



NO.1 SPANDAU BALLET
Photo: Chalkie Davies

**"There's young girls who scream and want to rip your arm off. But it's not their fault – they just want a part of you."
– Tony Hadley**

As Spandaumania sweeps across the country, **Paul Simper** flies north to wrench a story – and the band – from the clutches of their fans

First three in the car pull down the two seats so the others can dive straight in," shouts Martin Kemp as Spandau Ballet prepare to leave Manchester's BBC studios. In the foyer Tony Hadley stops to sign a book for one little girl who's sneaked through the security. "Oh, my God, he signed it!" she squeals to her mate, her face exploding with ecstasy. In front of them, pushing against the foyer's large glass doors, are a mob of screaming girls, straining against a cordon

The Journey to Glory of

SPANDAU Ballet

of eight policemen, like a boiler about to burst its sides.

Suddenly the doors open against the throng and the band are swept into the middle of the storm.

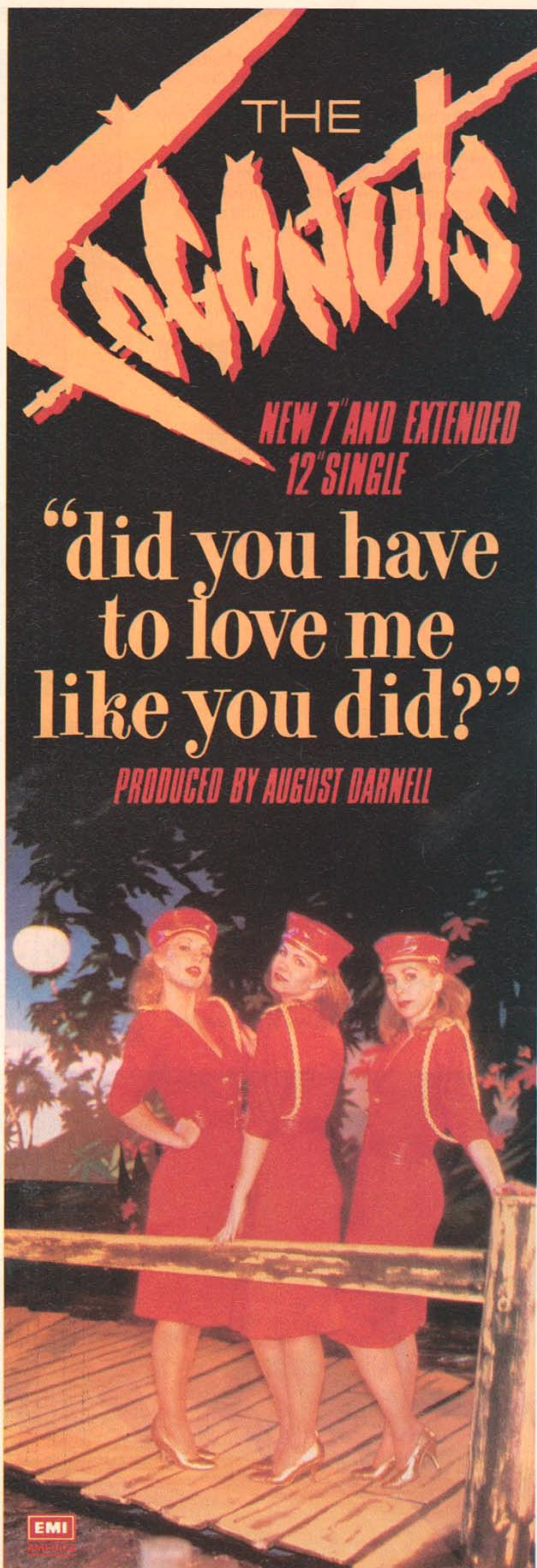
It's chaos – complete chaos – as the five of them struggle down the steps towards the limousine and safety.

There are hands everywhere.

Grabbing, tugging, trying to wrest a piece of Steve or Gary or John for their bedroom wall.

Somehow the first three are squeezed

CONTINUES OVER



into the limo with the help of their human shoehorns, Alf (their minder) and the police.

But behind them it's getting worse. Tony has been toppled on the steps and he and Martin look like a lost cause.

