

MARILLION'S BRAVE NEW WORLD!

Proggies storm back with new LP, tour and feature film!

■ **MARILLION**, the enduring British Prog Rockers, release a new album, titled 'Brave', through EMI on February 7.

Fans of the band's legendary story-telling skills will be delighted to learn that 'Brave' is also the first great concept album of the decade, complete with a 50-minute film intended for screening on European TV.

The album's full tracklisting is as follows:

'Bridge', 'Living With The Big Lie', 'Runaway', 'Goodbye To All That', 'Hard As Love', 'The Hollow Man', 'Alone Again In The Lap Of Luxury', 'Paper Lies', 'Brave', 'The Great Escape', 'Made Again'.

"It's a concept album in that it's a story set to music," explains guitarist **Steve Rothery**. "It's certainly not 'Tales From Topographic Oceans' (Yes' legendary four-track double album), or some pile of indulgent... whatever!"

Marillion's first record in almost three years was inspired by a news story first broadcast on a local radio station in Bath.

On November 28, 1988, a young woman was apprehended on the Severn Bridge - a massive suspension bridge straddling the Bristol channel and a notorious suicide platform.

The woman was unable to either speak or produce any identification. In a bid to identify the girl, local police contacted the radio station for help.

Marillion vocalist, **Steve Hogarth**, heard the radio broadcast and the initial seed for 'Brave' was sown.

"The album is actually a fictional story inspired by that young girl," says Rothery. "It's the story of a young girl's life, from birth, to being abused, to

heartbreak, to drugs... everything. It's a very happy story!"

Produced by **Dave Meagan**, 'Brave' is 73 minutes long. Rothery laughs off criticism that the band basically wrote one long song because they couldn't think of 10 short ones.

"Sure, the idea of a 'concept' album is something of a cringe. But we wanted to make something like **The Who's 'Quadrophenia'**. It's the most natural way for us to write. We write tiny mood-pieces, linked by a common theme.

"It's a lot more natural to develop a story over 70

MARILLION (Steve Hogarth, semi-nude and Steve Rothery, inset): home of the brave!

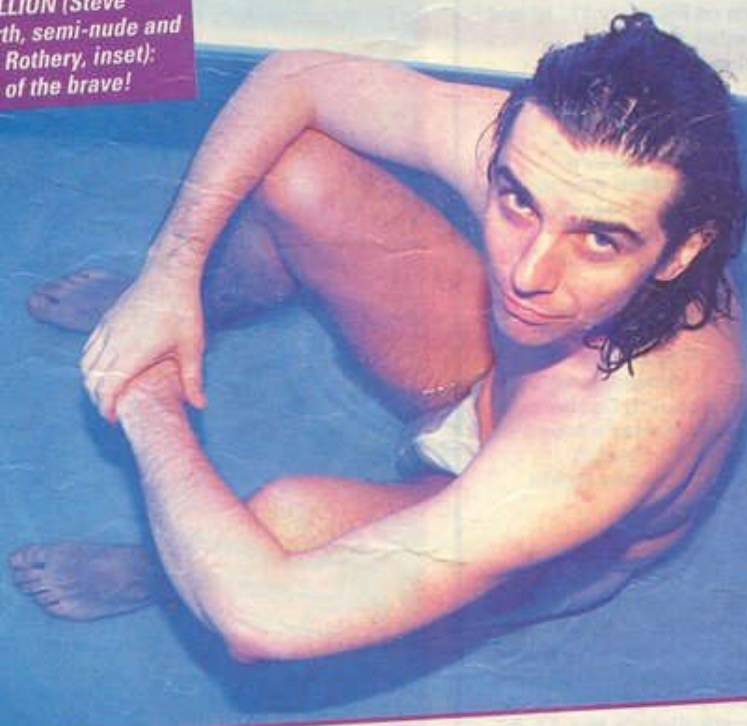


Fig. Steve Scheinfeld/David Willis

minutes than it is over, say, five minutes. That's why I think 'Brave' is more natural than our last record, 'Holidays In Eden'. It's the difference between a short story and a novel.

"There's been a lot of changes at EMI, recently. Our A&R guy is a lot more radical; more off-the-wall. They were really into the idea of a conceptual piece, and Dave Meagan managed to bring the music together."

The first single from 'Brave' is

'The Hollow Man', preceded by the European release of 'Great Escape'. The latter is also pencilled in as a third UK single.

To coincide with the album's release, Marillion have also commissioned **Richard Stanley** (director of such stylised, apocalyptic movies as 'Hardware' and 'Dust Devils', as well as the majority of the **Fields Of The Nephilim** promo videos) to produce a 50-minute film for 'Brave'.

"We were toying with the idea of a film after we'd finished recording," says

bridge were eventually shelved due to financial pressures. The project has been trimmed, however, and is now slated for European TV screenings and an eventual release on retail video in "about six months".

Marillion also embark on an extensive touring schedule to promote the release of 'Brave'. The European tour starts in Cardiff and continues across Europe throughout the Spring. Marillion will be performing 'Brave' in its entirety, as well as selected material from their past five albums.

"Starting a new tour by playing the whole of the new album," Rothery admits, "will be a bit of a learning process, to put it mildly! But everyone we've played the album to has been really enthusiastic."

The story of 'Brave', however, was marginally more predictable.

"What happened to the girl? Unfortunately, her parents heard the radio broadcast and collected her a day later. Apparently she was just very depressed!"

Marillion play Cardiff St David's Hall February 22, Norwich University 23, Leeds Town And Country 24, Glasgow Barrowlands 26, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 28, Aylesbury Civic Hall March 1, Cambridge Corn Exchange 2, London Kentish Town Forum 4 and 5.

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