

NOW WE'RE TALKIN'



By Helen Marketti

Interview with The Goo Goo Dolls front man, John Rzeznik

On Thursday, August 22, The Goo Goo Dolls and Matchbox Twenty will be at Blossom Music Center. This will be the first time the two bands have ever toured together. John Rzeznik took a few moments to talk about The Goo Goo Dolls new album, current tour and the longevity of the band.

"It's been a long time since we played at Blossom," said John. "It's going to be great to play there again. I think the last time we were there we opened for the band, 10,000 Maniacs."

It may have been awhile since the Goo Goo Dolls have played at Blossom but their popularity has soared with a career that is nearing the thirty-year mark. "At first when we started out, it was nothing I took seriously or something I did full time," said John. "It was 1986 when we got together. We were more like hobbyists then. We had a little Indie record put out then we would be on the road for a couple months, come back home and return to our day jobs. It wasn't until '95 when things really took off for us when our album, A Boy Named Goo came out and our single "Name" became a hit. I guess that is when you could say we became a professional enterprise and it all started happening. We may have never been the biggest band but we have always made a living, were able to have airtime on the radio and tour."

"When I was a kid we used to listen to AM Radio when it played music. We liked listening to ELO, Fleetwood Mac, Led Zeppelin and Elton John. I grew up listening to such a mix of music; that's when pop music really meant popular music," remembers John. "When I was about 13 is when punk music started having an influence on me. I

would listen to my oldest sister's punk albums. The Clash was one of my favorites. It was then I realized that I could write a song and play three chords. I started branching out and listened to new wave music, too. All I ever wanted to do since I was a kid was to be a musician. I have been very grateful that I have actually been able to pull it off. I just hope I'm serving my purpose well."

Over the years, many of the Goo Goo Dolls songs have received plenty of airtime with an extensive catalog of hits such as Iris, Slide, Dizzy, Broadway, Let Love In, Here Is Gone, Better Days and more! Their latest album, MAGNETIC (Warner Brothers Records) was released earlier this summer. Their single "Rebel Beat" is fast becoming another hit. John's inspiration for the song came about as he was strolling through Lower Manhattan and came across an Italian neighborhood street party. "It was really cool to see. It inspired me to do something."

He continues, "Some of what inspires you, you don't really understand it until you've been through it. I still put the pen to the paper. I always have a notebook and a pencil. Sometimes you need to step back and let the stories reveal themselves. It's kind of an interesting approach but it works."

John does *not* keep a watchful eye on the charts. "I hope people will like it. I try to stay ignorant to keeping an eye on everything because it's out of my hands. Since it's something that is out of my control, I try not to think about it because you can't control the outcome. If I start thinking about it I'm going to drive myself crazy and everyone around me."

John Rzeznik, Robby Takac and Mike Malinin have been close friends and band mates for many years. "It normal to

have some inner turmoil at times but nothing ever gets to the point where we can't work through it," said John. "We may not always agree with each other and that's normal but underneath it all we have affection for each other."

The summer tour is going very well. "This is the first time we have been on the road with Matchbox Twenty. It's been a great experience," said John. "The bands have bonded. We're like one big happy family having a great time. I'm looking forward to having a great show at Blossom. Come on out and you'll have a great time, too. You're going to know most of the songs!"

For more information on the Goo Goo Dolls: www.googoodolls.com

For ticket information: www.theblossommusiccenter.com

