

FAITHFULLY DEVOTED!!!

WITH HIS FIRST SOLO DEBUT AND CONCERT TOUR IN AMERICA, HYDE SPEAKS TO J!-ENT REGARDING HIS MUSIC, FAITH AND WANTING TO BE AN ANGEL! **BY WYNNE IP**

[WHAT'S HOT IN MUSIC]



Photo courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment (Japan)

WHAT'S HOT IN MUSIC

When HYDE made his first public appearance in the US, it was back in the summer of 2004.

He came with the rest of his band members from L'Arc~en~Ciel, to perform in front of a crowd of 12,000 people in Baltimore, MD.

As the lead singer of a band that has sold more than 34 million records in the past decade, HYDE gained recognition all over the world throughout his successful career.

In 2001, HYDE began his solo career, and released his first single titled, "evergreen". The first print of this single came in a coffin shape. To this date, it is a hot collector's item.

Two other singles "Angel's tale" and "SHALLOW SLEEP" were released in 2001 and 2002, also featuring a coffin-shaped packaging.

His first album "ROENTGEN" was like nothing he has ever done before, or since.

The 2002 album was recorded in the UK. It was calm and peaceful, featuring lots of beautiful acoustic and orchestral arrangement.

It was something he had longed to try for a long time. His next two albums "666" and "FAITH" revert back to his root and was primarily of the rock genre.

Popular hits include "HELLO", "HORIZON", "COUNTDOWN", "SEASON'S CALL", and many more.

In his latest rock singles, he took "EVERGREEN" and "UNEXPECTED" from his first album, and made them into rock versions, receiving excellent responses from fans all over the world.

HYDE made his US solo debut with the release of his latest album "FAITH" by Tofu Records on June 27, 2006, followed by a 4-day California tour in early July.

A concert in Anaheim and one in San Francisco were originally scheduled. Thousands of fans responded and tickets were sold out in a matter of minutes. Seeing the reaction from fans, two more shows were added to the tour, one in Hollywood and another one in San Francisco.

Even during the middle of his busy Japan tour, HYDE took the time to come to America to perform in front of his US

fans.

Furthermore, he was scheduled a public appearance at Tofu Record's booth at Anime Expo on July 1, 2006 to greet his US fans.

Shortly before that event took place, I had the pleasure of conducting an exclusive interview with HYDE.

WYNNE: Welcome to America. How is it like to be back?

HYDE: It's rainy season in Japan right now, and the weather is very beautiful here. So I really like it.

WYNNE: Have you always

wanted to release your solo album in the United States?

HYDE: Yes, of course.

WYNNE: Every song in the three solo albums that you have released so far has a title in English. Do you enjoy writing songs in English?

HYDE: The music that I usually listen to is English language music. That's why I try to write English lyrics as well.

WYNNE: How do you decide

** Photography courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment Japan*



Photo courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment (Japan)



* A special one-on-one press photo session in Anaheim, CA between HYDE and J!-ENT photographer Mimi Ko.

whether to write certain lyrics in English versus in Japanese?

HYDE: It depends on the song's atmosphere. But English lyrics are easier to put on melodies, so for example, in the main parts of my songs, I would tend to use more English.

WYNNE: But weren't you afraid that your Japanese audience might not understand the English lyrics? And in this case, because this album is also released in the US, and so some of your American fans may not be able to understand the Japanese?

HYDE: Hmm... It's probably true that some fans may not be able to understand the lyrics, but it's

not really one of my worries. I don't really mind. Sometimes even when I listen to a Japanese song, I don't understand the lyrics either. So I'm not too worried about that.

WYNNE: In America, religion is a pretty sensitive topic. And the word "FAITH" has always been closely linked to religion. Why did you choose this name for your album?

HYDE: I was intending to write about religion in my songs. That's why I wanted to make the title easy to understand.

WYNNE: Your first album was recorded in the UK, and now

FAITH in Los Angeles. How come you wanted to pick these places to record these albums?

HYDE: For the first album, the producer that I wanted to use was in UK, which was why I went there. But for this time, the main reason I chose LA was the sound. I wanted to achieve the LA hard-rock sound very much, so in order to get close to it, the only way was to come to LA to record the album.

WYNNE: The song "COUNT-DOWN" was used as the Japanese theme song of the Hollywood motion picture "STEALTH". Can you tell us

your inspiration about this song?

HYDE: When I made the song, I didn't get to see the whole movie. I only saw the preview of it, so I didn't know the whole story. But I wanted to create the image of jets flying. And the main message that I wanted to get across was peace.

WYNNE: In the song "SEASON'S CALL", you wrote "yume ni egaku sekai wo kimi no me no mae ni hiro-getai". Can you describe to us this world that you wanted to paint in your dream?

HYDE: That would be a world of peace. When I think of the important people that I love in my life, I don't want them to see the evil side of the world. So that would be a world of peace.

WYNNE: What is your favorite song of the "FAITH" album?

HYDE: I love all of them, but if I have to pick one, it would be "JESUS CHRIST".

WYNNE: If not for the song "IT'S SAD", the album would have ended on a happy note quite literally with the song "MISSION". Why did you choose to put a song that describes the "worse creatures in history" at the very end? (Note: The song "MISSION" describes an ideal world without borders, where music will guide us all in harmony.)

HYDE: Like you said, if I had changed the order of the two songs around, it would have been the perfect order and would have fitted very well. But it would have been too normal. I wanted the album to have thorns in it. I wanted people to be aware. And I didn't want to relay a lie, so in order to show the real world, I put "IT'S SAD" at the end.



* Photography by Mimi Ko

WYNNE: What are your expectations for the upcoming U.S. concerts?

HYDE: I have listened to American music and have seen a lot of footage of American concerts. I'm hoping I can create something similar in terms of the high level of energy.

WYNNE: How do you feel about coming to perform in the U.S. right after your last

show at Hiroshima in Japan?

HYDE: While I was there, it was something that really made me think... (Pause) And that's really all I can say... It was... a heavy feeling.

WYNNE: Why did you have angel wings tattooed on your back?

HYDE: I wanted to become an angel. (laughing) People always

want things that they don't have. I wanted something I don't have, which was the wings, so that I could become an angel.

WYNNE: At every J!-ENT interview, we would choose a few words and then ask our guest to give us their meaning of those words for us.

The first word is "success".

HYDE: Hmm... For me, it would be to see if I'm at the position that I wanted to be. That would be "success".

The second word is "love".

HYDE: (long pause) I have just recently realized this... that

"love" is to become connected with the universe.

The third word is "sex".

HYDE: : Hmm... Sometimes people confuse it with love, but I feel that "sex" has no relations to "love".

WYNNE: Last but not least, could you please say a few words to your fans in America?

HYDE: Right now we're on tour and it's just the American section, but in a way it feels like this is a final. I'm really excited to see if I can make it here in the US. It's a challenge to me, and I'm really looking forward to it.

WYNNE: Thank you very much for your time.

HYDE: Thank you. ■

HYDE - "FAITH" and many more HYDE related merchandise are available now through Tofu Records. Please visit: www.tofurecords.com.

Also, visit the "Last Quarter" Website for more information on the film starring HYDE and Kuriyama Chiaki. Please visit: <http://www.geneonanimation.com/lastquarter/>

WYNNE IP is an entertainment writer-at-large for J!-ENT and JaME (Japanese Music Europa).

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