



APRIL, 1981

THE SPIZZLES

SPIZZ started off solo at a Barbarella's Punk Festival on 29th August 1977. He improvised material on a borrowed guitar, prompting a local fanzine to hail the arrival of an "ultra-minimalist star."

October 1977 saw several appearances by SPIZZ and former schoolfriend Pete Petrol at London's Vortex Club, whose promoter Dave Woods agreed to act as their manager. Billed as SPIZZ '77 the duo played short and spontaneous one-off improvisations, old Bowie songs and an audience participation number called "I've been switched off," written after a club manager turned off the power during one of their earliest performances.

By 1978 the name SPIZZ OIL was coined, inspired by extensive coverage of North Sea oil in the media. The duo played a series of odd gigs culminating at the Roundhouse in July, when they played with Siouxsie and the Banshees. The consequences of these gigs were an invitation to do a BBC Radio session for John Peel and a deal with the newly formed Rough Trade, which resulted in the release of two records: "6000 Crazy" and the EP "Cold City: 4."

SPIZZ OIL stopped gigging at the end of a long U.K. tour with the Banshees and The Human League, and months of deliberation resulted in the emergence of a four man line-up in March 1979 playing under the new name SPIZZ ENERGI, featuring Jim Solar on bass guitar and Mark Coalfield on Keyboards. As a drummerless quartet, they performed another John Peel session and joined a nationwide tour organized by Rough Trade, together with Kleenex and the Raincoats.

Their first venture into the recording studio was with guest drummer Brian B. Benzine and a day's work without any rehearsal produced three songs "Soldier Soldier," "Virginia Plain," and "Where's Captain Kirk" which were subsequently released by Rough Trade Records. BENZINE never played live with the band, and Pete Petrol left to form his own group REPETITION whilst SPIZZ ENERGI gigged with an assortment of guitarists and drummers for the rest of the year.

As "Where's Captain Kirk" sat for seven weeks at the top of the English alternative charts, the first stable line-up materialized with the introduction of C. P. Snare on drums and Dave Scott on guitar. This warranted a new name, and ATHLETICO SPIZZ 80 commenced extensive live work throughout the U.K. in early 1980, as well as venturing into Europe for the first time in March with fellow Rough Traders The Mo-Dettes.

A new single entitled "Spock's missing/No Room," was released on their return by Rough Trade and went straight to the top of the India charts; the time had arrived for the group to record the repertoire which had taken shape over the previous 12 months, and the album "Do a Runner" was recorded over the Bank Holiday weekend in May 1980.

Within weeks A&M Records had signed up ATHLETICO SPIZZ 80 and immediately released the album, which bounded into the top 20 L.P. chart in England as the group performed a lengthy summer tour of Britain which included six sold-out shows at London's Marquee Club. In September, ATHLETICO SPIZZ 80 performed a concert at the Lyceum Theatre, part of which was filmed for inclusion in the forthcoming movie "Urgh!—A Music War."

A peak of sorts had been reached, and a short period of inactivity was followed by the departure of Mark and Dave to pursue solo projects. Meanwhile a new lineup without permanent keyboards was the logical streamlining which took place in order for the band to embark on a long tour of the U.S.A. in November/December. Guitarist Lu, formerly with the Damned and the Edge, completed the picture alongside Spizz, Jim and C.P. and THE SPIZZLES began putting together material for a new album.

In January of this year, twelve days in the depths of Matrix Studios in London resulted in the new L.P. entitled "Spikey Dream Flowers." Tracks include stage favorites such as "Scared," "Brainwashing Time" and "Central Park" as well as a new version of "Soldier Soldier."

(over please)



U.K. music papers had this to say about the SPIZZLES: "A formidable wall of sound your new improved Spizzles are positively impressive."—*New Musical Express*

"Spizz is one of the greatest all time personalities."—*Record Mirror*

"A keener, sharper, more formidable fighting unit than ever before."—*Melody Maker*

Now let's go over this. Spizz in '77, then Spizz '77. Spizz Oil in '78, Spizz Energi in '79, then Athletico Spizz 80. We now have The Spizzles. Must cost a fortune in letterheads!

The Spizzles line up:

Bass—Jim Solar

Guitar—Spizz

Drums—C.P. Snare

Guitar—Lu