

ACT NATURAL, LEE

HATING RUSH IS LIKE COLORING with a broken crayon: There's no point. Always more interested in structure than soulfulness, the band has spent the past 26 years ignoring naysayers, and you have to admire their dedication (and rock-radio staples like "Tom Sawyer" and "New World Man"). With Rush temporarily on hiatus, bassist-singer Geddy Lee has dropped his first solo album, *My Favorite Headache*, which boasts drumming from Pearl Jam pounder Matt Cameron. So in the spirit of Pearl Jam's first album (that'd be *Ten*, kids), we threw our typical batch of stupid questions at him. —Rob Brunner

- **What about the voice of Geddy Lee? How did it get so high?** Delayed growing up, I guess. I was always a soprano in choirs in school, and that's just the way I sound.
- **That question's actually a quote from a song by Pavement. Heard it?** Oh! Yeah, I heard something about that. I haven't heard it, but somebody told me about it.
- **The longest song on your new album is only five minutes. That's not very prog-rock of you.** No. Well...even in Rush I don't think we've attacked anything longer than five or six minutes for quite some time. I don't know that prog-rock is always

associated with the lengths of the songs.

- **Tell me the truth: [Rush drummer] Neil Peart's ticked about being replaced by some guy from a grunge band. I mean, the dude only has one bass drum!** [Laughs] I don't think so. He hasn't said that to me, anyway. And Matt's drums sound really big. It's a normal-sized kit if you're not playing double bass drums. And even Neil had a single bass drum on the last tour.
- **But didn't he have a double pedal?** That's true. Wow, you know stuff about music.
- **Does that surprise you?** Uh, yeah.
- **Which do you think is the best of Pearl Jam's 25 live discs?** Um...I couldn't tell you. I did my homework with Matt's stuff from when he was in Soundgarden.
- **Rush only put out, what, four live albums? What the hell is wrong with you guys? Only four. They're younger. They got more energy.**
- **"Tom Sawyer" is featured in a Nissan commercial. Are you hard up for cash?** No. I don't know how that came about. They only wanted to use a little bit so we didn't think it was a big deal. I haven't seen it.
- **You're not touring, Rush is on hiatus. What does Geddy Lee actually do all day?** Mostly stuff like this. Answering 10 brilliant questions. I talk all day on the phone to promo guys and writers and then I go wash my mouth out with soap.



JUST ASKING

GEDDY LEE tackles a trio of L2T readers' queries



Q. Have you composed anything so complex even you can't figure out how you did it?

— *John Piedrahita, Atlanta*

A. Well, there are a few songs on [the new Rush album] *Vapor Trails* that I'll have a hell of a time trying to remember how we played them. I'm sure I'll nail them, but it may take a bit. Or at least I'll fake it as best I can.

Q. Would you consider working with Eddie Vedder or Björk?

— *Douglas Maher, Naples, Fla.*

A. Well, I like Eddie Vedder's voice a lot, and he's a great guy, so I'd be happy to work with him. And Björk is one of my heroes, so that would be a treat. Although who knows what she'd be doing working with me.

Q. Where does Rush get off with their ridiculous ticket prices? Don't you have more money than God yet?

— *Laurie Mavity, Rochester, N.Y.*

A. If you've gone to any concert in the last five years, you'll notice that Rush tickets are quite well priced. The Rolling Stones [top out at] \$350 a ticket. You're just not in touch, I'm afraid. And how much money I have is my business.