

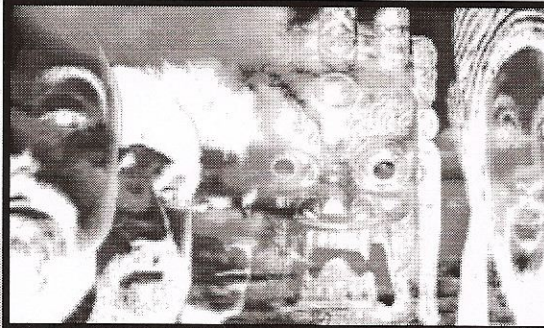
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BAND:
Transglobal U.

CAR:
STRATUS

INTERVIEW



direct, I think. You can't carry on doing the same thing for ever and ever. Especially considering the fact we didn't sell that many records last time, we had to go

away and sort of reinvent ourselves. We decided to do a bit more traveling and we did some of the album in Morocco, some of it in Budapest, and some more of it in Belgium. We collaborated with some North Indians on a track and some Hungarian Gypsies on another. On another one we recorded with some Moroccan musicians. So yeah, there are some different flavors in there. We recorded our previous albums in London. We did one track, "Body Machine", with ADAT. We sent a backing track over to a Bengali musician who's based in Paris, and he sung his vocal on the ADAT track, then sent it back to us. There are some different flavors that we hadn't touched on before, and that was exciting.

CG: As far as instruments go, how did you come to develop your eclectic sound? This is the first time I've heard of rappers in a world music group.

HM: Well, you do find them skatting around in places like Europe, But over here I don't know. In certain big record stores, you get huge world music sections, but most shops will stock maybe only a dozen titles or so. There are a lot more people in Europe crossing over and sort of mixing hip-hop and techno and rap together with Eastern instrumentation and people generally mix it up. But if you don't like the music or if the music is a bit alien to you, at least you know we do put on a show. A big show. Natasha is a belly dancer, and we have an Indian drummer who plays a very big drum. He's a really great performer. There are two other rappers and percussionists; the whole thing is a performance.

CG: How did you come to incorporate hip-hop, and how do you fit into the UK hip-hop scene?

HM: The UK hip-hop scene doesn't mean much unless you're American. There is the trip-hop scene (Massive Attack, Portishead, Tricky), which is really big and is more important, I think, because it came out of Bristol. There are hundreds of other bands right now on that tip. But we just like the rhythms of hip-hop. I can't say I'm a huge hip-hop fan; I like all types of music. We just like the rhythms of hip-hop and that creeps into some of the songs on all of our albums. But other tracks have sort of a techno flavor to them. A bit like the Chemical Brothers or Prodigy. There are clubs springing up all over England where there is break beat, which is quite hard and fast. It's basically break beats and loops taken from songs and fucked around with. The hip-hop rhythms are good grooves and we incorporate whatever we can over the top of them, but were not a hip-hop band by any stretch of the imagination. That's the thing—people have found it difficult to categorize us, not just over here but over in Europe and England, as well. Where do we put it in the shops? It's not a problem for us personally, but we leave it up to the other people to invent names for what we do. They are paid to invent names.

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