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WELCOME TO THE CLUB

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WVZ ELCLUB

IT'S A MIRACLE

Guns that cross the street
You never know who you might meet
Who's in disguise
Ooh, as you blow a storm
There's no-one there to keep you warm
It's no surprise
There's something in my eyes

It's a miracle
It's a miracle
It's a miracle
It's a miracle
It's a miracle
And dreams are made of emotion

Dance with the court jester
The plastic smiles and micro heart
I'll meet you there
Run to the edge of town
Where Hollywood lay its footprints down
Monroe was there
But do you really care?

Cry, it's a miracle
It's a miracle
It's a miracle
It's a miracle

(Words and music: O'Dowd/Hay/Moss/Craig/Pickard. Lyrics reprinted by kind permission of CBS Songs Australia Pty. Ltd. All rights reserved.)

COME TO THE

On the eve of Culture Club's departure for Australia BOY GEORGE talks to Gabrielle Pike.

After months of rumour and speculation its finally settled. Culture Club will be coming down under in July to play what promises to be one of the most exciting concert tours of recent times.

It seems hard to imagine what the pop world was like B.C.C. (Before Culture Club) such has been the impact of Boy George and co. in the two years since 'Do You Really Want To Hurt Me' exploded out of nowhere to the top of the world's charts.

Australia, Europe, America and Japan have all followed Britain in falling under the spell of the Culture Club phenomenon — the sound, the look, the voice and the image of the 80's.

What is next for Culture Club? Can Boy George continue his chameleon-like changes and keep one step ahead of the pack? 'I've time can provide the eventual answers but in the meantime it's George!

Important is your Public Image?

Important. It created debate asks questions. But of course the important thing is the music — as you can see from the States, we have been No. 1. If you write good songs and also look good, it's a bonus."

Do you think you would have the same amount of success if you were wearing a suit and tie?

"Yes, I would have made it in a different way. I have always been consistent in what I wanted and that is why I have made it — that's why we have succeeded as a band. If you want success you can get it! In any case, everybody has an image. Take Status Quo for example, their image is not having an image! Ours just looks better."

Do you like any kind of sports?

"No, I don't like sport at all. I don't believe in the survival of the fittest."

It is true that you had an unhappy childhood?

"That is one of the mis-conceptions of my life. I did not have an unhappy childhood. My father was very strict, very much a macho-man, and I fought against it. But it is all in my book which I wrote myself, because I don't want the usual pop book telling everybody what we eat for breakfast. I wanted it to be about things that affected all young people, things they can identify with."

Have you had any film offers?

"Yes, I've had lots. But they're all about transvestites, and I am not a transvestite, I don't wear women's underwear. I'd like to play a character role, not a freak. I would not like to play myself either, and I don't want to be portrayed as a weirdo. I'd like to play something very straightforward. The most difficult thing is to play a real person, like in Coronation Street for instance. I'd like to do something very demanding. It doesn't have to be serious but real."

Did you see Dustin Hoffman in 'Tootsie'?

"I've been asked that before. No, I'd never go to see a film like that. That was a real transvestite film, wasn't it?"

What is your next album going to be like?

"The next album is going to have a lot of different musical pieces on it.

Our first album was very angular. Colour By Numbers had so many different tracks, not like a Police album for instance. The next album is going to be more rhythmic, a lot harder, not like Victims. There'll be lots of different styles — some R and B, some love songs. We're not really quite sure yet, it has to be decided. I thought Victims was our best song, but in England, the best songs are not necessarily the biggest hits."

Do you find that you are now accepted the way you are by most people?

"The sad thing about being an eccentric and successful is that you become very acceptable in the circus, but not in the supermarket. Also people change their opinions about you, which I find sad. But I would rather be treated nicely that nastily. I think everybody would prefer that, unless of course you are crazy."

What do you spend your money on?

"Most people in the record industry spend their money on expensive things, things they cannot really afford. I don't, I am very practical. Also I am not very optimistic about the future. I am very careful on what I spend my money."

What do you think of spending as much money as Michael Jackson has on one video?

"That is a very bizarre exception. He has made so much money, he has got to spend it on something. His videos are a tax loss!"

Has your international success changed you at all?

"No, I don't think we have changed at all. We have worked so hard in the last two years, we have really not had time to ourselves. Not like Duran Duran, who have spent a lot of their time on the beach! We spend a lot of out time working. If we ever stop what we're doing, we lose our momentum. We're far too occupied with consolidating our success than revelling in it. Rather than being happy about it and talk about it, we just continue working at it."

Culture Club are one of the few white bands who are played on the black radio stations in the States. How do you explain this?

"It is all to do with polarisation. In America black people are first American then black. In England it is the reverse. I don't agree with all that. A lot of people are now incorporating the ideas we had in the video for Do You Really Want To Hurt Me, which incidentally was banned by MTV. The Americans love to categorise everybody — this is black, this is white, this is a faggot — this is a man! They take a lot of their culture from the TV. It is a land of extremes."

"We want people to look at our band and see what's going on. We are setting an example of how we can all work together. Jon is Jewish, Roy part Scottish, I am Irish and Micky is from Jamaica. We all have different cultures and backgrounds and we can all work together."

How important is it for you to get attention, to be recognised?

"If you become besotted with attention, you can become very distressed. I can take it or leave it! It means very little to me, music is the most important thing for me. If that does not continue to be good quality, then I have failed."