

MRIB interview for MSN and NTL World.

1. Norway has become a hot-bed for musical talent in recent times with Royksopp, Annie, Sondre lerche, Erlend Oye, Lene Marlin, the list goes on. Are you at all jealous that A-ha are no longer the only successful Norwegian musical export?

yes

2. Seems even the more serious press like Q and the NME rate you guys nowadays. Is it nice to have critical success after being branded a teen band when you first started?

being a teenband is great when you are in your teens, then it gets progressively worse. being a teenband when you are 50 means you have to employ stunt-men when you do the dance-routines. I miss being a teen.

4. How does day-to-day life in a-ha compare with 20 years ago? Are the fans less scary or do you still get the odd chase down the road from obsessive types?

the days are shorter now - especially in the winter. but at least there's snow. sometimes we chase fans around, but they are getting too fast for us.

5. A lot of so-called '80s groups have made comebacks in recent years thanks to a big nostalgia scene. You guys managed to avoid that by getting back in 1999, but what do u make of the likes of Duran, Motley Crue, Tears For Fears and a load more reforming? And then there's new bands who sound like they're from the '80s - Killers, Razorlight, Ladytron, editors, do u rate any of them?

the 80s is a bandaged wounded animal who no longer trusts anyone to care for it...

I feel sorry for it. I also feel sorry for everyone who have to live with all the comebacks. ok, here is a rating of the bands you mentioned:

1. Razorlight
2. Killers
3. Ladytron
4. Editors

6. The new album is classic a-ha - ethereal, ambient pop rock with killer hooks. How has your songwriting method

changed over the years and what were the main sources of inspiration for the album?

all you need is books. and hooks. and looks. and nooks and crannies. and friends. and food.
perhaps some warm clothing. some money. time alone is always good. watching shit movies can be your best investment. don't worry about health - it's not all it's cranked up to be. creativity comes from boredom; be bored as often as you can. make yourself seem smarter than you are (except if you want respect - then tell everyone how smart THEY are). take pleasure in the simple things, then sell these things as something very unique and special. kiss like you mean it. tell me how it feels. I will write a song about it.

7. A track is being used in the hotly anticipated new movie, The DaVinci Code. How did you get involved and were you fans of the book?

I don't like the book. I did, but changed my mind as soon as it became a best-seller. you have to, to stay cool. I did however write a song about the cilice. I don't own one, but want one for Xmas. Tom Hanks is a top fellow. he should play the starring part in the movie. I showed the song to the movie-people. they liked it. but not enough to pay. cheapskates.

8. there's been a lot of James Bond speculation in the last 12 months. How do u look back on your experience writing the Living Daylights? Would you ever do another? And if not who do you think should write the next theme song. And do u like the new Bond Daniel Craig?

being asked to do another james bond theme is my only ambition. no one has done it twice. it would be like asking sean connery to do it again. he would say no. so would I.

9. Did you ever see the episode of Family Guy where they spoof the 'Take On Me' video? Its fantastic

yes it is.

10. You've always been good looking guys but you don't appear to have aged at all. What's your secret? Were you all frozen between the years 1993 - 1999? And what's the best beauty tip you've received over the years?

we signed an agreement with the government to be cryogenically frozen for 7 years every 7 years. it won't be long now.

11. Are there songs from your back catalogue which you've outgrown or maybe now dislike so much that you never play?

you pay we play. unless you pay us more not to play. then we just talk. we have no feelings, so dislikes is hard for us to understand. paul is having a go at disliking some songs, and reports a degree of success.

12. And your personal faves?

- mine's I've Been losing You / Manhattan Skyline.

thank you - mine too.

13. You've been covered by a few artists in your time, what's your favourite?

to be covered by robbie robertson was nice. it was raining and we were going over to the same limo. he had a coat. it was in italy.

14. Do u watch reality TV? Would you ever go on on something like Celebrity Big Brother, which people love to hate?

seen from another dimension we are all on reality tv. morten says reality is an illusion. I am starting to believe him. but mostly I think reality is not nearly as much fun as fiction. I do not know which people love to hate, but they must be really twisted. I love to love. and hate to hate.

15. Is a-ha an ongoing thing now? No plans to call it a day again and go solo ?

my original plan was to go solo every 7 years for 7 years, but the government screwed me up. a-ha will only make another 15 albums together. then I will go solo and be really really big. all by my lonesome.