Thankfully a couple of officers spring him back onto his feet and with heads down the two Spandau boys charge for the car – a charge which has about as much

SPANDAU MANIA

momentum as running against a Force 10 gale.

But they get there.

Within seconds though the fans have surrounded the car. And all thoughts of other traffic on the main road are forgotten as they bang on the vehicle.

All they can think of is how to peel this shiny black coat of armour which stands between them and their battered prizes.

Then suddenly the car springs free.

In a last desperate effort the girls charge down the road after it. But they know they've lost.

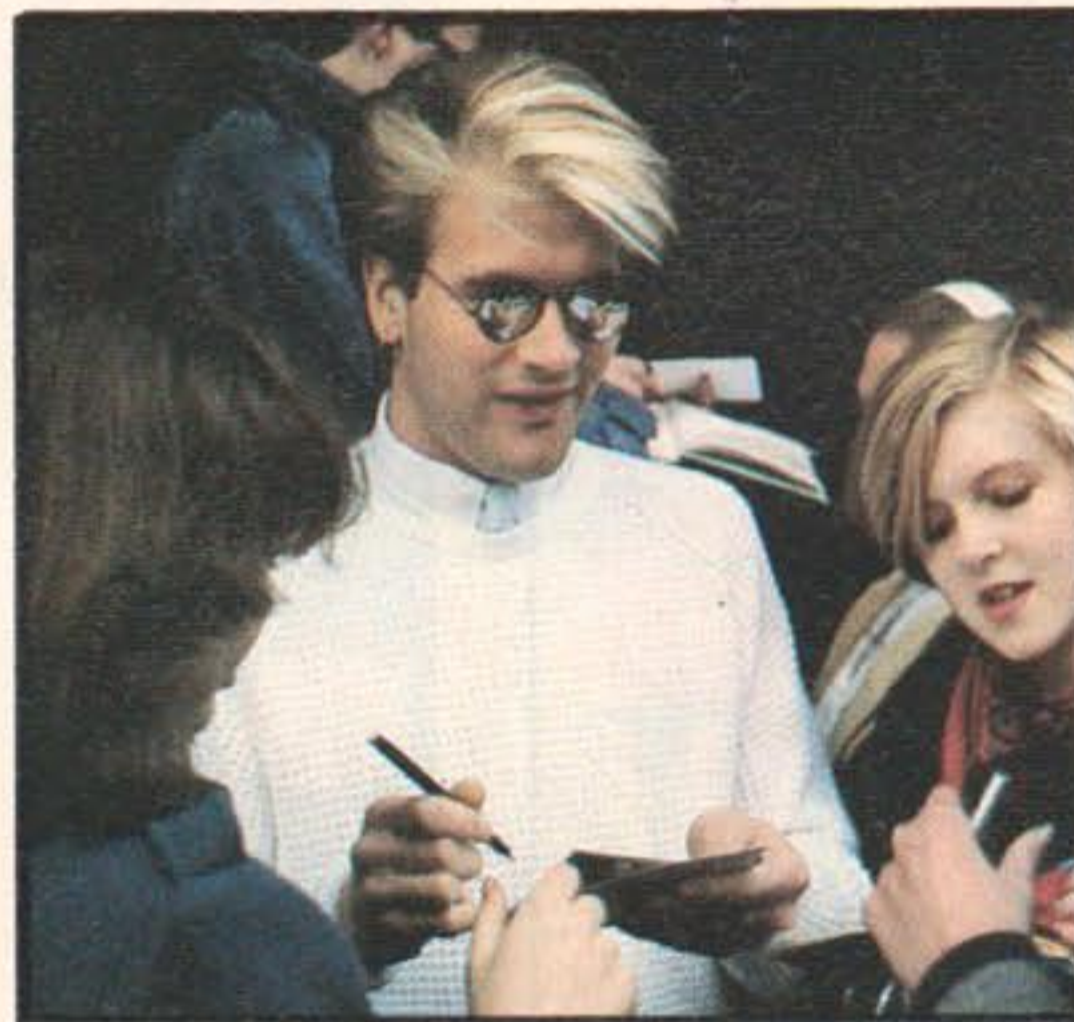
The screams die down and the running slows to a breathless halt.

And Spandau Ballet live to play another day.



