



GWEN STEFANI
OF NO DOUBT
THE QUEEN OF CONFESSIONAL POP
PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEX TEHRANI



Recorded live during Elton's sold-out shows at New York City's legendary Madison Square Garden, **ONE NIGHT ONLY** is the definitive collection of Elton John classics.

Catch
ELTON JOHN
One Night Only
The Greatest Hits Live
Friday, December 1st



eltonjohn.com



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Man, I'm working on this girl, we're copping all your shit. We're just updating it." I don't hear the cop. Mmm, maybe a little bit. But that's beautiful, because we're all inspired by each other.

Were you trying to make a more modern record with "Fly Away"?

I don't hear time with music, man. When I listen back to the *Greatest Hits* record, it doesn't sound dated. You don't know when any of that stuff was done. You don't know if it was recorded in the Sixties, Seventies, Eighties, Nineties. My whole thing is for everything to sound classic.

What was the best gig you saw this year?

Oh, God – the Stones at a small venue in London, with no sets, no lights. It was absolutely insane.

Do boy bands suck?

Some of them suck, yeah. I'm not one of these people who sit there and dog

the shape of your image. It's the perception: Lenny Kravitz, girls, parties. I don't think people really listen to my records. I don't sing about partying, sleeping with chicks and all that kind of thing. I'm singing about love, God, unity and peace. But because of my image, or because of the image that's created for me, people see me as a player, a rock star. The girl I'm with in the video, Gina Gershon, she ain't really down with me – she's just being fabulous. And so am I.

But both are true: You sing about love and God, but you are a fabulous rock star.

Of course. I definitely have two different personalities. I'm a classic Gemini, anyway.

What's your fantasy for next year?

To meet the woman of my dreams and get married. And live my life on my deserted island, grow vegetables, wear no shoes and do my thing in the dirt. It's gonna happen. —**ROB TANNENBAUM**

GWEN STEFANI

GWEN STEFANI, NO DOUBT'S lead singer and one of the few women on the planet who's proven herself able to carry off fuchsia hair, has been on the road for most of 2000 in support of her band's fourth album, *Return of Saturn*. On this record, we find a more thoughtful, introspective Stefani. She turned thirty last year and has been wrestling with a lot of Big Questions: kids, career, marriage, you know the drill. The pride of Anaheim, California, phones from a tour stop in Thailand.

Sum up your past year in three words.

Way too fast.

Where are you calling from, exactly?

I'm in Bangkok, all right? It is spectacular here. Last night we all went out to dinner at this restaurant that has, like, Thai dancing, and women with the really beautiful headdresses, and

they tell a whole story. By the time we left, it had been raining for an hour and a half and it was completely flooded everywhere, at least to the middle of your calf. We were like, "Yeah!" It has been wild. I had a monkey on my back the other day. We were in Malaysia in this temple. I was feeding one and it just jumped right on my back.

What's the best thing that happened to you this year?

The completion of this record, for sure, because the previous two years were kind of crap years for me. A bit of a struggle to try and bounce back from the *Tragic Kingdom* thing and come off touring. We were touring for two and a half years straight. I came home and I thought I was normal, but then, slowly but surely, I was like, "What Gwen am I? I don't even know what 'Gwen' means anymore." I felt like I was insane. I never [Cont. on 156]

<<<<< STAPP

CREED HAVE QUIETLY BECOME one of the biggest rock bands of the past two years. Driven by a Pearl Jam-y sound, their albums, *My Own Prison* and *Human Clay*, have sold millions, with little attention or acknowledgment from the music press or MTV. Singer Scott Stapp isn't keen on doing interviews - he feels misunderstood and spent much of this year avoiding the public eye. By all indications, he will probably feel the same in 2001: In the past twelve months, he weathered public slag-offs from Limp Bizkit frontman Fred Durst that nearly escalated into a boxing match - literally.

What was the best thing that happened to you in 2000?

The follow-up success on the second album, just proving to myself and to the critics that the first go-round wasn't a fluke. Doing multiple nights at arenas, doing the 30,000- and 40,000-seat amphitheaters - that just blows my mind. I'm real proud that I've connected that well with my fans and that they give back.

What was the most disappointing part of the past year?

The whole Fred Durst thing. I don't know the guy; I've never met him. I think he was upset that we were headlining. [Durst made disparaging comments about Creed when they shared a bill with Limp Bizkit in New Jersey, and called Stapp an egomaniac.] I was on my tour bus, and someone ran in and said, "Fred Durst is going off on you onstage." There's so much competition in music. It's not like you envisioned it was in the Sixties or the Seventies - not a unified group of musicians all trying to create good music.

Didn't you challenge him to a boxing match?

Yeah, for charity. And he said he didn't believe in violence - which goes against every lyric he's ever written.

What are your plans and goals for the coming year?

We're going to wrap up our tour on December 14th and go away for a bit. The radio plays us so much, we need a breather and want to give everyone else a breather, too. So we're going away for six or seven months; then we'll probably write, do some recording and maybe a record next year - but there's no definitive plans. Personally, I need to get back to being at home with my family, doing normal things.

What hope or dream would you like to see come true in the next year?

We decided to have a child next year. I want to have lots of kids. Having a daughter would be awesome - next year, if it works out.

—ANTHONY BOZZA

<<< STEFANI

[Cont. from 152] had depression before - I don't even know if I had real depression, but I wasn't the happy-go-lucky, anything-goes person that I had always been my whole life. I was like, "I don't want to get up, and I'm going to eat all the ice cream in the house, and I'm going to lay in bed." It was horrible, because I thought, "Oh, no, this is me grown up." But it wasn't true. It was just a phase, I think. So then we went back in to be creative again, and it was quite a challenge; and in a lot of ways, I feel like I've accomplished a huge, huge personal goal by being able to make this record and be proud of it.

What has been the strangest development in music this year?

I'm pretty much shocked by everything about music right now. I just never thought the whole pop scene would get taken so seriously and get so huge. It just blows my mind. Also, when our record came out, I was, like, the first female artist to be on [L.A. radio station] KROQ in a year. To me, the development of the fact that KROQ could go from being a station that played all kinds of music - male, female - to be like this really hard, testosterone-driven station. And that's what people want to hear - including females. So it was weird for me to be able to be that kind of . . . statistic.

Plus, those radio-station festivals are all guys.

We played the KROQ one, and I was the only girl in the entire show, except Moby's bass player, the entire day. But Scott Weiland dressed like a girl and came onstage, because he said he was supporting me [laughs]. So I think just the way that, in a year, things can really change. Everything has changed; you don't really have much choice.

I think rap has become amazing. I think most of the hip-hop stuff is the best thing that's coming out right now - the most entertaining and the most fresh.

In the same vein, what was the most disappointing part of the past year?

That I haven't mated [laughs]. That's the most difficult part - the years going by, and not ever knowing when I might breed. That was definitely on my mind a lot when I was writing this record. It's been on my mind probably since I came out of the womb. When am I going to have a baby? Will I be a good mother? I think those things are what kind of torture me right now. I want all those things, but I can't seem to find the time to make it right. This takes up everything. It's a selfish life right now, you know? —JANCEE DUNN

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