

# Local Motion

SYDNEY'S HOT SPOT ROCK WITH ANTHONY O'GRADY

All that happened was, during my so called fall from grace, certain English papers went out of their way to be extremely generous with their hatred.

## THE BOY BACK MAKING MUSIC



FOR a man who's supposed to have been to hell and back, Boy George sounds very nonchalant about the recent traumas that kept him in the headlines - and off the charts - for a year.

"I never went anywhere," says the Boy. "I started out wanting to make people laugh and I never stopped."

"All that happened was, during my so called fall from grace, certain English papers went out of their way to be extremely generous with their hatred."

"But that's OK, they were just doing their job and now I'm back doing mine, so everyone's happy again."

If it seems a somewhat incredible way of describing a year's addiction to heroin, being twice arrested and seeing two close friends die of drug overdoses, maybe it's also George's way of coping.

During our telephone talk there's the constant sound of him sucking on cigarette after cigarette and by the end of our conversation, his voice has developed a noticeable rasp.

"Yes, he admits, 'I'm smoking like a whorehouse. 'It's not something I hope I'll keep on doing. I'll give up once I

start feeling wonderfully agile as a human being again. 'But at the moment, I'm still pretty nervous. I'm still going through the midpoints of getting well again."

"When I feel 100 per cent, I'll quit but at the moment well, it's not my nervous 'know'."

Nerves or not, the waspish humor can still sting. "One thing I can say in my defence," he says, talking of George Michael's recent penchant for facial stubble, "when I kiss people, I don't tickle them as well."

And on ex-Culture Club drummer and former lover Jon Moss, "We're still good friends, you have to be adult about these things, so are."

"He's currently going around town wearing shorts and looking a bit silly, but apart from that, I'll always remember him for being very good in bed."

And on himself, "I make good music, but people who buy records don't necessarily want to read good music."

"They want entertainment, they want a bit of mythology and a generous serving of romance, and I supply that."

"Remember, you're only as good as your next record. I don't believe all that Andy Warhol fatidistic claptrap that everyone will be a star for 15 minutes."

"That's not nearly long enough for me."

"I'm an entertainer, that's my job and I intend to keep on doing it."

## GEORGE'S HOMAGE TO THE KING

BOY GEORGE with a pompadour, wearing a white jumpsuit?

Not quite, but like most other stars in England this week, he's briefly set aside his own career to pay homage to Elvis Presley on the 10th anniversary of the King's death.

England has more die-hard Presley fans per head of population than any other country. "There's going to be a big thing on TV," says George. "Loads of people are doing it - everyone from Carl Perkins to the Rubby Monkeys, from Ruby Turner to me."

"I'll be singing Are You Lonesome Tonight and Teddy Bear."

"I can't sing them as well as Presley, of course, his voice was the best there was."

But he also had a genius for selecting great songs, his big hits were always short, sharp and to the point.

## Still ahead - by a glance



THE WINNING STRETCH... with the crowd clapping and cheering the fun runners home, winner Brad Camp (number 2) steals a second to glance over his shoulder

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★ Boy George will be back on the road by year's end and he intends to tour Australia early next year.

★ "Australia was a high point of Culture Club's career," he says, "the fans there were incredible, just amazing."

★ "Apart from being called a queer by a few toughs on Bondi Beach one day, the tour went unbelievably well."

★ "Mind you, I think I could have punched them out - but we already had all the headlines we could use!"

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