

Julliet

Rough and Tumble Rock 'n' Roll

by Janet Hammond

Labeled "the ultimate metal-party-sex gods" by their diehard fans, five hard-partying rockers from Tampa Bay have recently found themselves major contenders in the rock and roll sweepstakes. Comprised of lead singer Kenny McGee, keyboardist Kevin Wilson, guitarist Jimmy DeLisi, bassist Ty Westerhoff and drummer Morgan Evans, Julliet contains seasoned veterans of five of the most popular club bands in the southeast. The name Julliet was the idea of co-founder, DeLisi, who "... wanted something different and unusual, but at the same time easy to remember." Granted, they're better-looking than any band has the right to be, and when pressed, will own up to possessing at least one item of clothing from almost every girl who has ever attended one of their shows; but they've also managed to survive the Florida club circuit (notorious for being one of the lowest paying in the country), more than a few caustic comments about the way they dress, and recently managed

to corral their favorite recording artist into producing their first album based on a roughly-produced demo tape heard at an after-show party.

Pre-production was done the week before Halloween at the Op (a favorite rock club in Daytona Beach) with DuBrow making notes on napkins and bar receipts. During the day the band would go into the club and work on the songs, tearing them apart and reconstructing them bit by bit. At night they would play the changes live and DuBrow would make more notes. "What impressed me the most about these guys," enthuses DuBrow, "was how hard they worked."

When it came time to begin recording, the only luxury missing was time. DuBrow was still some six or seven weeks away from his much publicized split from Quiet Riot, and there was every indication that he would be touring extensively through the end of the year. In the interest of saving time and money, the much-criticized decision to have Frankie Banali do the drum tracks for the album

was made. Morgan Evans was having a few meter problems, and since Banali and DuBrow were used to working together anyway, it seemed like the logical thing to do at the time.

Julliet is a far cry from the metal monsters currently roaming the continents. Theirs is a rough and tumble rock and roll with the technicality of Genesis and the freshness of Bon Jovi. McGee's earthy, erotic vocals convey a mixture of sweetness, street savvy and sexuality which are guaranteed to hold your attention. And if you are a confirmed guitar fanatic, you will find Jimmy DeLisi's work of major interest.

"All of us are excited about the album," says DeLisi with a boyish grin. "None of us ever dreamed that it would turn out like this. Listening to the tapes, it's hard to imagine that's us—but it is." Lounging in the late afternoon sun, DuBrow rolls over and blinks. "My only regret with this album," he muses, "is that I'm not singing on it—because it's just so good." □

Photo: Janet Hammond

