

V NOW WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

An Interview with Rick Wills of Foreigner

During the late 70s and throughout the 80s, Foreigner was dominating the charts with many recognizable and memorable hits such as Hot Blooded, Juke Box Hero, Feels Like the First Time, Cold as Ice, I Want to Know What Love Is, Urgent, Double Vision, Waiting for a Girl Like You, Head Games and many more! It is a natural fit that they are now nominees for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductions for 2024. Inductees will be announced at the end of April.



Rick Wills was the bass player for Foreigner during the band's heyday. He is the spokesperson for interview requests and is enjoying the attention that Foreigner is receiving. The band is deserving of this nomination. Fans will keep their fingers crossed that an induction for the band will be part of the excitement in the fall. The 2024 induction ceremony will be held in Cleveland this year. Nominees include the memorable lineup: Dennis Elliott, Ed Gagliardi, Lou Gramm, Al Greenwood, Mick Jones, Ian McDonald and Rick Wills.

Rick shares his thoughts on the band's nomination, the music of Foreigner and the band's current lineup.

"This nomination has given us such a lift. We are honored. We are thrilled," said Rick. "We didn't think anything like this was ever going to happen. Now that we have been nominated, I have been trying to do as many interviews as I can to encourage fans to vote and vote often! I don't mind doing the interviews. I love talking to people and sharing our story. Foreigner has been around for a while so we have a lot of history. I want to promote Foreigner as much as possible."

Even Paul McCartney has lent his support to the band in a recent video where he dropped the F-bomb about the band not being in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. You can't go any

bigger than that when you have Paul McCartney in your corner. "I've never heard Paul swear," said Rick. "I couldn't believe he said the F bomb live and on camera. I love it."

When asked what has created the longevity of Foreigner, even with a different lineup, Rick said, "The longevity is because of those songs. Songwriting is the key and that credit goes to Lou Gramm and Mick Jones. The songs have lasted the test of time and that is what has kept the band going. Most of us older chaps are in our mid-70s now. So, we can't go on forever. We have passed the reigns to the current lineup which we handpicked. The current line up is amazing. Kelly Hansen does a tremendous job with vocals and the rest of the band is superb. We put them there. The current line up was chosen to carry on our music and legacy. Foreigner has great songs that fans remember. You can't dismiss that."

"I want to close this interview by saying how much Foreigner appreciates being nominated but to be inducted would be a thrill for us. I encourage fans to please vote and vote often. I want to thank everyone who has voted. We're getting close! We need to go over the top."

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