



Little Caesar singer **Ron Young** is glad the band never became a household name. "I fell into drug addiction and my life crashed and burned," he says. "I had to get my ass kicked in the dirt to find out what's really important in life. In retrospect, if I'd become one of those guys with dyed hair singing my two hit songs, taking all this so seriously without a real life, milking the 20 minutes of fame I might have gotten - I'd be miserable."

## MILLION \$\$\$ MISFITS

**THE ALBUMS THAT  
COULDA, SHOULDA GONE  
MULTI-PLATINUM**



**THE RECORD BUSINESS** is littered with the carcasses of thousands of acts that ought to have made it to the big time, yet found themselves thrown into the gutter through no fault of their own. Step forward **Preview**, one of the hottest and most revered melodic rock bands to have emerged in the late 80s - only to have the carpet pulled from under them by a cruel twist of fate.

Formed in Long Island, New York by two brothers - keyboardist **Ernie** and guitarist **Danny Gold** - their line-up was completed by bassist **Skip Parker**, drummer **Ed Bertinelli** and incredible vocalist **John Fiore**, a man with an angelic tone not a million miles removed from **Steve Perry**. With a brace of first-rate, chart-friendly songs in their back pocket, it wasn't long before label reps came knocking - including super A&R man **John David Kalodner**, who signed them to Geffen Records.

Kalodner's credentials were the stuff of industry legend - his hand unmistakably influencing the careers of **Foreigner**, **Asia** and **Whitesnake**, among numerous others - so his ringing endorsement of **Preview** bode well. With production giant **Keith Olsen** (**Fleetwood Mac**, **Whitesnake**, **Rick Springfield**) in charge in the studio - with finishing touches supplied by **David Thoerner** (**John Waite**, **Triumph**) - the finished self-titled record was a melodic masterpiece oozing a near-perfect set of songs that should've, would've, could've been a mega-selling blockbuster, had it not been for the unfortunate intervention of bad luck.

Issued in 1983, despite healthy US airplay the album failed to gain any traction. Even a tour supporting **Pat Benatar** couldn't jump-start the project, and before long **Preview** were abandoned by their label as an experiment that went badly wrong. It was a blow to not only the band but also to melodic rock as a movement. Thankfully

various band members went on to carve out diverse careers as session musicians, with Ernie Gold scoring big success as the composer of **Taylor Dane's** huge international hit **Tell It To My Heart**. **DO**



Australian power trio **Ragdoll** have been confirmed for the Rocklahoma festival in Pryor, Oklahoma, USA, alongside **Motörhead**, **Kid Rock**, **Deftones**, **Black Label Society**, **Staind** and more. Now in its eighth year, Rocklahoma happens May 23-25. **Ragdoll** guitarist **Leon Todd** said: "We're over the moon to be invited to Rocklahoma for a third time in as many years, which is unheard of for an Aussie band."

A brand new band project is coming later in 2014 via **Frontiers Records: Livin' Out Loud**. The line-up features **Chas West**, vocals (**Bonham**, **Tribe Of Gypsies**, **Lynch Mob**, **Foreigner**); **Craig Goldy**, guitars (**Giuffria**, **Dio**, **Budgie**); **Sean McNabb**, bass (**House Of Lords**, **Dokken**, **Great White**) and **Frankie Banali**, drums (**Quiet Riot**). The material is reportedly "in a **House Of Lords Sahara** vibe with slightly more hard rock feel".



**London**, who you may remember from **The Decline Of Western Civilization II: The Metal Years**, are working on their first LP since 1990. Singer **Nadir D'Priest** says the recording could mark guitarist **Lizzie Grey's** swansong because "he's showing signs of Parkinson's disease".



The moment Skyscraper first met: **Dave Boyce**, **Lee Small**, **Tor Talle**.

## BACK IN ACTION

# Skyscraper

**AOR veterans join forces for hyper-delayed long-distance project with impressive pedigree.**

The future debut album from **Skyscraper**, *Elevation*, features bassist **Dave Boyce** and vocalist **Lee Small**, who fans of **Shy**, **Airrace** and **The Quireboys** will be familiar with. They're joined by Norwegian guitar wizard **Tor Talle** and, to quote **David Coverdale**, this is a marriage made in heaven.

### How did the band get together?

**Small:** A Norwegian drummer, who's no longer involved, asked me if I wanted to work on album with him. I liked the musical ideas he sent over, and I agreed to get involved. That was over two years ago. And **Tor** was brought in by the drummer, because of the Norwegian connection.

**Boyce:** Lee and I got in contact through a mutual friend, and we got on so well that I agreed to play on the planned album.

### Where was the album recorded?

**Boyce:** We did it all in our own studios, and then emailed MP3s to each other. We didn't even meet until the end of 2013, when the three of us got together for a photo shoot in London! But as soon as we met, it was as if we'd known each other for years. We're like three old mates.

### So, Skyscraper are a three-piece?

**Small:** Right now it is. We decided to part company with the drummer following a disagreement. We got **Imre Daun** to do the drumming in the end.

**Boyce:** We want to expand to a five-piece when we tour, but the core of **Skyscraper** is definitely the three of us. **Bruce Gaitsch**,

who's worked with **Richard Marx** and **Chicago**, appears on the album as well, playing acoustic guitar.

### The album's been finished for so long. What's held up the release?

**Boyce:** We've had it in the bag for ages. But when it was finished we were signed to a certain label through the original drummer. However, they eventually agreed to let us go and this allowed us to buy back the album.

**Small:** We were known as **Tightrope** when we recorded the album. But because we left that label there was the name change.

### Have you been tempted to tinker with the album due to the delay?

**Boyce:** Not at all. Because it represents a period in the

development of the band, and should be allowed to stand as it was. But we did get it fully remastered by **Andy Pearce**, who's worked on albums by **Black Sabbath**, **Free** and **Thin Lizzy**, and it now sounds amazing. It's even fresh for us!

### How would you describe the band's sound to AOR's readers?

**Boyce:** We like to think that we're doing something adventurous and new. But if you're fan of the classic melodic rock bands, then you'll connect with what we're doing. **MD**

Follow **Skyscraper** on Facebook for news on *Elevation's* forthcoming release.