"There were some girls who turned up for 16 shows but they couldn't get any tickets for Sadlers Wells so we sneaked them in the back way."

– Gary Kemp



A bobby loses his helmet in the hysteria. "The odd thing is that they dream about you being their boyfriend yet they actually want you to be whisked away." – Tony Hadley

COMMUNICATION

It's a bit strange, really.

A couple of years ago Spandau Ballet's audience was almost more interested in itself than in the five lads on stage.

Now they've got a No. 1 album and single – and it's madness!

As we fly from Heathrow to Manchester, where the band are appearing on *Get Set For Summer* the next morning, Tony Hadley sets the scene for the mayhem which will occur later.

"If there's just two or three fans they'll stand there and it's just like a burning feeling inside of them because they've met the band.

"They get really excited and their hands are shaking but you can actually have a little talk with them.





"They don't really see us as people. We're not real to them. We don't live at home - we live in the Daily Star and No. 1."

Gary Kemp turns florist as he hands out roses to the fans at the end of their performance of 'Gold' on Get Set For Summer.



**"It's 1964-5 again. You didn't really have this mania in the '70s but it's starting again now with people like us and George and Duran."
- Steve Dagger**

happen because the madness was beginning to start when we were doing television, before the tour," he observes.

"Then with the No. 1 and the tour I suppose they just thought they should be screaming at us!

"I think they respect us as well - not just kids but everybody - because we can actually play and we make an effort to get everyone involved in the live show.

"I really enjoy myself on stage and I think your enjoyment is reflected in the audience. Of course, as the tour goes on you realise more and more what makes them scream.

"So by the end of the tour they're going mad!

"You have to save the special bits though - like when me, Gary and Martin all come to the front of the stage.

"Some of the fans are nutty. When we were on tour if they saw the coach they'd just run for it - in front of cars and everything.

Lisa Gilmour, Vicky Steenson and Jayne Horry stayed up most of the night at the band's hotel.

"We sneaked into the nightclub downstairs in the hotel last night, by going in with some blokes. Then we ditched them and went and talked to Tony!"

"I'm surprised no one got hurt. But they just don't care. They've got in their mind that you're there and there's like a direct path.

"Whatever's in their way - sod it! If you happen to get in the way it's dangerous.

"It's really exciting when the adrenalin starts flowing round you. But I also get really scared.

"It's alright if you can actually see a pathway but with something like this morning there wasn't the security.

"When we were in Italy last weekend, one geezer tried to get my chain. Another grabbed my earring, which could have ripped my ear open, so I had to elbow him out of the way."

Alf, who's used to these things as he deals with a lot of bands, leans over from the seat behind us.

"It'll be like this and worse from now on," he smiles.

Photos by John Stoddart



"Taxi!"

"But if there's more than that they want the autograph but they just can't contain themselves."

When we arrive at the Britannia Hotel in Manchester there's already a number of fans waiting outside - some of whom will spend most of the night there.

The first indication that things might get a bit out of hand occurs when Gary Kemp goes to do a phone-in at Piccadilly Radio.

After the show he's simply leapt upon and a car chase follows, with the fans dashing up and down ramps trying to catch the limousine.

IN THE LIFELINE

"We've got some roses if you want to use them for anything," says the BBC floor manager to Spandau's manager Steve Dagger at the studio the next day.

The poor woman obviously doesn't know what she's letting herself in for. Spandau play three songs at intervals during the show. Each time

they reappear the hysteria increases.

At the end of their second number, 'Gold', Gary Kemp starts to hand the roses out to the kids and they storm the stage.

"That was just a rehearsal," the band's minder Alf (who accompanies them on a lot of these trips) cheerfully warns the band back in the dressing-room.

And he's right.

Even before they've finished playing 'True' the kids charge at them.

With the speed of a startled rabbit Gary leaps through a hole at the back of the set and the others follow close behind.

That is - all except Steve Norman who's a little slow to move and has to be rescued by the band's road crew, Pete and Nicky.

It's not until we're back on the plane (and there's a load of fans who somehow make the eight-mile journey to the airport for a final yell) that Steve fully recovers from his valiant running of the gauntlet.

"I suppose we had an idea what was going to



Exclusive: starting in two weeks in No. 1 - The Spandau Ballet Interviews