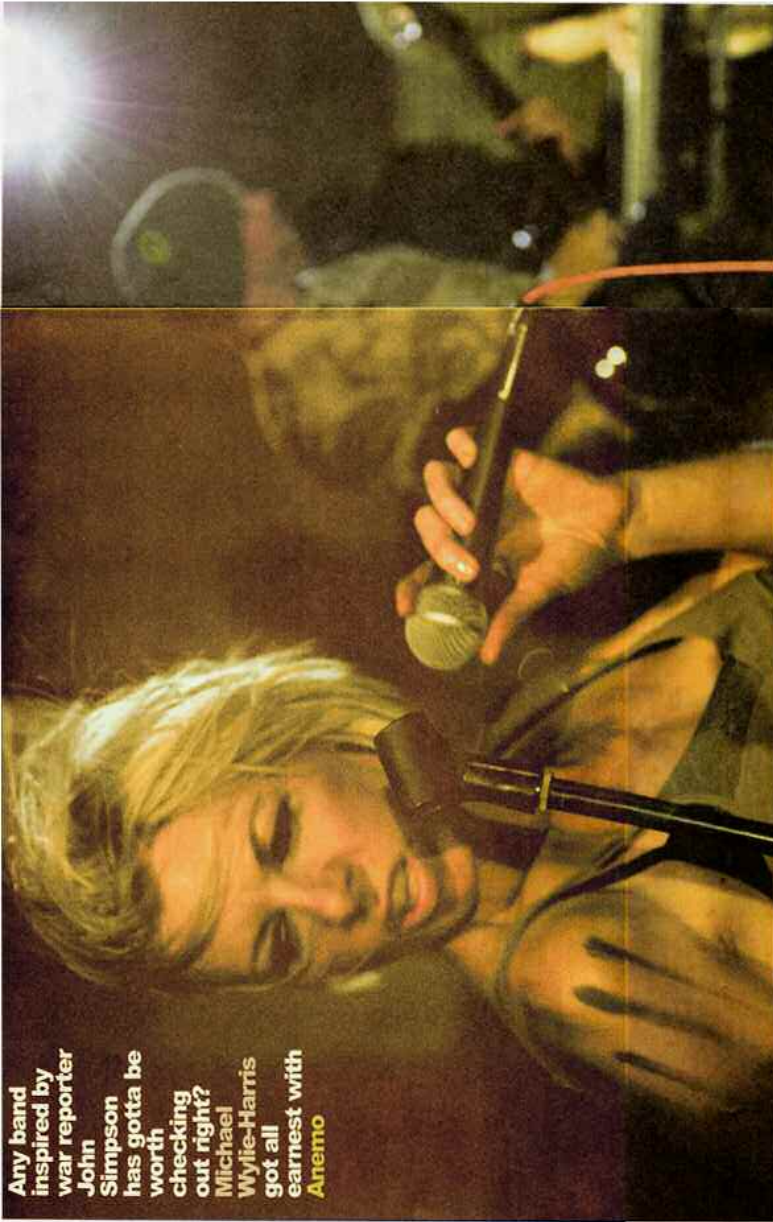


ANEMO!

PRESS RELEASE

London Tour Dates - September 2007



Any band inspired by war reporter John Simpson has gotta be worth checking out right? Michael Wylie-Harris got all earnest with Anemo

Anemo Acid

2006 to rave reviews on both sides of the Atlantic. Now they're back with a new tour and a new single, 'Pray' (out 15 October), and this time they're bringing about "war, morality and sacrifice".

Bizarrely, the new single is based on the experiences of BBC World Affairs Editor, John Simpson, who found himself "praying" in the middle of a war zone in 2003. The album is a tribute to all those who have died and call it a tribute to all those who have.

London tour dates what inspired the song. "I remember hearing John Simpson talking about what happened on that day, and was struck by the fact that when he reported it, he was in the middle of a war zone. It's a moral debate about why we were at war," she told me.

"I got us thinking about the role of war reporters and how hard it must be, especially in Iraq. It's a moral debate about why we were at war, and how important it is that you're doing, and how important it is for people like that to remind us of the realities of war."

"We're all used to seeing sanitised television accounts of so-called precision bombing, but

the reality of "shock and awe" is that that civilians, men, women and children die. Sometimes we need to remind ourselves of the extent of civilian fatalities in war." And I thought that was what we had Michael Moore for.

But the band really aren't about preaching their own moral messages to their audience - something Hazelle tells me is really not part of a musician's job.

"I think people who believe in rock music would be disappointed that we've included by a set of religious beliefs, or a political dogma," she says. "What is important is to encourage people to think about what they believe for themselves, and to encourage people to challenge the status quo that we live in."

"Bringing up this war in music has proven difficult. Just look at the problems that the Dixie Chicks had in the US, in the political climate that followed on from the war. And that's a support in a country that guarantees the right of free speech, but then at the same time passes the Patriot Act."

"I can also well understand how the families of troops feel that they are undervalued when they hear vociferous opposition to the war. But then you have to remember that many

troops express doubt in private about the purpose of their mission. It's not that they're a band get quite so political. No one bats an eyelid at the fact that De La Rocha raves on about social injustice or political corruption, but it seems somehow out of place for a band like Anemo.

If Muse suddenly wrote a song about the Iraq War it would probably be fine, but for some reason I just can't imagine it. It would be like Gary Barlow singing about drug addiction and music-depression or Elliott Smith writing a song about something happy. It just doesn't seem right.

That doesn't mean to say the song doesn't work though. Like all Anemo's creations, it's scored with a mix of guitar riffs, epic choruses and machine gun drumming, giving you the expectation that the new album's apparently even heavier than the last.

Hazelle told me how the new sound had developed since the release of the 2006 album. "Well, at the time of *Slowburn* it was really just the three of us, so there's quite a lot of electronics and loops and stuff on that album," she said.

"We also experimented quite a lot, like using double bass on the title track, drawing on help from friends and people we just met along the way. The new album has evolved a lot more from working the songs with a band than the last. There's a sense of a band and full rock sound."

Anemo are adored by their fans and there's no doubt the new single and album - out later this year - will be received well. Whatever you think about Anemo, there's one thing for sure... they deliver. But then, I suppose, so does Pizza Hut.

www.tourdates.co.uk / Anemo / Anemo play *The Good Ship, Kithorn* on 26 September.

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