

Rush To Do Three Hour Show

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Rush

Rush fans all over North America are doing the "damn I gotta pee," dance in anticipation of the band's triumphant return to the road after a five year hiatus. Meanwhile, **Geddy Lee**, **Neil Peart** and **Alex Lifeson** are busy working like madmen in a rehearsal room to make this tour something to remember for the fans who have stuck in there for the long haul. There really is no rest for the wicked considering Rush's catalogue is so enormous, and not exactly comprised of three chord wonders either. It looks like the band, even though they're hardcore veterans of the road, know that practice makes perfect.

"It's gonna take every minute available from now till tour," laughs a fit-looking Geddy Lee in regards to the eight weeks of rehearsal the band are about to embark on to whip themselves into fighting shape for the Vapor Trails tour, a journey that kicks off in Hartford, Connecticut on June 28.

"We've been off for a long time, and there's a lot of material to learn and relearn and some of it will come back very quickly, and some of it will not," explains the bassist.

The little trio from Toronto that could have again chosen to give the fans what they want and are going out minus an opening act — instead Lee says they'll be playing for three hours. Three hours!

"We decided in the end that we need a lot of time to keep everybody happy, and we wanted to play a lot of new material, but people have their favourites. And we want to bring some songs back that we haven't played in quite a few years and make the show quite different than the last time we toured," he says, realizing just how many albums there are to choose material from.

With a discography that spans 17 studio albums it must be a bitch to pick a set list, but you can bet that Vapor Trails favourites like the super melodic "How It Is," the driving "Peaceable Kingdom" and "Freeze (Part IV of Fear)" will find their way onto the stage.

It's been a long wait for Rush fanatics and considering that the band's subjects are such a loyal lot, it should come as a great relief to them to know that Vapor Trails shows Rush at their propulsive best. The band have created a work that has them stretching out with

more bass, drum and guitar interplay than they've had since 2112 or Permanent Waves.

With the band woodshedding in the rehearsal studio and a summer tour creeping up fast, it looks like Rush are again preparing to bring on the fear in a big way.

—Tim Melton