

# Round and Round with Stephen Pearcy of RATT

By Helen Marketti

RATT has been around since the 1980s and has lasted the test of time for original fans and new fans alike. With their new CD, *Infestation* (Roadrunner Records) and currently on a national tour, RATT's front man, Stephen Pearcy took some time to talk about his music and career.

"It's been at least 12 years since we last put an album together," said Stephen. "It takes timing for everything... for the proper label to step up and for there to be cohesiveness among all of us."

To work on *Infestation*, the band members of RATT were "locked away" in a remote area in Virginia Beach. "We don't always record that way," said Stephen. "It was a unique way and we wanted to do that. It

was an opportunity to get out of the city. It put us back to where we worked on writing and only writing and recording. You literally wake up and everyone is in the same place so you can work on things when you want as long as you want whether it's two in the morning or five in the morning... whatever you need to do to get things done."

*Infestation* was released in April of 2010 and Stephen penned most of the tracks. Fans will enjoy the rock numbers, *Best of Me* and *A Little Too Much* among others. Stephen comments on his inspiration for music, "My inspiration for music is real life experiences. I don't write fictitious, moonbeam stuff. I write what is real, being the cement pirate that I am."

The CD is dedicated to late RATT band member, Robbin Crosby. "Robbin's presence is around without a doubt. We miss him dearly. He is always with me."

Stephen had hoped to have a career in the drag racing circuit. "As a teenager, drag racing was my first love then I got busted up really bad and broke both of my legs. While I was convalescing, someone brought me a guitar and I taught myself how to play, and then started a band," remembers Stephen. "From that I played in a band and fronted a band, Mickey Ratt. We went out to L.A. and met Van Halen and I knew that this is where I wanted to be."

Stephen has been influenced by many artists over the years, "Guitar players that I've admired has been anyone from (Jimmy) Page to (Joe) Perry. Singing wise, I've been influenced by Alice Cooper and Robert Plant... pretty much anyone from the 70s, from the real rock days."

Stephen also owns his own record compa-



ny, Top Fuel Records. "It's an Indie label," said Stephen. "My solo work has been released from that and also some other artists that are new from the L.A. area. I work on these projects when I can and get it done how I want it done."

Stephen keeps busy with many opportunities and projects. He has written material for movies and commercials. He has written for ESPN, NHRA Drag Racing and re-recorded RATT songs that were part of the movie tracks for *The Wrestler* starring Mickey Rourke. "I've released an acoustic recording of RATT music, too. I like to record different things and try different things. I would love to score a movie but it

will come in time. I also keep pursuing my association with drag racing, keep working with my record label, maybe I'll do another solo record and write a book but I'm in no rush. When I decide to put a book together, it will be entertaining. It wouldn't be about my whole music career because music is never ending."

Stephen has thoughts on performing, advice for those seeking a career in the music industry, and what to expect when you see one of their gigs. "Never look back, if you want something done, do it yourself and in this business learn as much as you can. It's important to be committed. When we got into this business, we didn't think it would last a year, let alone twenty plus years. It's been incredible. It's amazing to see our fans bringing their own kids to our shows. It's the best. Music reaches far and wide. Regardless of how many people come to a show, whether it's 100, 1,000 or 10,000-it's all a party. We dig what we do. Welcome to the RATT trap and don't let it snap your ass on the way out."

RATT will be doing a gig at Alrosa Villa in Columbus, Ohio on August 21st. For more information about RATT and Stephen Pearcy, please visit:  
www.therattpack.com  
www.myspace.com/therattpack  
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