOT!

